



THE INSTITUTE

at The Children's Center for Communication
BEVERLY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Vol. 2
January 2021

The Institute at The Children's Center for Communication/Beverly School for the Deaf (CCCBSD) seeks to connect research and practice across the deaf and special education fields. Established in 2019, The Institute is led by Dr. Amy Szarkowski (Director) and Dr. Sarah Brandt (Associate). Our early work has involved establishing our foundation, defining our aims, and building momentum and networks for relevant projects. We are guided by three pillars that inform the strategies and activities we employ in pursuit of our mission:

To generate and disseminate transformational ideas and practices which advance outcomes for individuals – deaf and hearing – who have developmental or communication challenges and the professionals who engage with them.



TEACHING & LEARNING

We are promoting professional excellence by locating, developing, and sharing information, tools, and resources to enhance teaching and service provision.



BUILDING & BROADENING IMPACT

We are fostering relationships with individuals and organizations outside of CCCBSD to promote collaboration and work toward shared goals.



RESEARCH

We are forging a path between research and practice by curating and creating high-quality scholarship through academic publications, presentations, and partnerships.

We are eager to collaborate with individuals and organizations across the field. Do you have an idea for a research project or professional presentation?

Please reach out - we want to connect with you!

A recent collaborator reflected, "Engaging in research efforts with The Institute has inspired me to think beyond our four walls and reach out to the broader community. I have been excited by the idea of growing my career in this direction."



Dr. Szarkowski

Dr. Brandt

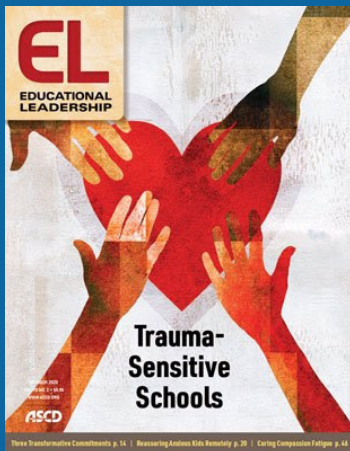
What's New at The Institute

PEDIATRICS®

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

PRAGMATICS IN CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

In November 2020, Dr. Amy Szarkowski (Director of The Institute), along with a team of international scholars, published a [supplement on pragmatics](#) - the social use of language - in deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children in *Pediatrics*, the official journal of the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#). This open access resource includes new studies on pragmatics in DHH children across infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and a paper co-authored by Deaf adults and parents of children who are DHH.



UTILIZING A TRAUMA SENSITIVE LENS

Trauma, in many forms, can have a lasting and unique impact on children with developmental and communication challenges. The Institute is supporting CCCBSD in its exploration of how to utilize a trauma-sensitive lens in our practices. In October 2020, Dr. Amy Szarkowski co-authored an article with Dr. Jason Fogler in *Educational Leadership* on supporting students with disabilities in trauma-sensitive schools.

ENDICOTT COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

Endicott College has announced their [Masters of Education in Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#). This teacher preparation program was developed with support and input by The Institute and CCCBSD. The coursework is uniquely designed to address the shortage of teachers of the deaf, particularly for those students with other special education needs. Please visit Endicott's website to [request information](#) about this program.



What's New at The Institute

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Institute at CCCBSD is committed to exploring how we approach, communicate about, and respond to issues of diversity, equity, and social justice. This involves introspective reflection, candid discussion, and resource gathering as we approach sensitive but critical topics. A committee of CCCBSD faculty is actively exploring these areas at personal, professional, school, and societal levels. We are engaging in professional learning to address this important topic and are eager to connect with individuals and organizations who are similarly evaluating their values, structure, and practices. Work in this area is being supported by Mia Wilson, a social justice advocate, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) Program fellow.



LEND Fellow Mia Wilson

LEND Boston

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program



DISABILITY ADVOCACY

At The Institute, disability advocacy encompasses activities and partnerships with a goal of amplifying the perspective and voice of individuals with disabilities. In the fall of 2020, we welcomed a disability advocate - Ms. Rachel Donovan - as a LEND fellow. Ms. Donovan is sharing her knowledge and life experiences as an individual with cerebral palsy.

LEND Fellow Rachel Donovan

