



About Montclair State University

Since its founding in 1908, Montclair State University has had a rich history of innovation, distinction, and growth. Montclair State, a vital educational force, is ranked as one of the top universities in the region. Graduates from Montclair State University are well equipped with the skills needed to respond to today's dynamic environment, as well as future challenges and opportunities.

About the College of Education and Human Services

With more than a 100-year tradition of excellence and educational leadership, the College of Education and Human Services offers several advantages for those pursuing a graduate or undergraduate education:

- Outstanding and innovative graduate programs in the education and human services fields with nationally-recognized faculty and accreditation;
- Program faculty and staff dedicated to meeting the unique needs of our student population;
- Flexible study for both full-time students and working professionals, including weekend, accelerated, and Web-enhanced course options;
- Facilities that are on the cutting edge of learning and technology, including University Hall, the College's home, and the largest and most sophisticated building in the University's history.




MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY
College of Education and Human Services
Ben Samuels Children's Center
1 Normal Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043

Jeffrey Dworkin
Early Intervention Program



Helping families
to meet children's
developmental needs



College of Education and Human Services

Overview

The **Jeffrey Dworkin Early Intervention Program** serves children from infancy until age three who have a wide variety of special developmental needs. The program is approved by the New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS) of the New Jersey Division of Family Health Services. The mission of the NJEIS is to enhance the capacity of families to meet the developmental and health-related needs of children, birth to age three, who have delays or disabilities, by providing quality services and support to families and their children.



Through this program, interventionists currently work with more than 150 families to deliver individualized at-home and in-community care. Together, they make a genuine difference in the lives of young children and their families. Among these are approximately thirty children who also receive support and services in inclusive infant and toddler classrooms at the **Ben Samuels Children's Center**, a NAEYC accredited facility. Classrooms are supported by early intervention special educators, speech language specialists, occupational and physical therapists, child development assistants, and a nurse.

The mission of the Early Intervention Program is to:

- Promote collaborative partnerships among the family, the community, health care providers, and schools/child care programs that strengthen and enhance family competence to develop and use lasting networks of natural support
- Provide service and support in settings that are the most natural and comfortable for the child and the family and that foster opportunities for the development of peer relationships with children without disabilities
- Reflect the current best practices in the field of early intervention
- Recognize and respect the knowledge, beliefs, aspirations, values, cultures, and preferences of families and utilize these for planning and delivery of support and services

"Floor Time™" begins by the adult observing the child and then entering the activity by following the child's lead.

Early Intervention at the Ben Samuels Children's Center

Individualized outcomes and strategies are developed for each child by the therapists, classroom team, and family. The outcomes are addressed within developmentally appropriate routines and play activities that include "Floor Time™" and semi-structured activities in the context of the inclusive school day. The classroom staff and therapists work together, creating and implementing strategies to support the child's development. The classroom staff then uses these strategies throughout the day, even when the therapist is not present in the room.

"Floor Time™" begins by the adult observing the child and then entering the activity by following the child's lead.

The child's response closes the circle of communication. The objective is to help a child string together significant numbers of circles of communication that have high developmentally appropriate levels of functional emotional development.

In the natural settings of our classrooms, the adult structures the activity in order to extend and expand learning. The adult remains watchful of "teachable moments" when the child's interest will be given precedence over planned objectives.

The day also includes various sensory activities that address processing abilities and strength necessary for enjoyment and learning. Interactions within the classroom, in the gym, and on the playground are engineered to acknowledge each child's readiness for relationships. Children enjoy interactions with peers and adults engaging in activities such as story, music, dance, gross motor, crafts, sensory, or pretend play.

For more information

Families concerned with the development of their child under the age of three can contact the statewide referral service by calling 1-888-653-4463. If your child is receiving Early Intervention Services and you are interested in a placement at the Ben Samuels Children's Center, please call 973-655-7177 or send an e-mail message to childrenscnt@mail.montclair.edu.

