

HARVARD



GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF EDUCATION

# THE LEADING EDGE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: LINKING SCIENCE TO POLICY FOR A NEW GENERATION OF PRE-KINDERGARTEN

December 12, 2014 | Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA

## THE CONVENING

The Leading Edge of Early Childhood Education convening launches a strategic collaboration designed to advance the next generation of early education — a major difference from the existing, decades-old model of childcare. Through this convening we will:

- Highlight the best of what we currently know about healthy child development, high-quality systems of early learning, and the challenge of taking ideas to scale
- Bring in new thinking from other fields to provide insights that bear on the design of Pre-K improvement and expansion
- Conceive of innovative insights and actions beyond what any single participant could achieve on his or her own

### TO APPLY:

[www.gse.harvard.edu/ppe/ec](http://www.gse.harvard.edu/ppe/ec)

## TOPICS AND PARTICIPANTS: JOINING DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS FOR ACTION

The convening includes six plenary sessions that will act as a platform for co-creating actionable knowledge around high-impact issues.

- SCALING AND IMPROVING EARLY TEACHING AND LEARNING  
**Deborah Phillips, Georgetown University**  
Study Director, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*
- LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT PROMOTE EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
**Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Temple University**  
Author, *Einstein Never Used Flashcards: How Our Children Really Learn and Why They Need to Play More and Memorize Less*
- EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK FOR DISABILITY  
**Beth Rous, University of Kentucky**  
Technical Adviser, *National assessment of IDEA and its implementation*  
**Rena Hallam, University of Delaware**  
Director, Delaware Stars for Early Success
- THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSTELLATION OF EARLY RISK  
**Charles Nelson, Harvard Medical School and Harvard Graduate School of Education**  
Chair, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Early Experience and Brain Development
- THE COMPLEXITY OF EFFECTING TWO-GENERATIONAL CHANGE  
**Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, Northwestern University**  
Founding Director, Cells to Society: The Center on Social Disparities and Health  
**Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Columbia University**  
Director, National Center for Children and Families (NCCF)
- THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA IN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
**Michael Rich, Boston Children's Hospital**  
Founder, Center on Media and Child Health (CMCH)

## THE IMPACT: CAPTURING AND SHARING WHAT IS LEARNED

- **Community of action** that includes diverse leaders committed to working together for high-quality early education
- **Edited volume** rooted in the convening, to serve as guidance for the field
- **A series of one-page translational briefs** for leaders, to support their strategy and decision-making going forward

### Harvard Faculty Chairs:

Stephanie Jones and Nonie Lesaux

### Attendees:

- Policymakers
- Education leaders
- Center directors and administrators
- Classroom practitioners
- Funders and nonprofit leaders

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