

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES
JERRY AND VICKIE MOYES COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
OGDEN, UT 84408**



FACT SHEET

The Department of Child and Family Studies prepares Early Childhood and Family Life Educators, who respect diversity. These graduates work in a variety of community and state settings, as Early Childhood Teachers in the public school system and Family Advocates and Human Service Workers in social service settings. This is in addition to obtaining knowledge and skills to use in one's personal and professional life.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Child and Family Studies is to prepare students through contemporary educational practices to become Early Childhood and Family Life Educators who respect diversity. These practitioners will create environments that enhance the lives and healthy development of adults, children and families over the lifespan.

Dept Website:

<http://weber.edu/coe/chfam.html>

Majors (Bachelor of Science)

- Early Childhood (Pre-Kindergarten)
- Early Childhood Education (Pre-K - grade 3)
- Family Studies (Certified Family Life Educator)
- Special Education Birth to Age 5
- Child & Family Studies Department Honors
- Bachelor of Integrated Studies

Minors

- Child Development
- Family Studies

Early Childhood Education Program

- The Early Childhood Education program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
- **Early Childhood Education** nearly 100% placement rate (great need for kindergarten teachers), graduates highly recruited, and is NCATE accredited. ECE licenses teachers for kindergarten through third grade.

Family Studies Program

- The Family Studies program is approved by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR).
- Family Studies qualifies graduates to be a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) through the National Council on Family Relations.

Departmental Honors

- Provide opportunities for exceptional students to have additional distinction to a student's academic achievement by identifying them as exceptional to professional school admissions committees, graduate programs, and prospective employers.

Academic Advisor

- The Academic Advisor's goals are to assist students, both majors and minors, in the Child and Family Studies Department to realize their academic potential. This is achieved by individual advising sessions using advising tools and making referrals to appropriate campus resources. Advising is an ongoing process of clarification and evaluation, aimed at helping students utilize the University's resources to succeed in reaching their goals.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfsadvise.html>

Child and Family Studies Student Organization (CFSSA)

- CFSSA is an educational organization designed to provide practical applications for students with an emphasis in Child and Family Studies. Organization goals include preparing students to work toward certifying as an Early Childhood or Family Life Educator, assisting them in continuing their education in graduate programs, and educating the campus and community with respect to family life, relations and policies.
- Active student association (CFSSA) within the department. Won the 2005 Crystal Crest Organization of the Year.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfssa.html>

Families Alive

- The Families Alive Conference, in its current format, originated in 1980 with the Child & Family Studies faculty at Weber State University. The original and continuing goal of the conference is to dispel the pervasive myth that all families are dysfunctional and instead champion the successes of everyday families. The faculty wanted to share positive information and attitudes about the current American family with students, colleagues, and the community.
- The department continues to offer this important conference on an annual or biannual basis. Through the contributions of various agencies, institutions, and foundations throughout the intermountain area, the Families Alive Conference has been a rewarding experience to thousands of individuals, and has benefited families in innumerable ways.
- **Website:** http://www.weber.edu/COE/Families_Alive_Conference.html

The Family Education Center

- Strengthen inter-personal relationships between parents and their children, teachers, and community members. It is a clearinghouse where people can call and find out where they can find community programs to help them. Individuals and couples are able to improve marital satisfaction, communication skills, decrease negative communication interactions, increase conflict resolution abilities, increase stability and commitment to marital relationships, and gain more realistic expectations of future marital relationships. Instruction is available in Spanish and English.
- **Website:** http://www.weber.edu/COE/Family_Education_Center.html

Healthy Marriage Initiative

- The primary goal of Healthy Marriage Project Initiative is to provide the skills needed to build healthy, stable marriages for those who choose marriage or cohabitation and, for those who are single, to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to develop healthy, sustainable marital relationships in the future.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfsmarriage.html>

Family Literacy Project

- A partnership between the Department of Child and Family Studies at Weber State University, the Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership (Head Start), Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum, UBS Bank, and Deseret Industries. The program is offered to both Spanish and English speaking families. The program is designed to train the parents of Head Start children to be more engaged in literacy activities with their children with the goal of promoting greater levels of literacy with preschool aged children. The current WSU Family Literacy Program uses an individualized instruction approach with parents to promote greater parental involvement with home-based literacy activities.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/cfsliteracy.html>

Faculty and Student Research

- Faculty members Wei Qiu, Cuauhtemoc Carboni, and Volkan Sahin were awarded a Hemmingway Collaborative grant to study childhood obesity in the Ogden area. Their project entitled "Moving away from childhood obesity: A multidimensional intervention program in Head Start" seeks to evaluate classroom activities to reduce childhood obesity. Several students have been involved with this project as well.
- Faculty members Wei Qiu, Volkan Sahin, and Paul Schvaneveldt were awarded a grant from the Moyes Endowment to study how children perceive family in four different cultures (China, Ecuador, USA, and Turkey). This study seeks to understand how children view family and roles within families across different cultures.
- Paul Schvaneveldt recently returned from Ecuador after serving as a Fulbright Scholar where he conducted research on parent-child relationships, marital relationships, and taught a graduate course on marital dynamics.

Melba S. Lerner Children's School

The Melba S. Lehner Children's School is a developmental early childhood program within the Department of Child and Family Studies, Jerry and Vicki Moyes College of Education. Established in 1952, the Children's School today includes five indoor classrooms with individual observation booths and two outdoor classrooms, and houses fixed hour preschool and extended day preschool and toddler programs. The school serves over 120 children and families per semester.

The Children's School is located in rooms 105, 106, 107, 109 and 110 of the David O. McKay Education Building on the north side of Weber State University Campus on Edvalson Street.

The Children's School is founded on the developmental philosophies of Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson, Lev Vygotsky, Abraham Maslow and constructivist theory. It is believed that the child learns best through self-initiated activity; and that feelings of trust, love and belongingness and self-esteem can be enhanced as the child interacts with other children and adults.

The Children's School fixed hour preschool is available to the general community while the extended day preschool and toddler program is available only to Weber State University students, staff and faculty children.

Summary

- Five indoor and two outdoor classrooms
 - Serves 120 children ages two to entrance in Kindergarten
 - *46 children attend the Fixed Hour Preschool (2 ½ hour per day). This program is open to the entire community for children ages 3 to 5.
 - *40 children attend the Extended Hour Preschool which serves children, ages 3 to 5. This program is limited to children of WSU students, faculty and staff and is open between 7:20 AM and 5:00 PM.
 - *22-24 children attend the Extended Hour Toddler Program which serves children, ages 2 to 3, of students, faculty and staff and is open between 7:20 AM and 5:00 PM.
 - Serves the parents of those 120 children by providing a parent program which includes individualized instruction, parent newsletters, parent conferences etc.
 - Provides an observation learning experience for over 250 human development students
 - Provides both observation and hands on learning for about 120 practicum students who are in the lab approximately 2 hours per week
 - Provides the early childhood student teaching experience for between 9 and 18 student teachers per semester. They are in the labs between 20 and 25 hours per week.
 - Is available to the whole Weber State University community for observation and approved research.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/ChildrensSchool.htm>

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

With funding from the Department of Workforce Services, Child Care Resource and Referral offers services to families, employers, and child care professionals.

Families

- Receive free customized referrals to regulated child care facilities
- Are provided with consumer information about choosing quality child care
- Have access to information on positive parenting and child development

Employers

- Are invited to take advantage of free brown bag lunch and learn workshops for their employees on topics relating to work life balance.
- Can make appointments for coaching about low and no cost employee support initiatives.
- Are encouraged to collaborate on child care referral support activities for their staffs.

Child Care Professionals

- Enjoy low cost training in child development, quality environments for children, and developing successful day care curriculum.
- Access grants to support the development of new business.
- Schedule side-by-side mentoring and technical support with CCR&R specialists.
- Obtain national Child Development Associate credential with assistance of CCR&R staff.

Other

- The data maintained by CCR&R specialists is available to individuals and community partners interested in specific information about the availability and demand for child care in Weber, Davis, and Morgan Counties.
- **Website:** <http://www.weber.edu/COE/CollegePages/ccrr.html>

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