



**SCHUBERT
CENTER
FOR CHILD
DEVELOPMENT**

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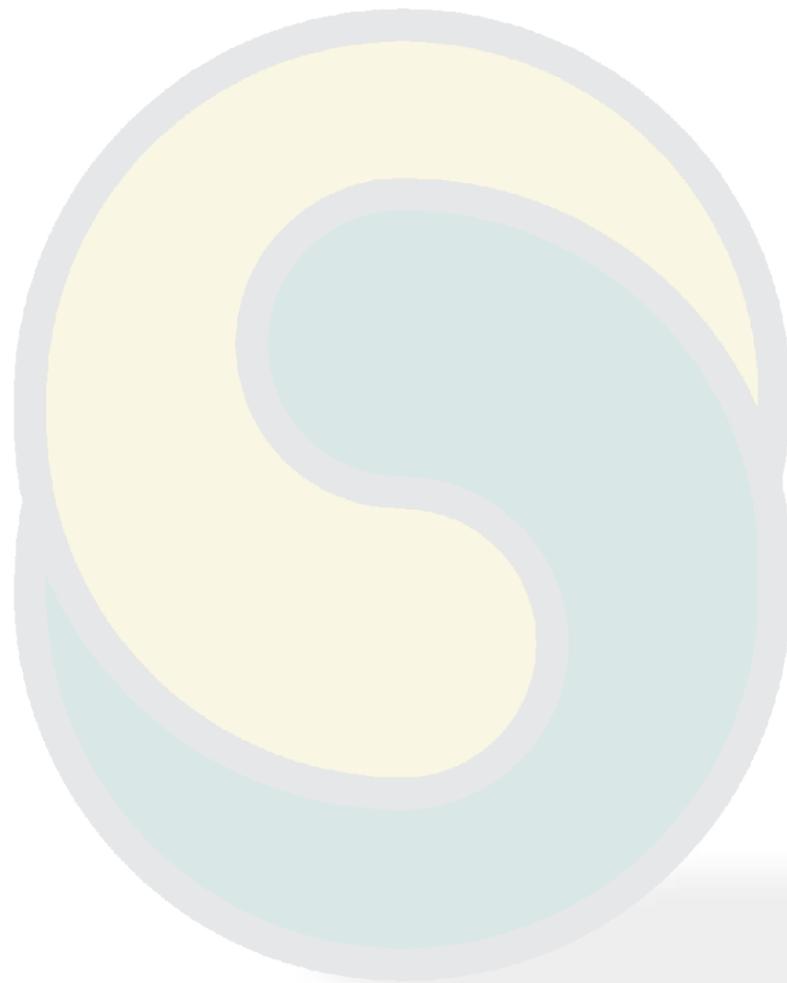


The Schubert Center for Child Development supports multidisciplinary research and education on children and childhood at Case Western Reserve University. Initiatives of the SCCD promote understandings of child development from infancy through adolescence, and in local, national, and international contexts.



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SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

SPRING 2002

A Message from the Co-Directors

This has been a busy year for the Schubert Center for Child Development (SCCD) at Case Western Reserve University, as the pages of this newsletter will reveal. It has also been a year of important reflection on our long-range vision for the Schubert Center, which resulted in some exciting new expansions to our mission.

In its first 5 years, the Schubert Center has provided service to the Cleveland community, primarily through the dissemination of research, and most notably through our conferences, such as the recent conference on the impact of violence on children and adolescents, which is highlighted in this newsletter. We hope to strengthen interdisciplinary research and education on children and childhood at CWRU, and raise the national and international visibility of its projects and programs. Toward these ends, the Schubert Center will continue to support cutting-edge research, as well as a new program in Childhood Studies. It will also facilitate a new Consortium on Children, Families, and Communities. In the pages of this and future newsletters, we will highlight several Schubert-sponsored projects and educational initiatives, and introduce a few members and organizations in the Consortium and community.

The Schubert Center has also promoted scholarship that addresses experiences from infancy through adolescence. We now hope to promote research and education that reflects new frontiers in the study of children and childhood. These include the need to situate early experiences within the context of the larger life course; emphasize childhood as an active rather than passive life period; explore variability in children's experiences across time and place; and inform contemporary policy debates about children's welfare and well being.

Our mission statement has now been revised to reflect these areas of expansion:

The Schubert Center for Child Development supports multidisciplinary research and education on children and childhood at Case Western Reserve University. Initiatives of the Schubert Center for Child Development promote understandings of child development from infancy through adolescence, and in local, national, and international contexts.

The Schubert Center for Child Development emphasizes the need to understand how child development is:

- shaped by everyday settings, including families, peer and friendship groups, schools, and neighborhoods;
- affected by local, national, and international policies;
- conditioned by history and culture; and
- understood within the context of the larger life course.

The primary goals of the Schubert Center for Child Development are to:

- support basic and applied research on children and childhood;
- promote interdisciplinary connections for research and education at CWRU and in the community; and
- disseminate new research findings through conferences, lectures, and the SCCD newsletter and website. ©



Korbin



Settersten

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COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES,
CASE WESTERN
RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Supporting Research

In each newsletter, we highlight the research of a few individuals whose work has been supported through grants from the Schubert Center. In this issue, we introduce Jim Spilsbury, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, and Lyn Turkstra, Ph.D., Department of Communication Sciences.

Hazards and Help-Seeking in Inner-City Cleveland



Spilsbury

JIM SPILSBURY just completed his doctoral dissertation in the Department of Anthropology at CWRU. Dr. Spilsbury's research was supported by grants (with advisor Jill Korbin, Ph.D.) from the Schubert Center and the William T. Grant Foundation. Dr. Spilsbury's research was conducted in 5 Cleveland neighborhoods. He examined children's perceptions of their neighborhoods, and how children might seek help if they needed it. Dr. Spilsbury focused on what children would do in 3 particular situations: if a bully bothered them; if they were in a bicycle accident; or if their parents were arguing. This project revealed that children's concerns about personal safety most often affect their choices about who to turn to for help and why. It highlighted the importance of adults who are a familiar part of children's social worlds as potential sources of help (e.g., school teachers, public librarians, store clerks, crossing guards). It

also illustrated how children process information about strangers as they make decisions about whether and how to ask strangers for help. In these instances, the physical and behavioral characteristics of strangers become especially important. An article based on this research, "If I don't know them, I'll get killed probably": How children's concerns about safety shape help-seeking behaviour," will appear in *Childhood* (2002, 9[1], 101-117). Dr. Spilsbury recently joined the Schubert Center staff as a Research Associate.

Social and Communication Skills of Adolescents with Traumatic Brain Injury



Turkstra

LYN TURKSTRA For several years, Assistant Professor Lyn Turkstra, Ph.D., Department of Communication Sciences, has conducted research aimed at improving the social and communication skills of adolescents with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Currently, Professor Turkstra and doctoral candidate Angela Ciccia are investigating the effects of TBI on adolescents' abilities to make judgments about the social behaviors of others (e.g., is this person being sincere or sarcastic?). These investigators used Schubert Center funds to generate digitized video stimuli showing adolescent actors engaged in conversation. Their present study, directed by Ms. Ciccia and in collaboration with the functional imaging team of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation's Department of

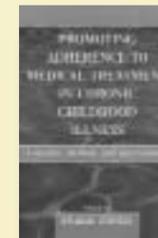
Radiology, uses the video stimuli in conjunction with functional magnetic resonance-imaging technology to reveal areas of the brain that are involved in making social judgments. The study addresses a significant gap in knowledge about adolescent social skills and has important implications for the treatment of adolescents with TBI. Learn more about the research of Professor Turkstra and her colleagues in "Social information processing in adolescents: Data from normally developing adolescents and preliminary data from their peers with traumatic brain injury," which appeared in the *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation* (2001, 15[5], 469-483). For further information on Professor Turkstra's research, visit: www.cwru.edu/artsci/cosi/faculty/turkstra/lt.htm. ©



SCHUBERT CENTER "CLEARINGHOUSE" ON WEBSITE

The Schubert Center website now includes an updated list of research projects it has supported, as well as other child-related research projects at CWRU. Please visit our website and learn about new research on children: www.cwru.edu/artsci/schubert/clearinghouse.htm ©

IN EACH NEWSLETTER, WE HIGHLIGHT A RECENT PUBLICATION OF A FACULTY MEMBER AT CWRU THAT RELATES TO CHILD OR ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS ISSUE, WE INTRODUCE AN EDITED BOOK BY DENNIS DROTAR, PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS AND PSYCHOLOGY, CWRU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, AND DIVISION CHIEF, DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS AND PSYCHOLOGY, RAINBOW BABIES AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.



Promoting Adherence to Medical Treatment in Chronic Childhood Illness

A recent book edited by **Dennis Drotar, Ph.D.**, addresses a problem familiar to health care providers: children's compliance with treatment regimens. *Promoting Adherence to Medical Treatment in Chronic Childhood Illness: Concepts, Methods, and Interventions* (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2000) is a compendium of 20 contributions that synthesize current knowledge and identify promising interventions and research directions.

The book grew out of an interdisciplinary 2-day conference held at CWRU in October 1998. The conference was sponsored by the Genentech Foundation for Growth and Development. It highlighted the many challenges that child and family non-compliance pose to the treatment of chronic childhood conditions such as diabetes, asthma, cystic fibrosis, rheumatic diseases, and growth disorders. Noncompliance with treatment is recognized as a significant cause of health problems in this population.

Ironically, advances in the treatment of these and other burdensome conditions have served to exacerbate, not reduce, compliance problems. More effective techniques often require more intensive medical management and, consequently, place greater responsibility on the child and family. In order to manage these responsibilities effectively, families require many specific interventions to facilitate adherence to treatment.

Professor Drotar and other contributors summarize their recommendations for enhancing research and practice on treatment compliance. These include developing effective strategies for rewarding children and families for successful adherence to treatment, identifying potential barriers to adherence to treatment and targeting interventions to them, and developing flexible treatment prescriptions that individualize treatment regimens for children of different ages. Recommendations for future research include the evaluation of intervention strategies that reduce barriers to adherence to medical treatment by helping families learn strategies of problem solving. In the words of a reviewer, Professor Drotar and his colleagues provide "an excellent resource for researchers [that is also] enthusiastically recommended for professionals working with chronically ill children and their families." ©

Featured Child and Family Websites

IN THIS COLUMN, WE FEATURE A SELECTION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL WEBSITES THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS.

National Sites

Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.acf.dhhs.gov

Board on Children, Youth, and Families (National Academy of Sciences)
www4.nas.edu/cbsse/bocfyweb.nsf

Children's Defense Fund
www.childrensdefense.org

Child Trends www.childtrends.org

Child Welfare League of America
www.cwla.org

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics www.childstats.gov

The Future of Children (The David and Lucille Packard Foundation)
www.futureofchildren.org

Kids Count (Annie E. Casey Foundation)
www.aecf.org/kidscount

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development www.nichd.nih.gov

International Sites

Clearinghouse on International Development in Child, Youth and Family Policies (Columbia University) www.childpolicyintl.org

International Save the Children Alliance
www.savethechildren.net

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect www.ispcan.org

United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF)
www.unicef.org

Promoting Interdisciplinary Research at CWRU and in the Community

IN EACH NEWSLETTER, WE HIGHLIGHT AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP AT CWRU OR IN THE COMMUNITY WHOSE WORK HAS SIGNIFICANTLY SHAPED RESEARCH OR PRACTICE RELATED TO CHILDREN OR ADOLESCENTS. IN THIS ISSUE, WE PROFILE JOHN H. KENNEL, M.D., PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS, CWRU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND RAINBOW BABIES AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

JOHN KENNEL: PIONEER OF MODERN PERINATAL PRACTICES



Kennel

It is impossible to consider modern perinatal practices without invoking the name of John H. Kennel, M.D. Among the most important concepts in the psychology of child development is that of mother-infant emotional bonding. Amidst vast technological advances in birthing practices, the importance of keeping mothers with their babies is arguably the most important factor in fostering positive outcomes for both mother and child. Dr. Kennel's work in this area with longtime collaborator, Marshall H. Klaus, M.D., revolutionized maternal and infant care practices, including practices with medically fragile newborns.

Dr. Kennel's nearly 200 publications reflect discoveries made over a long career as a pediatrician, teacher-scholar, and advocate for children and families. As a whole, Dr. Kennel's work has demonstrated the significance of early emotional interdependence for the well being of mother and child. In the 1970s, Drs. Kennel and Klaus hypothesized that the first hours after delivery constitute a sensitive period for both mother and child. This period brings significant implications for the mother's mental and physical health, and for her ability to provide care and create an ongoing transactional relationship with the baby—which,

in turn, are essential for the social-emotional development of the child.

In the 1980s, while extending breastfeeding studies begun at MacDonald House of University Hospitals to research in Guatemala, Dr. Kennel made another important discovery. A distinctive feature of birthing practices in Guatemala was the participation of a lay woman (*doula*) whose role was to provide continuous emotional support to the mother during labor, delivery, and post-delivery. This led to a series of controlled NIH-funded American studies of *doula* support during the birth of a first child. These studies revealed not only better immediate obstetric outcomes, calmer mothers, shorter labors, and fewer perinatal problems, but also enhanced mother-child interactions. Two months after delivery, observers consistently found that mothers who had had *doulas* were more focused on, and affectionately interactive with, their babies as, compared to mothers who had experienced standard procedures.

Dr. Kennel's professional leadership roles have included presidencies of the Northern Ohio Pediatric Society (1986-87) and the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (1988-89). Among many honors, he was awarded the Golden Stethoscope by the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital Clinical Faculty (1984), named Ohio Pediatrician of the Year (1995), given the Cleveland Parent Super-Hero Award (1997), and inducted into the Cleveland Medical Hall of Fame (1998).

Students and colleagues cite Dr. Kennel's

humanity and wisdom, captured by the invariably invoked criterion, "How will it affect the mother, the child, the family?" CWRU Interim Provost Lynn Singer, Ph.D., says of Dr. Kennel, "Despite his iconic status, he remains a humble man with genuine caring for those of us fortunate enough to be his colleagues."

Parents today may not realize that their comfortable and supportive surroundings during childbirth can be traced directly to the work of Dr. Kennel and his colleagues. Gone are the days when women labored alone, when fathers were banished to the waiting room, and when babies were whisked away from their parents during the first few hours. We all owe Dr. Kennel an enormous debt. ☺

MISSION STATEMENT

The Schubert Center for Child Development supports multidisciplinary research and education on children and childhood at Case Western Reserve University. Initiatives of the Schubert Center for Child Development promote understandings of child development from infancy through adolescence, and in local, national, and international contexts.

THE SCHUBERT CENTER COORDINATES A NEW CONSORTIUM ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSORTIUM IS TO FOSTER INTERDISCIPLINARY RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY. IN EACH NEWSLETTER, WE HIGHLIGHT THE WORK OF GROUPS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSORTIUM. IN THIS ISSUE, WE INTRODUCE THE CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC ETHICS AND THE CENTER FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH.

Rainbow Center for Pediatric Ethics

The Rainbow Center for Pediatric Ethics (RCPE), of the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, seeks to promote a better understanding of ethical responsibilities to children. Established with the support of the Board of Trustees, this new and unique initiative provides a home for Rainbow's activities in pediatric ethics, and serves as a resource for the hospital, university, and community. The RCPE imparts commitment, credibility, and visibility to the role of pediatric ethics at Rainbow.

The Rainbow Center for Pediatric Ethics has four primary objectives:

- To foster research and scholarship in pediatric ethics.
- To educate students, health care professionals and the public about pediatric ethics and the health care of children.
- To provide consultation to assisting clinicians, families and children confronted with ethical dilemmas in health care.

- To advocate for the well being of children by bringing attention to the ethical dimensions of pediatric health care.

The RCPE is directed by Eric Kodish, M.D. Its Associate Directors are Lauren McAliley, RN, CPNP, Nathaniel Robin, M.D., Anne Lyren, M.D., and Anita Weiss, M.D. For further information, contact the RCPE at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Room 680, 11106 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106, 216/844-8651, www.uhrainbow.com/professionals/ethics.asp

The Center for Adolescent Health

The Center for Adolescent Health, of the CWRU School of Medicine, seeks to improve the health and well being of adolescents in the Greater Cleveland area through research, education, and links to community agencies. Current research projects on local samples relate to improving access to mental health care services, reducing tobacco use, and with funding from the Children and Families Health Service, understanding

the causes and consequences of youth risk behavior.

The Center for Adolescent Health recently established a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in adolescent health. This program, based in the CWRU School of Medicine, is the first of its kind in the United States.

The Center for Adolescent Health also sponsors conferences. In November (2001), it co-sponsored a regional professional conference "Psyche and Soma: The Path Toward Total Health in the Adolescent," which over 100 people attended. In February (2002), and in collaboration with the Adolescent Consortium, it sponsored the conference "Closing the Gap: Current Challenges in Adolescent Care," which over 300 people attended.

The Center for Adolescent Health is directed by Barbara Cromer, M.D. For further information, please contact Ms. Janet Hlavna at the Center for Adolescent Health, CWRU School of Medicine, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland OH 44106, 216/368-3770, www.cwru.edu/med/adolescenthealth. ☺

Report Available

A 5-year report of the activities of the Schubert Center will be available July 1, 2002. To receive a copy, or to have your name added to our general mailing list, please contact Ms. Laura Sielen at schubert-ctr@po.cwru.edu or 216-368-2414. ☺

The Schubert Center newsletter is published each spring. Between newsletters, please visit our website at www.cwru.edu/artsci/schubert. There, you will find information on lectures and conferences, instructions and deadlines for submitting grant and fellowship proposals, a clearinghouse of research projects at CWRU, and child-related links of interest in Cleveland, Ohio, the United States, and beyond. ☺

Conference on “Understanding the Impact of Violence on Children and Adolescents”

On Friday, October 21, 2001, the Schubert Center hosted a community conference on *Understanding the Impact of Violence on Children and Adolescents*. The all-day conference, held at The Forum in downtown Cleveland, drew more than 300 participants. It included two keynote addresses, morning and afternoon panel sessions, exhibits, and a book signing.

James Garbarino, Ph.D., opened the conference with a keynote address on the ecology of youth violence. Dr. Garbarino is Professor of Human Development and Co-Director of the Family Life Development Center at Cornell University. He received rave reviews from the audience for his discussion of the complex factors and conditions that promote or discourage violence in youth.



Garbarino

The morning panel session focused on the consequences of children's exposure to violence. It included presentations by **Daniel Flannery, Ph.D.**, of the Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence at Kent State University, and **Mark Singer, Ph.D.**, of the Mandel School for Applied Social Sciences at CWRU, both of whom are leading researchers in the field of youth violence.



Poussaint

The afternoon panel focused on programs for children exposed to and exhibiting violence. It included video presentations and discussion with two community leaders in violence prevention. **Elsie Day**, Program Coordinator for the Cuyahoga County Children Who Witness Violence Program, described the program's work to coordinate the efforts of community systems, such as law enforcement and the mental health, that interact with children and families experiencing violence. **Michael Walker**, Director of Partnership for a Safer Cleveland, spoke about the role that “Young Ladies and Gentlemen's Clubs” play in providing inner-city youth in Cleveland with positive mentoring and peer interaction, and with opportunities for personal growth.



Freedheim

The conference closed with a keynote address by **Alvin**



Poussaint, M.D., Director of the Media Center of the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston and Faculty Associate Dean of Student Affairs at Harvard Medical School. Known for his efforts to curb portrayals of violence in the media and his expertise on race relations in the United States, Dr. Poussaint spoke about the important role that parents, professionals, advocates and ordinary citizens play in preventing violence in children's lives.

In a special moment, Elsie Day presented a commendation from Cuyahoga County Commissioners to **Donald Freedheim, Ph.D.**, Founding Director of the Schubert Center and Professor Emeritus of Psychology at CWRU. The Commissioners honored Professor Freedheim for his long-standing service to the community in developing services and support for children, adolescents, and their families.

Many free publications and resources were distributed, including the Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence. The Community Prosecution Program, the Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board, and Appletree Books had exhibits, and the day closed with a book signing by the keynote speakers.

Special thanks are extended to **Jennifer Shaw**, who skillfully organized the conference. Support was also provided by the Armington Program for Research on Social and Moral Values in Children, the Center for Biomedical Ethics, the Childhood Studies Program, the Hallinan Project, and the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, all of CWRU. ©

Promoting Education at CWRU

ETHAN SCHAFER AWARDED BRISKY FELLOWSHIP



Schafer

Each year, the Schubert Center awards the Brisky Fellowship in Psychology, supported by the Cora Unger Brisky Endowment, to a graduate student

whose research relates to child development. This year's Brisky fellowship was awarded to Mr. Ethan Schafer, doctoral candidate and graduate teaching assistant in clinical psychology. Mr. Schafer earned an M.A. in Psychology from CWRU in 2001. He has participated in the Pediatric Psychology Research Program headed by Dennis Drotar, Ph.D., and has co-presented papers at national conferences with his advisor, Sandra Russ, Ph.D. Mr. Schafer came to CWRU with a B.A. from the University of Michigan, with High Honors in Psychology (1998).

Mr. Schafer's dissertation, *Play or relaxation? Comparing the effectiveness of two interventions with anxious children undergoing outpatient surgery*, uses conventional behavioral relaxation techniques to investigate the relative effectiveness of two play therapeutic practices designed to alleviate anxiety in children admitted for outpatient surgery. His study also investigates how children fare once they leave the hospital. Mr. Schafer's choice of dissertation, he states, reflects his “passion for clinical work and a firm belief in the importance of developing treatments grounded in research,” principles he intends to guide his future clinical work with children. ©

NEW COURSES IN CHILDHOOD STUDIES PARTNER CWRU AND LOCAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

In step with a number of universities in North America and Europe, CWRU recently created a new interdisciplinary academic Minor in Childhood Studies. Professors **Jill Korbin**, Department of Anthropology, and **Richard Settersten**, Department of Sociology, direct the program. The Childhood Studies program draws on the expertise of faculty from a wide range of departments across campus. Students choose from courses such as *Family Violence and Child Abuse* (Anthropology), *Language and Development* (Communication Sciences), *Child Development and Health* (Nutrition), *Child Psychology* (Psychology), *The Life Course* (Sociology). Thirteen students are now enrolled in the program.

Two new courses—*Childhood through Art* and *Childhood Play and Learning*—were developed especially for students in the Childhood Studies program and were taught this year. These courses were made possible by the support of the McGregor Fund, which provided a 3-year grant to CWRU to develop undergraduate learning experiences in partnership with University Circle institutions.

Childhood through Art (Fall 2001) was taught by **Stanton Thomas, Ph.D.**, medieval and renaissance specialist at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and part-time lecturer in the Department of Art History. Students examined historical images of children and childhood as depicted in the holdings of the Cleveland Museum of Art and other local institutions. *Childhood Play and Learning* (Spring 2002) is being taught by **Jim Spilsbury, Ph.D.**, Research Associate of the Schubert Center and part-time lecturer in the Department of Anthropology. This course includes modules developed in collaboration with the Children's Museum of Cleveland. Students are conducting research on how children and families use the museum's interactive exhibits, and what they learn from them.

For more information on the Childhood Studies Program, visit www.cwru.edu/artsci/childstudies/ ©

For information about the Schubert Center for Child Development, visit www.cwru.edu/artsci/schubert/