



Project DIRECT Team



Courtney N. Baker, Ph.D., Director

## **Dissemination and Implementation Research in Early Childhood at Tulane**

Many young children with behavior and pre-academic problems do not grow out of them without help. Our goal is to bridge the gap between research and practice so that the most effective intervention and prevention programs are provided to young children.

Project DIRECT conducts research...our findings improve the well-being of children and families in New Orleans and across the country.

We study programs provided to young children and their families with the short-term goal of making the programs better and the long-term goal of eliminating health disparities and the achievement gap. Project DIRECT's research is equitable, relevant, and culturally competent. We use a best-practice community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach, and our activities are monitored by our Community Advisory Board (CAB).

Project DIRECT provides clinical services...our efforts locally help each child get the healthiest start possible.

In our early childhood consultation model, we “push in” to the classroom to understand the child and his or her context. We train teachers in classroom behavior management strategies and socioemotional learning skills. We use coaching with performance feedback to support teachers as they try new techniques. In line with the Pyramid Model Framework, we also provide support for classroom- or center-wide initiatives that promote the healthy development of young children and their families.

Project DIRECT trains the next generation...our program provides training and professional development in child development, mental health, and early care and education.

Our team members get hands-on training in community-based research, and our community partners benefit from our capacity-building consultation model and our professional development trainings.

**Contact us today!**

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