



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Shara Benison

Bank Street College of Education

sbenison@bankstreet.edu/212-961-3435

Bank Street Graduate School of Education Names Sara Amadon as Executive Director of the Institute for Thriving Children & Families

New York, NY, November 10, 2025—Bank Street Graduate School of Education, a recognized leader in teacher and leader preparation, announced today that Dr. Sara Amadon, an accomplished research scientist specializing in early childhood education and policy, has been appointed as inaugural Executive Director of the Institute for Thriving Children & Families.

Amadon brings over 15 years of expertise in leading applied, policy-relevant research and communicating findings into practice and policy recommendations to help positively impact family well-being and healthy child development. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Developmental Psychology*, *Child Development*, the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, and the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.

“I am thrilled to welcome Sara to Bank Street Graduate School of Education and excited to support her vision for the development of research and resources that can help make a powerful difference in the lives of our youngest learners. Her commitment to equity and rigorous, practice-informed research aligns powerfully with our mission to support system change and improve outcomes for all children and families,” said Suzanne McCotter, Dean, Graduate School of Education.

The Institute for Thriving Children & Families will conduct high-impact research and promote evidence-based and equity-informed policies and programs that benefit young children, especially those facing the effects of poverty, racism, and other forms of systemic injustice. The institute will be the new home for two of Bank Street’s important research programs: the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), which leads research and makes policy recommendations that advocates, policymakers, and community leaders can use to improve the lives of low-income families, and the Straus Center for Young Children & Families, which develops new scholarship to help practitioners and policymakers effect meaningful change in the many settings where children ages 0–8 learn.

Prior to joining Bank Street, Amadon held the role of Senior Research Scientist at Child Trends. She holds a PhD in Child Development from Tufts University, an MA in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire, and a BA in Psychology from Whitman College.

“I am honored to be joining Bank Street and leading the Institute for Thriving Children & Families. My passion is developing, leading, and growing research and evidence to support children and families furthest from power. To do this work with colleagues and a Graduate School with deep roots in education makes me confident in our potential for impact,” said Amadon.

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About Bank Street Graduate School of Education

Bank Street Graduate School of Education is a recognized leader in teacher and leader preparation and the development of innovative practice in schools, child care settings, and learning communities. By combining the study of human development, pedagogical learning theory, and sustained clinical practice, our approach to teaching and learning produces thoughtful, well-prepared educators ready to create nurturing opportunities for the ongoing social, emotional, and cognitive development of all students. Learn more about Bank Street Graduate School of Education at graduate.bankstreet.edu.