



Straus Center for Young Children & Families

The Straus Center for Young Children & Families at Bank Street College was founded in 2015 to conduct and promote practice-oriented, policy-relevant, and equity-committed research, with a particular concern for inequities caused by the interaction of racism, poverty, and trauma.

Building an Evidence Base

Since its founding in 1916 as the Bureau of Educational Experiments, Bank Street's dual purpose has been to conduct applied research on what promotes children's development and to prepare educators based upon this research. The Straus Center continues Bank Street's long research tradition, enacting the College's mission and credo through three core activities:

- Participatory Research: What is progressive early care and education in the 21st century and, importantly, what are its effects?
- Ground-Up Policy Analyses: What should decision-makers know about how policies are affecting young children, families, schools, and communities?
- Synthesizing and Promoting Research-Based Practices: What is the field already doing that is supported by evidence and what new approaches should be incorporated into educators' toolboxes?

Within the broader context of national efforts to address social inequities through improved early care and education program quality and professionalization, the center is pursuing three interrelated strands:

- Early care and education (birth to age 5) professionalization, with a focus on teaching and caring within the confluence of race, culture, language, disability, gender, sexuality, and social class;
- The effects of emotionally responsive practices and how affirmation of intersecting racial, cultural, linguistic, disability, gender, sexual, and social class identities is incorporated into this work; and
- Culturally and linguistically sustaining family and community engagement.

The overall purpose of this agenda is to use data to engage with educators, policymakers, and families in reflection and dialogue about needed practice and policy changes. Since 2020, the center has been awarded or partnered on over \$1.7 million in research grants.



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