

## HER NOPREN Early Childhood Work Group

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### **Overview**

The Early Childhood Work Group convenes a multi-disciplinary network of practitioners, researchers, evaluators, and champions focused on policy, systems, and environmental approaches to improve young children's nutrition and promote healthy growth in the places where children ages 0 through 5 years old live, learn, and play. A high priority of the Work Group is to advance knowledge on ways to best support nutrition promotion and obesity prevention within early care and education (ECE) settings.

The primary activities of the Work Group is hosting regular webinars to disseminate innovative research and practice, share knowledge of rigorous scientific methods, foster collaborative research and evaluation opportunities to fill gaps, and provide mentorship and networking opportunities for both early career and senior professionals. The Work Group also supports subgroups that aim to share knowledge and/or conduct collaborative research in focused areas of early childhood nutrition promotion and obesity prevention including ECE. The Work Group is a collaborative effort of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Healthy Eating Research (HER) program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network (NOPREN).

To join the Early Childhood Work Group and receive invitations to Work Group activities, please email [helathyeating@duke.edu](mailto:helathyeating@duke.edu). Membership in the Work Group is open to all with an interest in early childhood nutrition and health promotion.

### **Work Group Goal and Objectives**

The goal of the Early Childhood (EC) Work Group is to provide a platform for networking, information sharing, and collaboration that will increase the quality, effectiveness, and reach of early childhood nutrition promotion and obesity prevention research, policy, and practice.

#### Objectives:

1. Promote scientific research and evidence-based practice to improve the health and well-being of young children, particularly those from historically marginalized communities who are at high risk for low diet quality and/or obesity.
2. Promote the use of scientifically sound methods to develop, implement, and evaluate early childhood nutrition promotion and obesity prevention initiatives.
3. Build a vibrant, multidisciplinary network and support ongoing professional development and collaboration among early childhood researchers, practitioners, champions, and policy-makers.
4. Contribute to the research base supporting early childhood policies, environments, and practices.

**Work Group Chairs**

1. **Katherine Bauer, PhD, MS**, Associate Professor of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Michigan School of Public Health
2. **Alison Tovar, PhD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the Brown University School of Public Health

**Work Group Fellows**

1. **Michelle Perry, MS**, Doctorate Candidate in Behavioral & Social Health Sciences at Brown University School of Public Health
2. **Maggie Wayne**, Doctorate Candidate in Public Health at the University at Albany

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**For more information, please contact:**

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