**Cara L. Kelly (Adams)**

Human Development and Family Sciences Phone: (919) 623-1727

University of Delaware Email: clkelly@udel.edu

111 Alison Hall West [Website](https://www.hdfs.udel.edu/grad-student/cara-kelly/)

Newark, DE 19716 [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=1WSYF8EAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao)

**EDUCATION**

*Ph.D.(anticipated) Human Development and Family Sciences*; expected May 2024

University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Dissertation Title: *Investigating Classroom Quality in a Head Start Context: A Mixed Methods Approach*

Committee: Dr. Jason T. Hustedt (chair), Dr. Rena A. Hallam, Dr. Anamarie A. Whitaker, Dr. Laura L. Brock

*Master of Education in Teaching, Learning, and Advocacy*; December 2016

College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

*Bachelor of Science in Psychology*; May 2012

College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2021-present *Graduate Research Assistant*, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware

* Use secondary datasets (e.g., the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey, Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project) to examine aspects of quality in early care and education programs that promote children’s development using rigorous regression analyses and multilevel models
* Assist with a systematic review of pre-kindergarten studies that were published between 2000-2020 and code the direction of effects and level of significance for children’s academic and behavioral outcomes
* Supervised by Dr. Anamarie Whitaker

2019-2021 *Graduate Research Assistant*, Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware

* Created quarterly and annual reports for the Delaware Department of Education using Microsoft Word, Excel, and SPSS
* Distributed surveys to child care providers throughout the state, related to professional development experiences
* Assisted with communities of practice for family child care providers in Delaware
* Collected and analyzed qualitative data using a grounded theory and constant comparative method to support two graduate students’ dissertations
* Supervised by Dr. Martha Buell (2019-2020) and Dr. Jason Hustedt (2020-2021)

2017-2019 *Program Evaluator,* Department of Teacher Education, College of Charleston

* Evaluated the Talent Development Academies research project
* Conducted classroom observations (e.g., the Classroom Assessment Scoring System, the William and Mary Classroom Observation Scales) in elementary schools
* Disseminated surveys to teachers and input survey data
* Supervised by Dr. Laura Brock

2016-2017 *Research Specialist,* Department of Teacher Education, College of Charleston

* Assisted with training and supporting teachers on the Engineering is Elementary research project
* Conducted classrooms observations (e.g., the Classroom Assessment Scoring System) at elementary schools
* Supervised by Dr. Laura Brock

2012-2017 *Research Associate,* Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning, University of Virginia

* Recruited and followed study participants longitudinally from 2012 to 2017
* Supervised data collection, including child assessments, teacher surveys, parent interviews, and classroom observations
* Assisted with writing manuscripts and reports
* Supervised by Dr. Laura Brock (College of Charleston) and Dr. Elizabeth Cottone (University of Virginia)

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

Summer 2023 Summer Doctoral Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Delaware ($7,333)

Spring 2023 Amy Rextrew Graduate Award, Human Development and Family Sciences Department, University of Delaware ($2,500)

Spring 2023 Graduate Student Travel Award, Graduate College, University of Delaware ($935)

Spring 2023 AERA Early Education/Child Development SIG Graduate Student Travel Grant ($500)

Spring 2023 SRCD Graduate Student Travel Award ($300)

Fall 2022 Human Development and Family Sciences Dissertation Support Grant, Human Development and Family Sciences Department, University of Delaware ($500)

Fall 2022 Graduate Student Travel Award, Graduate College, University of Delaware ($698)

Spring 2022 Graduate Student Travel Award, Graduate College, University of Delaware ($1,088)

Fall 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Department of Teacher Education, College of Charleston

**PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

**Kelly, C. L.**, Slicker, G., & Hustedt, J. T. (2022). Family characteristics, parenting behaviors, and infants’ and toddlers’ social-emotional skills. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-022-01425-z>

**Kelly, C. L.**, Brock, L. L., Swanson, J. D., & Russell, L. (2022). Teacher engagement scale for professional development. *Journal of Educational Issues, 8*(1), 261-278. <https://doi.org/10.5296/jei.v8i1.19636>

Tang, J., **Kelly, C. L.**, & Pic, A. (2021). Latent profile analysis of toddler parents’ perceptions of early care and education arrangements. *Children and Youth Services Review*, *129*, 106206. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106206>

Slicker, G., Tang, J., & **Kelly, C. L.** (2020). Workforce-, classroom-, and program-level predictors of quality in infant and toddler programs: How subsidized programs compare with other center-based programs. *Children and Youth Services Review*, *119*, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105675>

Brock, L. L., Kim, H., **Kelly, C. L.,** Mashburn, A., & Grissmer, D. (2019). Theory of mind directly and indirectly facilitates kindergarten adjustment via verbal ability, executive function, and emotion knowledge. *Psychology in Schools,* *56*, 176-193. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pits.22216>

Kim, H., Cameron, C. E., **Kelly, C. L**., West, H., Mashburn, A., & Grissmer, D. (2018). Using an individualized observational measure to understand children’s interactions in low-income kindergarten classrooms. *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment, 37*(8), 935-956. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0734282918819579>

**MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

Hustedt, J. T., Slicker, G., **Kelly, C. L.**, & Faucheux, A. (under review). Enrollment of priority populations and child demographic diversity profiles: Links with state subsidy policies. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*.

Slicker, G., Hustedt, J. T., Lewis, S., Hallam, R. A., **Kelly, C. L.**, & Buell, M. (revise and resubmit). Expectations and transition supports for entering kindergarteners: Profiles of Delaware kindergarten teachers. *The Elementary School Journal.*

Stoffers, M., **Kelly, C. L.**, Whitaker, A. A., & Barnes, T. (revise and resubmit). Long-term associations between parental warmth and social-emotional well-being for children with disabilities. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly.*

Slicker, G., Hustedt, J. T., Stoffers, M., & **Kelly, C. L.** (under review).Enrollment practices in early education centers: Examining implementation in the Arkansas state pre-k program. *AERA Open*.

Tang, J., Pic, A., **Kelly, C. L.**, & Hallam, R. A. (under review). Preschool parents’ perspectives on child care search processes and consumer education resources. *International Journal of Early Childhood.*

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

**Kelly, C. L.**, Stoffers, M., Whitaker, A. A., Barnes, T. N., & Rutherford, T. (in progress). How classroom quality relates to academic and behavioral outcomes for children with and without disabilities.

**Kelly, C. L.**, Whitaker, A. A., Burchinal, M., & Hustedt, J. T. (in progress). Examining high stakes accountability measures in Head Start: A mixed methods approach.

**Kelly, C. L.**, Whitaker, A. A., Burchinal, M., Jenkins, J. M., & Vandell, D. (in progress). Testing the structure-process-outcome model in four large early care and education datasets.

Whitaker, A. A., & **Kelly, C. L.** (in progress). Do coaching supports in Head Start predict classroom and child outcomes?.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

Gutshall, C. A., & **Kelly, C. L.** (2021). Noncognitive influences on talent development. In J. D. Swanson & M. Van Sickle (Eds.), *Talent development in school: An educator’s guide to implementing a culturally responsive talent identification and development program* (1st ed., pp. 203-216). Prufrock Press Inc.

**Kelly, C. L.**, & Brock, L. L. (2021). Assessing the impact of teacher learning. In J. D. Swanson & M. Van Sickle (Eds.), *Talent development in school: An educator’s guide to implementing a culturally responsive talent identification and development program* (1st ed., pp. 261-279). Prufrock Press Inc.

**RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL REPORTS**

Stoffers, M., **Kelly, C. L.**, Hustedt, J. T., & Francis, J. (2021). *Demographic trends on access to professional development during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood. <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Research-Snapshots-Demographic-Trends-on-Access-to-PD-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic-11-21.pdf>

**Adams, C. L.\*,** Blodgett, J., Brewer, A., Brock, L., Cameron, C., Cordier, A., Cottone, E., Deutsch, N., Dormal, J., Duran, C., Grissmer, D., Jiranek, P., Kim, H., Lieberman, S., Lorick, B., Mashburn, A., Murrah, W., Thomas, J., Walker, K., Warne, R., & West, H. (2017). Evaluating and improving the WINGS for kids after-school social and emotional learning program, Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. <https://americorps.gov/sites/default/files/evidenceexchange/WINGS_FinalReport_updated_May2019_508_1.pdf> (\*authors in alphabetical order)

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Slicker, G., **Kelly, C. L.**, & Hustedt, J. T. (2023, April). *Comparing early education center enrollment priorities based on participation in Arkansas’s state pre-k program*. Paper presentation at the 2023 meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), April 13th-16th, Chicago, Illinois.

Stoffers, M., **Kelly, C. L.**, Whitaker, A. A., & Barnes, T. N. (2023, April). *Examining classroom quality and academic and behavioral outcomes for children with and without disabilities.* Paper presentation at the 2023 meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), April 13th-16th, Chicago, Illinois.

**Kelly, C. L.**,Whitaker, A. A., & Burchinal, M. (2023, March). *An empirical examination of the structure-process-outcomes model within Head Start programs*. Paper presentation at the 2023 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), March 23rd-25th, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Kelly, C. L.**, Stoffers, M., Whitaker, A. A., Barnes, T. N., & Rutherford, T. (2023, March). *Relationship between classroom quality and children with and without disabilities’ academic and behavioral outcomes*. Flash talk presentation at the 2023 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), March 23rd-25th, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Hustedt, J. T., Slicker, G., Stoffers, M., & **Kelly, C. L.** (2023, March). *Enrollment practices and child diversity in state pre-k, Head Start, and other early childhood centers*. Poster presentation at the 2023 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), March 23rd-25th, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Whitaker, A. A., Watts, T., Bailey, D., Duncan, G., Jenkins, J., Lipsey, M., Amaya, J. C., Botvin, C., Cordero, T., **Kelly, C. L.**, & Stoffers, M. (2022, November). *Reviewing the research methods used to evaluate pre-k programs.* Paper presentation at the 2022 meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), November 17th-19th, Washington, DC.

**Kelly, C. L.**,Whitaker, A. A., & Burchinal, M. (2022, September). *An empirical examination of the structure-process-outcomes model in early care and education*. Paper presentation at the 2022 meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), September 21st–24th, Arlington, Virginia.

Whitaker, A. A., Watts, T., Bailey, D., Duncan, G., Jenkins, J., Lipsey, M., Amaya, J. C., Botvin, C., Cordero, T., **Kelly, C. L.**, & Stoffers, M. (2022, September). *A systematic review of research methods used to evaluate state and local pre-kindergarten programs*. Paper presentation at the 2022 meeting of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), September 21st–24th, Arlington, Virginia.

**Kelly, C. L.** & Whitaker, A. A. (2022, June). *Do curriculum and coaching supports in Head Start classrooms predict classroom and child outcomes?*. Poster presentation at the 2022 meeting of the Administration for Children and Families’ National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), June 27th-29th, virtual conference.

Stoffers, M., **Kelly, C. L.**,Hustedt, J. T.,& Francis, J. (2022, June). *Demographic trends on access to professional development during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Poster presentation at the 2022 meeting of the Administration for Children and Families’ National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), June 27th-29th, virtual conference.

**Kelly, C. L.**, Stoffers, M., Whitaker, A. A., & Barnes, T. N. (2022, April). *Understanding the relationship between parental warmth and social-emotional well-being for children with and without disabilities*. Paper presentation at the 2022 meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), April 21st-26th, San Diego, California.

**Kelly, C. L.**, Slicker, G., & Hustedt, J. T. (2021, November). *Examining associations between family characteristics, parenting behaviors, and infants’ and toddlers’ social-emotional skills*. Poster session at the 2021 meeting of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), November 2nd-5th, virtual conference.

**Kelly, C. L.**, Slicker, G., & Hustedt, J. T. (2021, April). *Contributions of mothers’ parenting behaviors to infants’ and toddlers’ social-emotional development*. Poster session at the 2021 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), April 7th-9th, virtual conference.

Tang, J., **Kelly, C. L.**, & Pic, A.(2021, April). *Latent profile analysis of toddler parents' perceptions of child care arrangements*. Poster session at the 2021 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), April 7th-9th, virtual conference.

Slicker, G., Tang, J., & **Kelly, C. L.** (2021, April). *Workforce and program features of quality: How does Early Head Start compare to other programs?*. Paper presentation at the 2021 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), April 7th-9th, virtual conference.

Slicker, G., Tang, J., & **Kelly, C. L.** (2021, April). *Comparing predictors of quality in infant and toddler early education programs operating in lower-income areas*. Paper presentation at the 2021 meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), April 9th-12th, virtual conference.

**Kelly, C. L.**, Brock, L. L., & Swanson, J. D. (2020, April). *Measuring teacher growth in beliefs and behaviors during a sustained professional development experience*. Paper presentation at the 2020 meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), April 17th-21st, San Francisco, California. (Conference canceled)

Brock, L. L., Kim, H., & **Adams, C. L.** (2017, April). *Longitudinal associations among executive function, visuomotor integration, and achievement: Timing is everything*. Paper presentation at the 2017 meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Antonio, Texas.

Brock, L. L., Kim, H., & **Adams, C. L.** (2017, April). *Mental representation, theory of mind, and social skills: Cross-lagged associations across kindergarten and first grade.* Poster session at the 2017 meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Antonio, Texas.

Brock, L. L., Kim, H., & **Adams, C. L.** (2017, April). *The development of theory of mind: Predictors and moderators of improvement in kindergarten*. Paper presentation at the 2017 meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Antonio, Texas.

Brock, L. L, Kim, H., **Adams, C. L.**, Mashburn, A. J., & Grissmer, D. (2017, April). *Self-regulation, perspective-taking, and student-teacher relationships in kindergarten*. Paper presentation at the 2017 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), April 6th-8th, Austin, Texas.

West, H., **Adams,** **C. L**., & Kim, H. (2017, April). *Classroom quality as a predictor of classroom behavior in a sample of socio-demographically at-risk students*. Poster session at the 2017 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), April 6th-8th, Austin, Texas.

Kim, H., Cameron, C. E., **Adams, C. L.**, & West, H. (2016, April). *Validating an individualized child observational measure in low-income kindergarten classrooms*. Paper presented in B. L. Alford (chair), Classroom observations: Instruments, application, and findings, 2016 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

Cameron, C. E., Kim, H., Mashburn, A., **Adams, C. L.,** West, H., & Grissmer, D. (2015, March). *Classroom conditions to consider when testing the impacts of an after-school SEL program on kindergarteners’ classroom engagement*. Paper symposium at the 2015 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), March 18th- 22nd, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Brock, L. L.,** Kim, H., & **Adams, C. L**. (2015, March). Theory of mind as an indicator of school readiness: The role of perspective taking. Poster presented at the 2015 meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), March 18th- 22nd, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**STATE AND LOCAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Kelly, C. L.** (2023, September). *Quality: What matters in early care and education?.* Invited speaker at the 2023 Spark! Symposium, September 20th, Newark, Delaware.

**Kelly, C. L.** (2023, April). *Investigating classroom quality in a Head Start context: Preliminary findings*. Paper session at the 2023 Marion Steele Research Symposium, April 28th, Newark, Delaware.

**Kelly, C. L.** (2022, April). *Features of quality as a predictor of children’s outcomes: Examining the structural-process quality pathway*. Paper session at the 2022 Marion Steele Research Symposium, April 29th, Newark, Delaware.

**Kelly, C. L.**, & Brock, L. L. (2021, April). *Validating a teacher engagement scale for professional development*. Paper session at the 2021 Marion Steele Research Symposium, April 23rd, Newark, Delaware.

**Adams, C. L**., & Brock, L. L. (2014, March). *Theory of mind as an indicator of school readiness.* Paper presentation at the 2014 meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA), March 5th -8th, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Adams, C. L**., & Kolak, A. M. (2013, March). *Contributions of child characteristics and parenting behavior to toddlers’ self-regulation*. Poster presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA), March 12th – 15th, Atlanta, Georgia.

**TEACHING**

Fall 2023 *Guest Lecturer*, ECE 709: Investigations in Early Childhood Education, Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Spring 2023 *Guest Lecturer*, ECE 709: Investigations in Early Childhood Education, Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Spring 2022 *Guest Lecturer*, HDFS 220: Child Development I: Ages Prenatal to Age 3, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware

Spring 2022 *Guest Lecturer*, HDFS 221: Child Development II: Ages 3 to 10, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware

Spring 2022 *Guest Lecturer*, HDFS 402: Child and Family Policy, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware

Fall 2021 *Guest Lecturer*, HDFS 402: Child and Family Policy, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware

Fall 2020 *Guest Lecturer,* HDFS 615: Research Methods, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware

Spring 2016 *Guest Lecturer,* EDFS: 303: Human Growth and Development and the Education Process, Department of Teacher Education, College of Charleston

Spring 2011 *Teaching Assistant,* PSYC 224: Lifespan Development, Department of Psychology, College of Charleston

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

*Graduate Student Representative for the Early Education and Child Development SIG*

American Educational Research Association, 2023-2024

*Vice President of the Education Graduate Association*

University of Delaware, 2020-2022

*Treasurer of the Human Development and Family Sciences Graduate Association*

University of Delaware, 2021-2022

*Delaware Days Annual Volunteer*

University of Delaware, 2020-2023

*Ad Hoc Journal Manuscript Reviewer*

Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, Child Development, Journal of Early Childhood Research, and Infant and Child Development, 2022-present

*Ad Hoc Conference Reviewer*

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) National Research Conference in Early Childhood (NRCEC) and the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), 2019-present

**CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES**

University of Michigan’s Designing and Conducting a Mixed Methods Dissertation or Thesis Workshop (2021)

Certificate of Complete of College of Charleston’s Distance Readiness Course (2020)

Certificate of Completion of the University of Delaware’s Summer Institute on Teaching (2020)

Engineering is Elementary Certified: Engineering curriculum created by the Boston Museum of Science for grades 1-5 (2017)

CLASS Certified: Classroom Assessment Scoring System (2014)

inCLASS Trainer: The Individualized Classroom Assessment Scoring System (2013)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Society for Research in Child Development

American Educational Research Association

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness