



## What We Do

**At the National Center for Early Education Excellence, our goal is to make research practical. We serve as a fulcrum between research and practice, paving the way for a science-informed view of early education excellence. By linking what we know from science with what we do in classrooms and homes, we positively impact outcomes for young children and further the collective understanding of influential, accessible, and inclusive developmental expectations.**

## Why We Do What We Do

Early experiences shape early brain development, and the early years serve as a foundation for all that comes next. Research tells us that high-quality early education makes a difference for the rest of a person's life, even impacting their children. We want to be sure the exciting and quickly evolving science of early learning gets into the hands of those working with and supporting young children in easy to understand and practical ways, making a difference for children, families, educators, and society.

# How We Do It

Our work is organized around two fundamental questions:

1. What does research tell us is best for young children's early learning?
2. How do we make research practical and usable for teachers and families?

**To answer those questions, we are open to all aspects of early education excellence. Our work includes a focus on the following:**

- teacher competencies and instructional practices
- social-emotional learning and future-ready skills
- executive function, self-determination, and agency
- development of lifelong learning & thinking skills
- school and learner agency
- developmental benefits of play
- SEL, trauma, and inclusion
- environments & materials for early learning
- DEI in early childhood education

Our work includes joint research; mutually valuable partnerships, special events; collaboration with thought leaders and students; and real-world application in innovation sites across the country.

# Who We Are

## RACHEL ROBERTSON

Executive Director, Rachel Robertson is the Vice President of Education and Development for Bright Horizons Family Solutions. She holds a BS in Family Social Science, an M.A. in Human Development with an emphasis in learning across the lifespan, and a Certificate in Early Education Leadership from Harvard.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Rachel.

## COUNCIL OF CONTRIBUTING EXPERTS AND ADVISORS

[Click here](#) to learn more.

## RESOURCES

[The Days of Daycare are Over](#)

[A National Conversation About Race in Early Childhood Leadership](#)

[A Pioneer in Early Childhood Learning and Development](#)

