Managing Everyday Experiences with Infants and Toddler is an institute designed to teach infant and toddler educators how to create meaningful learning environments. This infant and toddler institute was explored through keynotes and concurrent sessions June 3-5, 2010. Participants included Head Start employees, child care providers, public school staff, and college instructors. Early Childhood Educators from Mississippi came together to take advantage of an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of infant and toddler every day learning experiences.

While on this three day adventure at the College of Lifelong Learning, participants learned the components of a developmentally appropriate curriculum, and they learned how to effectively incorporate routine care into children’s daily activities. Providers gained knowledge about various classroom experiences such as: playing with toys, bringing books alive, connecting with music and movement, and art creativity. Included in the training sessions were activities that encourage infant and toddler social emotional development, physical development, cognitive development and language development.

For the past two years Jackson State University's College of Lifelong Learning has hosted this event and each year the institute proved to be a great success. Thank you to all the sponsors, presenters, exhibitors, and attendees who contributed to this wonderful institute.
The CATEY Project

CATEY is a training, technical assistance, research and resource center. The Center offers specialized training for early childhood educators to improve the school readiness of young children in economically challenged communities.

The mission of CATEY is to provide academic credit classes and high quality professional development training to Early Head Start, Head Start, and other Early Childhood Educators who work with young children in low-income communities, low performing schools districts, and children with limited English proficiency and special needs.

To ensure that CATEY meets its mission, a partnership has been formed with the following Head Start Agencies and university units: Jackson State University's College of Lifelong Learning (which will serve as leader and administrator of the project); Jackson State University's College of Education and Human Development, and six (6) Head Start agencies: Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc.; Mississippi Action for Progress, Inc.; Five County Child Development Program, Inc.; Pearl River Valley Opportunities Head Start Program, Inc.; Pinebelt Association for Community Enhancement, Inc.; and Yazoo Action Community

Head Start. The primary outcome for CATEY is to significantly improve the quality and long-term effectiveness of Head Start through the generation of new knowledge and practices resulting from systematic study and evaluation.

The CATEY Project has enhanced the lives of over 250 Head Start educators and has graduated over 180 students. With the help of our partnering Head Start Agencies, the CATEY Project has been very successful in improving the quality of head start teachers.

The IMPACT Project

The College of Lifelong Learning at Jackson State University initiated the IMPACT Project in 2008 to provide state approved training on the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines (MELG) for Central Mississippi childcare providers.

The purpose of this project is to enhancing the quality of care for children in licensed child care settings by promoting "Ready to Learn", "Quality Early Childhood Education and Care" through training and evaluation activities. These trainings are designed to develop the professional skills of caregivers and improve parents' knowledge of early childhood development through a literacy based curriculum which promotes hands on activities for young children. Completion of the Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines training by child care personnel enables their learning facilities to meet partial requirements of the Mississippi Child Care Quality Steps System offered by the Office for Children and Youth of the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

IMPACT has provided statewide trainings on brain development, behavior management, effective classroom designs, print awareness, numeracy, and evaluation strategies for childcare providers to improve the quality of care for children in Mississippi.

IMPACT has extended into the heart of many Mississippi areas such as: Adams, Coahoma, DeSoto, Itawamba, Newton, Pike, and Hancock counties to make a significant impact in the child care community. IMPACT has served over 300 child care facilities and trained over 2,500 childcare providers.

Through hard work and dedication, the project is aiming to meet the goals set forth by the College Of Lifelong Learning.
## MITI Kids

The Mississippi Department of Human Services Office for Children and Youth announced “MITI Kids Childcare and Learning Center has achieved a 5 star rating for the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System (MSQSS). This 5 star rating is significant because MITI KIDS is one of only two childcare centers in Mississippi that has received this recognition. MITI Kids is located in Desoto County which includes Walls, Horn Lake, Olive Branch, Southaven, and Hernando.

Dr. Linda Chism (Director/Owner) is the visionary behind the launch of the successful program. “Receiving the Five Star Quality Rating is a remarkable accomplishment. I applaud MITI Kids teachers, parents, Jackson State University’s College of Lifelong Learning IMPACT Project, and the MITI Kids for assisting us with this challenge. MITI Kids gives special recognition to the IMPACT Project for guiding us through this venture. The educational workshops we received from Jackson State prepared us for the quality rating. Our next goal is to become accredited by NAEYC,” states Dr. Chism.

## The Early Education Center

The Early Education Center in Wave-land, Mississippi is privileged to work with Jackson State University’s College of Lifelong Learning and the IMPACT Project. The College of Lifelong Learning’s professional development offerings have enabled the Early Education Center staff members to complete the required ELG workshops for the Mississippi Quality Step Program. Without the help of Jackson State and its outstanding presenters and professional workshops The Early Education Center would not have been able to receive the Quality Step Star 4 during the 2009-2010 school year.

## Noah’s Ark

Noah’s Ark (Jackson, Mississippi) employees took advantage of all trainings given to attain the rating-level of 4. The College of Lifelong Learning was very instrumental in assuring that we all complete the necessary Early Learning Guidelines. The instructors worked with staff members to ascertain our weaknesses and turn them into strengths.

Their hands on approach taught us how to implement learning procedures that help our preschoolers achieve school readiness. We would not have obtained such a good rating without the assistance of JSU’s IMPACT Project. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to preparing early childhood professionals to gain skills so that our children will be ready for big school.

---

**A Salute to Star Childcare Facilities**

**We Are Proud of You**

Jackson State University’s College of Lifelong Learning would like to congratulate Mississippi child care facilities on their stars.

**Volume 1, Issue 1**
Jackson State University College of Lifelong Learning

E.E. Thrash Universities Center
3825 Ridgewood Road
Box 23
Jackson Ms 39211

Phone: 601-432-6234 or 1-800-264-6234
Fax: 601-432-6124
E-Mail: www.jsums.edu/cll

The College of Lifelong Learning was established by the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning in November 2002. The College is designed to meet the needs of the present day workforce and other adult learners, 25 years of age and older across the state, region, and nation. The College is a portal of entry into Jackson State University for adult learners who wish to begin, continue, complete, or enhance their development on a part-time or full-time basis.

Wee Village

Having safe and developmentally appropriate child watch programs is an essential component for CLL students. Therefore we strive to create an awareness of the needs of our student's and their families. Through various needs assessments conducted at the beginning of the fall semester of 2008 we learned that over ninety percent of our students had young children and needed child care while they attended class. The College of Lifelong Learning believes that every student enrolled in the Professional Interdisciplinary Studies (PRIS) degree program should be able to attend classes and not worry about a safe environment for their young children. As educators, we firmly believe that every PRIS student who needs childcare should be able to access it.

Wee Village providers are warm, caring, attentive to, and respectful to every child's individual needs. The environment is very well planned and inviting for children to learn through enriched activities. The "Village" contains lots of age appropriate books, learning games, building blocks, paints, puzzles, art supplies, and other learning materials. All children are actively engaged in activities during their time in our care.

Quality child watch programs make a significant difference in children's development. The faculty and staff of the College of Lifelong Learning welcome all children ages three to ten years of PRIS students to the Wee Village child watch program. We are so grateful to be given the opportunity to provide child enrichment services for our students.