

- Preschool Science Assessment (PSA)

## **Dipti Dev**

### *Project Title:*

The Role of Head Start and Child Care Classrooms in Early Childhood Obesity: A Cumulative Risk Model

### *Mentor:*

Brent McBride

### *Project Funding Years:*

2011-2013

### *University Affiliation:*

University of Illinois

### *Project Abstract:*

The proposed study will build on and extend work generated by the Synergistic Theory and Research Obesity and Nutrition Group (STRONG) Kids (SK) research initiative. The SK initiative is a multi-disciplinary project to study longitudinal determinants of obesity during early childhood. The proposed study will be an independent subproject within the SK initiative, gathering additional data from teachers, staff, and project administrators from Head Start and child care programs participating in the larger SK project. This study has three specific aims: (1) compute a cumulative risk index for childhood obesity using the Six-Cs model of environmental influences; (2) identify factors that influence Head Start and child care providers feeding practices and verbal communications during mealtimes; and (3) investigate Head Start and child care directors' perceptions of current nutrition standards for early care and education programs. An expected outcome of the study is effective prediction of children who are at greatest risk of childhood obesity. Information gained from this study will provide policymakers and early childhood professionals with new insights that can guide the development of interventions designed to more effectively address early childhood obesity.

### *Sample:*

- Objective 1: 500 Children and Families from 36 Head Start and Child Care Centers
- Objective 2: 90 Head Start and Child Care Teachers
- Objective 3: 12 Focus Groups of Directors and Administrators

*Measures:*

*Objective 1 Measures*

- STRONG Kids Panel Survey
- BMI z-scores based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Growth References for Children

*Objective 2 Measures*

- Child Feeding Questionnaire (CFQ)
- Caregiver Feeding Styles Questionnaire (CFSQ)
- Comprehensive Feeding Practices Questionnaire (CFPQ)
- Provider Mealtimes Comments Checklist
- Project-Developed Interview Protocol

**Anna H. Hall**

*Project Title:*

The Shared Pen Project

*Mentor:*

Jennifer Grisham-Brown

*Project Funding Years:*

2011-2012

*University Affiliation:*

University of Kentucky

*Project Abstract:*

This project will implement an interactive writing intervention in preschool to explore the effectiveness of interactive writing as a teaching strategy to strengthen alphabet knowledge skills. Interactive writing is a research-based teaching strategy that addresses the Head Start performance standards of promoting interaction and language use among children and between children and adults, and supporting emerging literacy development through developmentally appropriate materials and activities. Children will be assigned either to an Interactive Writing treatment group or a “business as usual” (BAU) control group. Specifically the project seeks to determine whether there is a difference between the Interactive Writing group and the BAU group on measures of (1) upper case letter identification, (2) lower case letter identification, and (3) letter sound knowledge. Study results are expected to expand the research base and contribute to information on