

Linking University-Community Initiatives to Promote Child Thriving

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Motivation

We aim to link theories, samples, measures, and analytic approaches across three existing child thriving initiatives. This will create a prevention pipeline that supports birth – 11 years old, using a sequential, sustained, and community-engaged approach.

Project Description

We will link together the following three initiatives:

- Initiative #1: Parenting & Child Development
 - Birth – 4 year olds
- Initiative #2: 3Rs: Reading, Racial Equity, & Relationships
 - 5 - 8 year olds, (K-3rd graders)
- Initiative #3: Just Discipline
 - 9 - 11 year olds, (4th – 6th graders)

Context

- Efforts to support child thriving are often disjointed across developmental stages, and thus less effective than they could be.
- All three of the existing community-engaged initiatives in this project have worked together – often in overlapping neighborhoods – as part of The Pittsburgh Study (thepittsburghstudy.org) and see opportunity to increase alignment and ultimately understand the effect of being involved in one, two, or all three initiatives.



Linking three existing community-engaged initiatives at Pitt will allow us to examine the impact of sustained & coordinated investments in child thriving over the first 11 years of life.

Project Deliverables

- An overarching theoretical conceptualization across all three initiatives.
- A tracking analysis of the overlap in current participants and adjustments in recruiting and sampling to ensure sufficient statistical power for future studies.
- Adjustments to measures and data systems to increase alignment and efficiencies.
- Visibility of a new cohesive identity and conceptualization across initiatives to engage with peers, funders, and the field of prevention science.

Potential Impact

- Improved coordination of community-engaged initiatives at Pitt, to create a prevention pipeline in Allegheny County.
- Improved programming offered to local children, families, and schools, over longer periods of time.
- Improved opportunity to inform policy-makers about potential impacts of sustained investment in child thriving.

References

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