# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVERVIEW</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEACHER TRAINING</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTREACH</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLABORATIONS</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACILITIES</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Child Development Laboratories

OVERVIEW
The Michigan State University Child Development Laboratories (CDL) are operated in East Lansing’s Central School and Haslett’s Wilkshire Early Childhood Center by the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Social Science. The Child Development Laboratories continue to maintain their National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation. This is done through annual self-study submission and NAEYC site visit evaluation every 5 years. The ten program standards of NAEYC Accreditation are Relationships, Curriculum, Teaching, Assessment of Child Progress, Health, Teachers, Families, Community Relationships, Physical Environment as well as Leadership and Management. Continued accreditation demonstrates the high quality of the CDLs in meeting national standards of excellence in an early childhood setting.

The State of Michigan launched its tiered quality rating system in 2011. Great Start to Quality, http://www.greatstarttoquality.org/, rates licensed childcare, with 5 stars being the highest rating. Categories include Staff Qualifications & Professional Development, Family and Community Partnerships, Administration and Management, Environment, and Curriculum and Instruction. Both sites have participated in the quality rating process with Haslett maintaining a 5 star rating. The East Lansing campus has a 4 star rating.

The Child Development Laboratories have been serving the University and community since 1927, over 89 years. It serves a three-prong mission: teacher training, research, and outreach. The CDL is a model for exemplary teacher training. Research at the CDL has added to the body of knowledge in child development and informed practitioners in the field. The modeling of research to practice enhances the teacher training model with continued high outcomes for students. The Child Development Laboratories continue to disseminate information about best practices in the field of early childhood care and education through outreach activities. It is a vehicle for the dissemination of best practice in the field of early childhood education. Master level Head Teachers work with adult learners: students, parents and practitioners in the field.
2015-16 CDL Enrollment by Funding Source (East Lansing and Haslett Locations)

- Tuition: 58%
- Head Start: 17%
- Early Childhood Special Education: 14%
- Great Start Readiness Program: 11%

2015-16 Haslett CDL Enrollment by Funding Source

- Tuition: 31%
- Head Start: 28%
- Early Childhood Special Education: 22%
- Great Start Readiness Program: 19%
East Lansing CDL

Note: Classroom age ranges, class numbers and adult: child ratios may be modified to meet the needs of the CDL.

Each of the Child Development Laboratories sites provides a different experience for HDFS students. Our East Lansing site houses a full day program in classrooms infant through three years old. We will complete half day programming at the East Lansing site as the children in the half day four-year old program age out and head to kindergarten. Our classrooms serving infants, toddlers and three-year olds enroll children in full day programming only. Children enrolled at our East Lansing site are funded through private tuition. We have one space for MSU Spartan Kids grant. University students, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, gain experience working with children ages birth through 5 years.
The Haslett site has been in operation since the fall of 2005. We hosted a ten year anniversary celebration May 13, 2015. We operate three morning and three afternoon half day sessions, also offering breakfast club and afterschool programming for families. We provide lunch for the 30 children enrolled through Head Start funding. Our Haslett campus is a collaborative model with Haslett Public Schools and Capital Area Community Services Head Start. Children are funded in this program through private tuition, Great Start Readiness Program (State of Michigan’s At-Risk 4-year old program), Head Start and Haslett Public School Early Childhood Special Education. Each classroom contains children enrolled through these funding options except for our three-year old classroom. University students gain experience working with staff from Head Start and Special Education staff such as a Special Education Teacher Consultant, Speech and Language Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist and School Psychologist.
TEACHER TRAINING

Students in MSU Child Development Laboratories have the experience and mentoring of Master level teachers with degrees in the field of Child Development and Early Childhood Education. The interwoven experience of lecture and lab courses continues to produce high quality candidates in the field of early care and education. The model is one of reflective teaching practice. This reflective model helps students understand and internalize their practice. It produces high quality teacher practitioners. Graduates of the program are sought after during the hiring process in school districts across the state. Child Development students have surpassed the state average on the Michigan Tests for Teaching Certification (MTTC) since 2001. Students in the program are rotated between the East Lansing and Haslett sites to give them experience in working in different models. The CDL has developed Independent Study options to support students with an interest in administration in early childhood to hone their skills to be ready to take on the responsibilities of those positions. As the Michigan Department of Education moved to the curriculum change related to the Early Childhood Special Education endorsement, the collaboration with Head Start, Haslett Public Schools and the Early Learning Institute sets our students apart with the experience they gain working with children with special needs and from low income families with identified risk factors. Skills demonstrated by University students in their lab placements are immediately transferrable to their careers.

HDFS Student Use of the CDL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HDFS course</th>
<th>Fall 2015</th>
<th>Spring 2016</th>
<th>Summer 2016</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>98</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>321L</td>
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<td>11/3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>549</strong></td>
</tr>
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HDFS course participation in the CDLs:
HDFS 211: 1 Lab observation and volunteer opportunity
HDFS 320: Lab practicum 4 hours per week for 1 semester
HDFS 321: Lab practicum 4 hours per week for 1 semester
HDFS 322: Lab observation/participation in classroom
HDFS 421: Lab observations
HDFS 424: Semester long student teaching practicum, 5 half days a week for 1 semester
**University Use of the CDL**

In support of authentic learning experiences, instructors across the University call upon the CDL to open its doors. MSU courses to use the CDL in the past year include:

**College of Education**
- Teacher Education 250, Human Diversity, Power, and Opportunity in Social Institutions
- Kinesiology 360, Physical Growth and Motor Behavior
- Counseling and Educational Psychology 449, Behavior Management in Special Education
- Counseling and Educational Psychology 880, Cognitive Assessment

**College of Medicine**
- Pediatric Residents Child Observations

**College of Nursing**
- MSU Undergraduate Clinical Practicum

**College of Social Science**
- HDFS 145, The Individual, Marriage and the Family
- HDFS 449, Children and Youth with Special Needs and Their Families
- HDFS 825, Families and Children with Special Needs
- HDFS 821, Early Prevention and Intervention Birth to Five

**Other College and University use:**
- Lansing Community College, CHDV 221, Infant/Toddler Program Development

**Connecting HDFS Faculty and the CDL**

The Child Development Laboratories continue to have a strong, integrated relationship with faculty. Formal meetings three times a year are used to review curriculum alignment across the Child Development major and across core courses. CDL faculty serve as guest lecturers in courses and support experiential learning for students, enhancing their skills and dispositions. HDFS professors Holly Brophy-Herb and Claire Vallotton, graduate students and CDL infant and toddler teachers Marisa Diaz, Katherine Ealy, Sarah Belanger, Katie Nicholson and Jennifer Davis, are collaborating on revising the MSU Children’s Curriculum for infants and toddlers. The curriculum will include a parent component, assessment component and teacher training supports.
A central mission of the Child Development Laboratories is to generate new knowledge regarding child development and early childhood education while training future scholars in the field. The CDLs work to support research experiences for faculty, graduate students and undergraduates in several ways including training opportunities provided to students, presentations and publications utilizing data collected at the CDLs and research groups working within the labs. The CDLs actively work to include undergraduate and graduate students in collecting and utilizing data collected at the CDLs. Students who work at the CDLs learn how to interact with children in a classroom, to use assessments with children, to score and enter data using a number of data management programs, to code data, and to formulate their own research questions. The CDLs have provided several research teams with letters of support for grants that would utilize the site. The opportunities afforded researchers through the CDLs are of highest importance, as they foster scholarship at all levels of the research process. The Early Language and Literacy Investigations Laboratory (ELLI) utilized the CDL to train its research assistants in preparation for interacting with children and filming authentic literacy activities.

**Title of Study:** Toddler-5 Study of Early Development (T5)  
**Investigator:** Holly Brophy-Herb  
**Unit:** Human Development and Family Studies  
**Purpose:** To critically examine proposed self-regulation and emotion-related parenting domains and relations between domains in toddlers aged 18-36 months.  
**University Research Assistants:** 20

**Title of Study:** Sensor Technology Pilot Study  
**Investigator:** Sarah Douglas and Subir Biswas  
**Unit:** Human Development and Family Studies and College of Engineering  
**Purpose:** To examine the practicality and effectiveness of wearable sensor technology in the measurement of child social behaviors (i.e., voice, movement, proximity), and validate sensor technology with observational data collected via video and using LENA technology (wearable software that provides data about the language environment).  
**University Research Assistants:** 5

**Title of Study:** Understanding and Acceptance of Autism Spectrum Disorders by Preschool Children  
**Investigator:** Marisa Fisher  
**Unit:** Counseling Education Psychology and Special Education
Purpose: To examine how preschool children without disabilities interact with and think about children with autism spectrum disorders who are in their classroom.

University Research Assistants: 2

Title of Study: Influence of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behavior, and Sleep on Preschoolers Inhibitory Control
Investigator: Catherine Gammon
Unit: Kinesiology
Purpose: Examine how physical activity may relate to better cognitive function and sleep in preschool aged children.

University Research Assistants: 1

Title of Study: Early Learning Institute: Tact Study
Investigator: Kate Lalonde
Unit: Counseling Education Psychology and Special Education
Purpose: To repeatedly compare acquisition of tacts under two types of tact training procedures and extend previous research by adding play-based pre and post training probe.

University Research Assistants: 4

Title of Study: Improving Writing Resources and Interactions in Teaching Environments (iWRITE) Professional Development
Investigator: Hope Gerde
Unit: Human Development and Family Studies
Purpose: The goal of the iWRITE project is to develop and examine the feasibility of a professional development program for Head Start teachers focused on promoting early writing in the classroom.

University Research Assistants: 6

Title of Study: Development of the Inventory of Phonological Awareness using Alternative Responses (IPAAR)
Investigator: Lori Skibbe
Unit: Human Development and Family Studies
Purpose: To develop a new computerized adaptive test of phonological awareness that can meet the individualized needs of children with speech production difficulties.

University Research Assistants: 5

Title of Study: Longitudinal Study of the Narrative Assessment Protocol (NAP)
Investigator: Ryan Bowles
Unit: Human Development and Family Studies
Purpose: Develop a comprehensive and brief assessment of young children's overall language skills, which will ultimately be available to early childhood professionals for free on the web.

University Research Assistants: 3
Title of Study: Early Learning Institute: Evaluation of Variables Influencing Physical Activity in an Inclusive Preschool for Children with Autism and Staff
Investigator: Kate Lalonde
Unit: Counseling Education Psychology and Special Education
Purpose: To compare physical activity levels in children with autism to children without a diagnosis of autism.
University Research Assistants: 0

Title of Study: Children's Outdoor Play Experiences Study (COPES)
Investigator: Brittany Motz
Unit: Human Development and Family Studies
Purpose: To understand how children's attention abilities are associated with their outdoor nature-based experiences and to examine the relationship of children's experiences with teacher led nature-based activities during outdoor play time and children's attention abilities on an attention task.
University Research Assistants: 6

Title of Study: Hearts & Minds on Babies
Investigator: Drs. Claire Vallaton and Holly Brophy-Herb
Unit: Human Development and Family Studies
Purpose: To develop measures and data collection protocols and training for a research team to collect data (1) in infant and toddler classrooms using a standardized protocol, and (2) with families of infants and toddlers. This is in preparation for a teacher-family intervention study titled Hearts and Minds on Babies in Early Head Starts in Michigan. The full study aims to support caregivers (parents, teachers) of infants and toddlers to develop emotionally supportive relationships with children by understanding and accepting children's attachment-related behaviors, and their own reactions to children.
University Research Assistants: 11
Training outreach using videos: 12 from MSU and Wayne State

OUTREACH

The Child Development Laboratories are active in outreach. Administration and teaching staff sponsor and participate in national, state and local conferences. We offer tours of our programs with accompanying workshops. Administrators and staff take an active role in early childhood committees at the state and local level, including active participation in state and local Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC).

Groups that toured the CDL, Haslett site, to learn more about successful inclusion include:

Troy School District (both sites)
Port Huron Schools
Groups that toured the CDL, East Lansing site, include:

- Vlasic Early Childhood Center, Cranbrook Schools, Brookside
- Flat Rock School District
- Lansing Community College, Early Learning Children’s Community
- Peckham, Incorporated, (nonprofit vocational rehabilitation organization)
- Clinton County Regional Educational Service Area and Lansing Community College
- MSU Extension, tour of the CDL by extension instructors

Committees and Workgroups served by CDL faculty

**Association for the Education of Young Children**

- Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
  - Position: Secretary, Affiliate Representative
- Central Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
  - Positions: Vice President, Affiliate Representative, MSU Representative

**Michigan Department of Education with the Office of Great Start and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation**

- Great Start Professional Development Stakeholder Group

**Michigan Department of Education**

- Institutes of Higher Education

**Ingham County Great Start Collaborative** [http://inghamgreatstart.org/](http://inghamgreatstart.org/)

- Operations Committee
- Kindergarten Transition Workgroup
- School Readiness Committee (Laurie Linscott, Co-Chairperson)

**National Association of Reggio Emelia Emilia Alliance (NAREA)**

- Editorial Board

**Other**

- Ingham County Advisory Council for Great Start Readiness Program
- Early Childhood Specialists Group
- Lansing Community College Advisory Committee
- Central Region Advisory Committee: Great Start to Quality Central Resource Center

**International Outreach**

Summer 2015 marked the 5th student group from Chang Gung University of Science and Technology (CGUST), Taoyuan, Taiwan, participating in a month-long workshop.

Students participated in CDL classrooms in the morning, attended early childhood workshops in the afternoons and cultural events on weekends. In addition, the CDL hosted its first International Workshop with students from National Taipei University of Health and Nursing,
Taipei, Taiwan. Workshops are designed by CDL faculty. The International Workshop with CGUST was developed by Wan Hsuan Lin.

In May of 2016, Laurie Linscott and Dr. Hope Gerde, traveled to Moscow to participate in the Fifth Annual International Scientific Conference of Early Childhood Care and Education. Laurie Linscott served as Co-chair, along with Tigran Shmis from the World Bank, at a session devoted to environments of preschool. As part of their participation Dr. Gerde and Ms. Linscott toured early childhood centers including the Academy of Childhood of Shuvalovsky. Laurie Linscott was interviewed for a documentary about the conference. In addition, she was featured in an article in the nation’s premier early childhood practitioner journal, http://sdo-journal.ru/journalnumbers/osnovnaya-zadacha-pedagoga.html and included in a promotional you tube video, https://youtu.be/QgcoXKAISv4.

International Faculty

The Child Development Laboratories hosted many faculty from around the world this past year. Focus of tours and observations relate to teacher training, approaches to early childhood education, outreach, inclusion and family engagement.

Dr. Aleksander Versaka, PhD, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Sergey Leonov, PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Psychology, Lomonosov Moscow State University toured the CDL to establish a working relationship and learn more about research collaborations and opportunities for professional development.

Professor Beilei Li., Beijing Normal University, Faculty of Education, toured the CDL, meeting with teachers and administration, to learn more about US early childhood environments and teaching approaches.

In support of the College of Education’s Global Education Cohort Program, the CDL hosted a visiting group of students from Beijing Normal University. Students, and their professors, spend time at the CDL learning about our teacher training model, programming for young children and research.

Professor Naomi Kagawa, Elementary Education faculty at Shimane University, Japan brought 14 students to the CDL as part of their study abroad program at MSU.

Professor Da-Li Chang, faculty from Kun Shan University, Tainan, Taiwan toured the CDL, along with child development majors from their school to learn about early childhood care and education in the United States.

Professor Kailian Yu, Beijing City College specializes in teacher training. She toured the CDL and sat in on HDFS 424, Student Teaching seminar.
CDL Faculty Presentations for July 2015-June 2016

State and Local

April 2016, Karen Mills and Laurie Linscott, *Early Care and Education Online BA Degree through MSU*, MiAEYC, Grand Rapids, MI.

April 2016, Patricia Cudahy and Lillian McFarlin, *Art for Toddlers*, MiAEYC, Grand Rapids, MI.

April 2016, Katherine Ealy and Patricia Cudahy, *What Did My Child Do Today?*, MiAEYC, Grand Rapids, MI.


April 2016, Sarah Belanger and Katie Nicholson, *Creating a Developmentally Appropriate Toddler Environment*, MiAEYC, Grand Rapids, MI.


April 2016, Susima Weerakoon, Sarah Helper and Danielle Zeolla, *How to Scaffold Preschoolers’ Early Writing Skills*, MiAEYC, Grand Rapids, MI.


Professional Development Opportunities for CDL Staff

November 2015, all teaching staff attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference, Orlando, Florida.

November 2015, MiAEYC Infant & Toddler conference

June 2016, NAEYC Professional Development Institute, Baltimore, Maryland

North American Reggio Emelia Alliance
COLLABORATIONS and CAMPUS SUPPORTS

Early Learning Institute


The Early Learning Institute was developed by Dr. Joshua Plavnick, a Doctoral Level Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D), and Laurie Linscott, M. A. and Director of the Child Development Laboratories.

The Early Learning Institute was started to meet the early intervention needs of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in Mid-Michigan and to provide “hands-on” training for service providers across a range of disciplines to implement evidence-based practices with children with ASD and their families. The Institute is a training site for students and trainees at all levels (undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral) and across many human service fields including applied behavior analysis, child development, psychology, and special education. The Early Learning Institute is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Social Science and the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education in the College of Education, http://earlylearning.msu.edu/about-us/

In support of the collaboration with College of Social Science and College of Education, renovations to Classroom 203 were needed to increase office space and develop the Early Learning Institute (ELI) ABA Intensive space. Generous donations helped significantly prepare the ELI space.

MSU Grandparent University

CDL Faculty Lillian McFarlin led the planning and facilitation of a successful Grandparent University session. She involved child development majors in the development of the experience. They worked with the GU participants, teaching them how to teach young children activities in STEM. Grandparent University participants learned how to teach science experiments to preschoolers and then held a Science Fair for the preschoolers enrolled at the CDL. http://www.grandparents.msu.edu/

MSU 4rd Annual Science Festival

The Child Development Laboratories were invited to participate in the 2nd Annual MSU Science Festival. For the first time, the Science Festival included an Early Childhood Zone located in Morrill Hall Atrium. CDL faculty and student teachers developed interactive science activities for children and their families. They presented these on Saturday and Sunday, April 5 & 6. This effort was spearheaded by Sally Mowers who also sits on the planning board of the MSU Science Festival, http://sciencefestival.msu.edu/upload/2016/2016%20Science%20Festival%20Book.pdf
MSU Museum

The CDL continued its collaboration with the MSU Museum in the development of interactive, developmentally appropriate science and culture experiences for young children. Dr. Denice Blair, Co-Manager of the Museum Education Team, initiated the collaboration. She has provided transportation for children from the CDL, Haslett campus, to be able to participate in the backpack experience. The project involves using exhibits at the museum to create young child/family friendly activities for an interactive visitor experience, SEAL (Successfully Engaging All Learners) - Tots program. Head Teachers from both the East Lansing and Haslett campus participated. http://museum.msu.edu/index.php?q=node/1081

MSU Broad Art Museum

Sally Mowers working with the Deputy Director, Curator of Architect and Design, and Education Director of the Broad, continues to collaborate to bring modern art experiences to young children in a hands-on, meaningful way. This included walking field trips to the Broad, tours of different exhibits, and participation in art experiences, both at the Broad and the CDL. It culminated in an exhibit at the MSU Federal Credit Union Main Headquarters. https://www.msufcu.org/community/events/Child_Development_Laboratory_Student_Art_Exhibit_Reception?session=763

Summer Research Opportunities Program

The Child Development Laboratories continues to be a tour site for the Graduate School’s Summer Research Opportunities Program. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of domestic undergraduates who pursue graduate careers in research. Faculty from the CDL and HDFS do a presentation on the program and research opportunities, http://grad.msu.edu/srop

MSU 4-H Exploration Days

June 22-24, 2016, the Child Development Laboratories hosted 3 half day sessions for the MSU 4-H Exploration Days. These included Care for Kids, Keeping Kids Engaged and Having Fun, and A Career Caring for Kids. MSU Child Development majors at the CDL met with participants and told about their education and career opportunities. Lillian McFarlin facilitated this experience for the participants, http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_exploration_days

MSU Global Day of Service

The College of Social Science Alumni Board held its April meeting at the Child Development Laboratories, East Lansing campus. After the board meeting, board members participated in MSU Global Day of Service working on projects at the CDL, including preparing the garden beds, http://www.socialscience.msu.edu/index.php
FACILITIES UPDATES

Many facility updates were completed during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Collaboration meeting space

Room 209B, former Research Office in the CDL, will be renovated to serve as collaboration space for faculty, staff and students engaged in programming, tours, workgroups and ELI collaboration meetings. This will also serve as a space to meet with donors about projects at the CDL.

Video Observation System, East Lansing

The video observation system in East Lansing is used to support child and teacher observation, college student lab placement observation and feedback, research and staff development. Working in coordination with MSU IT, ICOMM, and Haivision, we launched the new video system. Fall of 2014 we worked out the bugs of the new system. Recording now occurs on a newly installed server given the PC based system. The server allows for significantly expanded recording time and editing. In addition, the PC based system will offer the potential opportunity for the CDL to move forward on the cutting-edge of live classroom streaming for educational observation and research purposes.

Anticipated Facilities Upgrades for 2016-2017

Video Recording Equipment in Haslett

The equipment in Haslett is 10 years old. We have been able to maintain the equipment through repairs using ICOMM. It is anticipated that in the near future we will need to look at upgrading the equipment at the Haslett site.

Observation Booths in East Lansing

With the new video equipment and listening stations functional, the goal will be to remove the listening vents in each classroom and replace with solid panels.

Window Treatments

With the window blinds at Central School being approximately 30 years old, we look to replace them with darkening shades that let light in during the day but can be darkened to support children’s nap time. Estimated cost: $27,000