2022 National Forum:

Families and Communities Raising Our Children Our Own Ways: Cultural, Ethnic and Racial Identities for Child Flourishing

March 29-31, 2022
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Welcome, and thank you for joining us for the Brazelton Touchpoints Center’s (BTC) second virtual National Forum. When Berry Brazelton visited Sarajevo in the 1990s during the Balkan War, a young psychologist, overwhelmed by the unspeakable atrocities of those times, asked him, “How do you keep from burning out?” His answer: “I go play with a baby.” This year, in these times of turmoil and tragedy, we turn our focus to the courage, commitment, and hope that children inspire.

In this year’s National Forum, we honor the families and communities that we belong to and work with — and the various ways in which we nurture cultural, ethnic, and racial identities for children’s flourishing. Over the course of these three days, we will learn together with our plenary speakers — Jessica Saniġaq Ullrich, Cynthia Garcia Coll, and Kerry-Ann Escayg about what children need — and already have — to thrive, in the context of their families, communities, and cultures. This has always been essential to BTC’s vision:

*A world in which every child experiences love, joy, and wonder, and grows up to be an adult who can*

- strengthen our communities’ capacity for self-determination and collaboration,
- advance racial and economic equity,
- steward our planet’s fragile resources, and
- experience the joy of nurturing the next generation to do the same.

This Forum is not just one more conference. Instead, it is part of BTC’s strategic set of ongoing activities to advance the work that participants do in their communities and agencies and to continue to build a national, cross-sector network and learning community that can, together, transform mindsets and systems of care to advance the vision we share.

Joshua Sparrow, MD
Executive Director
Brazelton Touchpoints Center
AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 11AM TO 4:30PM ET / 8AM TO 1:30PM PT

Opening Welcome
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM ET / 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM PT
Joshua Sparrow, MD, Executive Director, Brazelton Touchpoints Center

PLENARY: Listening to Our Ancestors and the Earth: Indigenous Connectedness for Child and Collective Wellbeing
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM ET / 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM PT
Jessica Saniqaq Ullrich, MSW, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Anchorage School of Social Work, Descendant of Kiŋiġin (Native Village of Wales)

Break
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM ET / 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM PT

Workshops
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET / 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM PT
- Using a Relationship-based Care Model to Respond to Behaviors that Challenge
- Creating Communities of Belonging for Staff: A Collaborative Problem-Solving Networking Opportunity
- Community-Based Inquiry with the Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative

Break
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM ET / 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Workshops
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET / 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM PT
- Developmental and Relational Belonging in Our Communities: Centering Racial Identities in Black Children and Families
- Supporting Father Involvement and Co-Parenting Across All Kinds of Differences
- Lifting Your Voice for Children: Strategies for Advocating for Policies in Support of Infants, Children and Families

Adjourn
4:30 PM ET / 1:30 PM PT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 11AM TO 6 PM ET / 8AM TO 3 PM PT

Opening Welcome
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM ET / 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM PT

Eva Rivera, MSW, Professional Development Program Manager and National Facilitator, Brazelton Touchpoints Center

PLENARY: Immigration from Abroad: Fostering Children’s Cultural Fluency and Pride
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM ET / 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM PT

Cynthia Garcia Coll, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Puerto Rico, Medical Science Campus; Charles Pitts Robinson and John Palmer Barstow Professor Emerita, Brown University; Editor, Child Development in Cultural Context, Oxford University Press

Break
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM ET / 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM PT

Workshops
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET / 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM PT

• Using a Relationship-based Care Model to Respond to Behaviors that Challenge
• Creating Communities of Belonging for Staff: A Collaborative Problem-Solving Networking Opportunity
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2:30 PM - 3:00 PM ET / 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM PT

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3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET / 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM PT

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Break
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM ET / 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM PT

T.Berry Brazelton Award Ceremony
5:00 PM ET / 2:00 PM PT
The T. Berry Brazelton Award Ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, March 30 at 5 PM ET - 2 PM PT.**

T. Berry Brazelton Award honorees seek out, deeply respect, and give voice to the intrinsic strengths and truths of babies, young children, and the families, communities, and cultures that nurture them. They embody Dr. Brazelton's gifts — his skill and dedication as a mentor, his commitment to bringing people together to discover the potential that emerges from their relationships with each other, and to inspiring the next generation of leaders and nurturers to do the same.

At this year’s National Forum, we will present the T. Berry Brazelton Award, to **Dr. Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz.** Opening and Closing blessings will be offered by Professors **Danielle Lansing** and **Keiki Kawai‘ae‘a.**

**About the 2022 T. Berry Brazelton Award Ceremony Honoree and Bringers of Blessing**

**Dr. Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz** is the founder and principal consultant at **First Light Education Project**, which collaborates with Indigenous communities across the country on reaching their self-determined educational goals through evaluation, assessment, research, data analysis, planning sessions, professional development, and coaching. Yazzie-Mintz joined First Light Education Project full-time after serving 8 years at the American Indian College Fund.

There she designed and directed the College Fund’s Tribal College and University (TCU) Early Childhood Education Initiatives, and led a team in program innovation and effectiveness, by strengthening program systems guided by strategic cycles of educational transformation and collective inquiry. In this role, she oversaw **Wakanyeja**, “Sacred Little Ones,” an early childhood education initiative rooted in Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing. This initiative, in collaboration with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, emphasized the sacredness of children within Indigenous communities and worked to ensure that those who educate and care for them are trained and supported in ways that honor and respect cultural, social, and emotional strengths, families, and communities.
Since then, Dr. Yazzie-Mintz has turned her attention to developing research capacity with Tribal communities — seeking to generate increased opportunities for Tribal and Indigenous communities to develop their own inquiries, answer their own questions and seek opportunities to support sustained engagement within their tribally specific contexts. One such opportunity is the Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative.

Over the course of her career, Yazzie-Mintz’s community-based scholarship has been presented at more than 100 national and international scholarly meetings and symposia and published in journals focusing on community-based research impacting Native and non-Native early childhood, K-12, and higher education. Yazzie-Mintz’s recognition as a national scholar of education has earned her the honor to serve on national technical advisory and review committees informing early childhood education research, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s Early Learning Systems Committee, and the National Indian Education Association’s committee of Native Educators Education Development. In 2017, President Obama appointed her to the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences, and in 2019, she was named the 2020 Brock International Prize in Education Laureate. Yazzie-Mintz, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, earned a Doctor of Education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Danielle Lansing is a faculty member in Early Childhood Education at the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). Prior to that, Dr. Lansing taught for 15 years in Bureau of Indian Education and tribally controlled schools in New Mexico and Arizona. Knowing firsthand how important teachers are to tribal communities, Dr. Lansing has dedicated her work to developing the next cadre of Native teachers.

Dr. Keiki Kawaiʻaeʻa is the Director of Ka Haka ʻUla o Keʻelikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawaiʻi Hilo. Beginning as a parent and educator of Hawaiian speaking children, Dr. Kawaiʻaeʻa has played a primary role in the development of Hawaiian medium programs/schools, teacher education, and curriculum development to reestablish and renormalize Hawaiian medium education P-25 (cradle-college-work-community).
THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 11AM TO 5 PM ET / 8AM TO 3 PM PT

Opening Welcome
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM ET / 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM PT
Eurnestine Brown, Ph.D., Program Director and Director of Relational Equity and Belonging, Brazelton Touchpoints Center

PLENARY: “I would tell them to stand up for their rights”: How Parents Foster Racial Pride and Resistance in African American Children
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM ET / 8:15 AM - 9:30 AM PT
Kerry-Ann Escayg, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Break
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM ET / 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM PT

Workshops
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET / 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM PT
- Using a Relationship-based Care Model to Respond to Behaviors that Challenge
- Creating Communities of Belonging for Staff: A Collaborative Problem-Solving Networking Opportunity
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Break
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM ET / 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Workshops
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- Developmental and Relational Belonging in Our Communities: Centering Racial Identities in Black Children and Families
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- Lifting Your Voice for Children: Strategies for Advocating for Policies in Support of Infants, Children and Families

Closing Remarks
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM ET / 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM PT

Adjourn
5:00 PM ET / 2:00 PM PT
A MUSICAL FINALE FOR BTC’S VIRTUAL NATIONAL FORUM 2022

This year, the National Forum closing will feature the uplifting voices of the extraordinary Boston children’s choir, The Voices of Renaissance.

**The Voices of Renaissance**

“I was going to talk about the problem, but after hearing them, I realize that the solution is right here in the room.” **Ayanna Gregory, daughter of celebrated Comedian and Human Rights Activist, Dick Gregory**

“Powerful and timely!” **Congressman John Lewis, Georgia**

“Wow! What a powerful sound from such young voices!” **President Barack Obama**

The Voices of Renaissance was formed in the fall of 1999, at the request of the former Superintendent of the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School, Dr. Roger F. Harris. The mission of the chorus is to convey positive messages and inspiration to people of all ages through the performance of vocal music. Under the direction of Ms. Evelyn D. Lee (Director of Visual and Performing Arts) and Mr. David-Christopher James (Assistant Director and Accompanist), these talented musicians, singing in three-part harmony, maintain good grades, attend rehearsals during the school week, serve as ambassadors for the school and role models for their peers.

The Voices of Renaissance infrastructure also serves as a mentoring program. The tenor section, The Young Kings and the soprano and alto sections, The First Ladies of Renaissance, are a part of our mentoring and performance programs. The Voices of Renaissance made its debut at a reception held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Check out their hit single, “Today I Will Be Great” on iTunes.

**Ms. Evelyn D. Lee, Boston Renaissance Charter Public School Children’s Choir Director**

A versatile and skillful educator of 35+ years, Ms. Evelyn D. Lee has prepared children choruses for performances for Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, and performances at Boston Symphony Hall, Harvard University, the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston City Hall, The Massachusetts State House, and the John F. Kennedy Library, among others. Ms. Lee has traveled with her choirs to Georgia and performed at Spelman College, Morehouse College, Fort Valley State University, and the Ebenezer Baptist Church at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, among others.

Ms. Evelyn D. Lee is a classical soprano and gospel artist who has performed with Patti LaBelle, The New England Spiritual Ensemble, Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra, and Seiji Ozawa, former Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She has received numerous awards, including the Golden Apple Award, given to 15 teachers of excellence in the Boston Public Schools system, the Women Amongst Us Award, the African-Americans Making History Today Living Legend Award, the Champions for Children Award, and the Urban League Education Award, among many others.
Professor Jessica Saniqaq Ullrich is an Inupiaq scholar, a tribal citizen of Nome Eskimo Community and a descendant of the Native Village of Wales. As an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage in the School of Social Work, she focuses on the promotion of connectedness, wellbeing and relational healing. Dr. Saniqaq Ullrich is currently engaged in efforts that involve digital storytelling with Alaska Native youth, culturally-based curriculum, development, tribal child welfare prevention efforts, language revitalization and connectedness for systems change. Storytelling through research, education, and authorship is central to her work.

PLENARY PRESENTATION:

Listening to Our Ancestors and the Earth: Indigenous Connectedness for Child and Collective Wellbeing

Using the results of a research study that involved 25 Alaska Native knowledge bearers of the Alaska child welfare system, Professor Saniqaq Ullrich updated an Indigenous Connectedness Framework that shows how Indigenous child wellbeing is reliant on connectedness to self, family, community, the environment, ancestors/future generations, and culture/spirit. In her talk, she will share three fundamental recommendations that emerge from this framework, and how implementing these recommendations can lead to better public health outcomes, not only for Alaska Native and other Indigenous peoples but for us all.
Professor Cynthia Garcia Coll, a developmental psychologist, is the Associate Director of the Institutional Center for Scientific Research at Carlos Albizu University in Puerto Rico, Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, University of Puerto Rico, Medical Science Campus, the Charles Pitts Robinson and John Palmer Barstow Professor Emerita, Brown University, editor of Child Development in Cultural Context (Oxford University Press) and the 2020 recipient of the American Psychological Association’s Urie Bronfenbrenner Award for Lifetime Contribution to Developmental Psychology in the Service of Science and Society.

Dr. Garcia Coll studies how social and cultural factors influence child and adolescent development, focusing on at-risk and minority populations. Her expertise includes immigrant youths, ethnic minority children, and bilingualism. Her model placing discrimination and public policy at the forefront of shaping minority youth development is proving extremely relevant and timely.

PLENARY PRESENTATION:
Immigration from Abroad: Fostering Children’s Cultural Fluency and Pride

In this talk, Professor Garcia Coll, who has pioneered groundbreaking research on children’s cultural identity development for several decades, will explain how cultural identity develops, why it matters, and how it can be fostered in children whose families have immigrated to the United States, in particular from Latin America.
Dr. Escayg applies that dual lens to the field of early childhood education, with the primary intent of bringing about institutional change for Black children and their families.

PLENARY PRESENTATION:
“I would tell them to stand up for their rights”: How Parents Foster Racial Pride and Resistance in African American Children

An early childhood and anti-racism expert, Professor Escayg will unpack the research on racial identity development in African American children, and distill its applications for parents, teachers, and other adult nurturers who seek to promote children’s flourishing.
WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Eurnestine Brown, Ph.D., brings a wealth of experience to her role as Program Director and the first Director of Relational Equity and Belonging at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center. She also serves as the Division of Developmental Medicine’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Liaison to BCH’s Office of Health Equity and Inclusion. She is a former Senior Training and Technical Assistance Specialist and Resource Development Project Manager at the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement. Dr. Brown has served as a Child Development Program Director in Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start, including home-based, center-based, family care, and local program options. As a consultant and EHS start-up planner, she provided overall program support and guidance to local and national EHS programs.

Lisa Desrochers, MEd, is an accomplished facilitator, program manager, writer, and multi-media resource developer. She has over thirty years of experience working in the early childhood field. Lisa joined the Brazelton Touchpoints Center team in 2001. She has served in a number of roles to advance the work of the center. She has worked on varied BTC projects including the Harlem’s Children’s Zone and the California State Library, a partner in adapting Touchpoints for libraries. As part of the Head Start National Center for Parent, Family, and Community Engagement, Lisa contributed as a project manager and editor of over 50 collections of print and digital media, simulations, and online courses. Prior to her work at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Lisa was a preschool teacher at the University of New Hampshire’s Child Study and Development Center. Lisa has spent time volunteering at the Rift Valley Children’s Village, a home for orphaned children in Tanzania.

Joelfre Grant, MAT, is Assistant Director of Partnership & Professional Development and Project Director of the Tribal Initiative at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center. A descendant of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, he has dedicated his career to the care and education of young children. He served in several roles in Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Montana, Washington, and Oregon. Joelfré taught early childhood and psychology courses at Salish Kootenai College, Clark College, and Mt. Hood Community College. He believes in lifelong learning and is committed to the ideals of cultural humility in learning and development.
Deutron Kebebew is the Founder and Executive Director of MENtors Driving Change for Boys, Men, and Dads, a local social justice 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Previously, Deutron managed and directed the Supporting Father Involvement (SFI) evidence-based clinical research project for over a decade in Santa Cruz County, California, in partnership with the University of California (UC) at Berkeley and Yale University. Deutron has a strong passion and commitment to representing, supporting, and working for children, youth, fathers, and families. He has extensive intervention, training, knowledge, and program expertise in evidence-based program implementation with fathers and co-parents. He has over 15 years of leadership and implementation experience and working with the Supporting Father Involvement curriculum and group work. Deutron has engaged and served over 4,000 fathers and father figures over a 15-year period. He has served on several community boards, including Children’s Network, CASA, Smith Society, and the Watsonville Rotary Club.

Catriona Macdonald, MPP is Founder and President of Linchpin Strategies, LLC, a strategic consulting and government relations firm. For more than 25 years, she has worked on Capitol Hill and in Washington, DC, to build programs and systems that support family resiliency and the health, education, and success of young children. Her work includes the development of legislation creating the Early Head Start program; appropriations for early childhood education; and founding the Association of State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives, an organization of administrators of voluntary home visiting programs.

In addition, Ms. Macdonald supports the development and execution of government relations strategies on behalf of a range of nonprofit organizations in the areas of health, education, and disability. In 2012, Linchpin Strategies was named by National Journal as one of the top women-owned advocacy firms in Washington DC.

Mindy May, MS, is Director of Partnership & Professional Development at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center. In that role, she partners with programs and systems of care in communities in the United States, and internationally, to build their capacity to engage children and families to support optimal development and well-being. She has extensive experience developing, adapting, and implementing longitudinal professional development programs founded in best adult learning practices. She has focused on creating and delivering professional development in the areas of family engagement, child development, parenting support, and organizational culture. Ms. May has worked with providers from a variety of fields, including early childhood education, early intervention, public health, libraries, and child welfare. Early in her career, she was a teacher and administrator in multiple settings, including Head Start and a university laboratory school. She holds a BSW and a MS in Human Development and Family Studies.
Eva Rivera, MSW, is a Professional Development Program Manager and National Facilitator at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, which she formally joined in 2017. She brings over 15 years of experience in social work, home visiting, and early childhood education.

She is dedicated to ensuring cultural respect and social justice for children and families.

Jayne Singer, Ph.D., IECMH-E®, is a clinical psychologist and Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor-Clinical with more than 35 years of experience working clinically with a diverse array of children and families in community-based and hospital settings. As Director of Developmental and Relational Health at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, she spearheaded the training and implementation adaptations of the Touchpoints Approach for work beyond primary care pediatrics, including for work with children with special needs, early care and education, mental health and trauma, substance use disorder and recovery, and home visiting. She is also an international trainer of the Newborn Behavioral Observations System and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, as well as President of the Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health.

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Ramona Villarreal-Padilla is an MFT Clinician who holds a specialized Masters Degree in Latino/Latina Culture in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT). She is currently working on her Doctorate Degree in Applied Clinical Psychology.

Ramona worked with the Supporting Father Involvement Study from 2003-2012 as a case manager in California. She currently works as a Mental Health Clinician in school-sites providing mental wellness support to students, families, and staff in Tulare County, CA. She is also a National Facilitator with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center.

Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz, Ed.D, is a visionary leader and internationally recognized for her culturally grounded and community-driven contributions to Indigenous early childhood education. Dr. Yazzie-Mintz is the Founder and Principal Consultant of the Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative, a partnership of First Light Education Project and the Brazelton Touchpoints Center.

Yazzie-Mintz, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, earned a Doctor of Education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. In 2017, President Obama appointed her to the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences, and in 2019, she was named the 2020 Brock International Prize in Education Laureate.
WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Using a Relationship-based Care Model to Respond to Behaviors that Challenge

How do you respond when you are faced with children's behaviors that challenge you? This workshop will introduce the Behaviors that Challenge Course. Participants will learn about the importance of using a relationship-based care approach to address behavior. Participants will have an opportunity to practice course content by using an interactive simulation to respond to behaviors that challenge us.

In this session, we will highlight:
- the importance of reflection and perspective-taking when addressing behaviors
- the role that racism, bias, race, and gender play in response to behavior
- how to engage with families in addressing behaviors
- strategies that help providers to respond quickly and effectively to behaviors

Facilitators:
- Jayne Singer, Ph.D., IECMH-E®, Clinical Psychologist, Boston Children’s Hospital; Director of Developmental and Relational Health, Brazelton Touchpoints Center
- Dewana Thompson, Ph.D., Director, Touchpoints National Facilitator Team, Brazelton Touchpoints Center
- Eva Rivera, MSW, Professional Development Program Manager and National Facilitator, Brazelton Touchpoints Center

Creating Communities of Belonging for Staff: A Collaborative Problem-Solving Networking Opportunity

Come join us for a facilitated opportunity to network with peers to hear strategies for addressing the current challenge of supporting staff morale. We will explore how to create work environments in this current climate where staff feel supported and that they belong.

Facilitator:
- Mindy May, MS, Director of Partnerships and Professional Development and National Facilitator, Brazelton Touchpoints Center
- Lisa Desrochers, MEd, Professional Development Manager and National Facilitator, Brazelton Touchpoints Center

Community-Based Inquiry with the Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center partners with the First Light Education Project to lead the Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative (IELC), a national initiative that supports early learning and development communities in implementing community-based inquiry projects. Participants will hear about projects from our four partner sites focused on developing an Indigenous early learning framework, implementing a land-based curriculum, envisioning Indigenous learning spaces and healing, and creating an Ojibwe learning series for providers. Our discussion will include how to begin your own community-based inquiry project.

Facilitators:
- Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz, Ed.D, Founder and Principal Consultant, First Light Education Project Denver
- Joelfre Grant, MAT, Assistant Director, Partnership and Professional Development, Brazelton Touchpoints Center
Developmental and Relational Belonging in Our Communities: Centering Racial Identities in Black Children and Families

Join in to discuss creative and relational strategies for centering and enriching the development of racial identities in Black children and families. Explore ways families, providers, and communities can create a sense of belonging as Black children grow into their cultural, ethnic, and racial identities.

Participants will:
- Learn about and explore ways in which cultivating strong racial identities in children matter and how this understanding benefits all children, families, and communities
- Discuss strategies for nurturing strong cultural, ethnic, and racial identities in Black children when partnering with families, communities, and colleagues
- Identify resources that promote strong cultural, ethnic, and racial identities in Black children when partnering with families, communities, and colleagues

Facilitator:
- **Eurnestine Brown, Ph.D.**, Director of Relational Equity and Belonging, Brazelton Touchpoints Center

Supporting Father Involvement and Co-Parenting Across All Kinds of Differences

Research shows that when fathers become more involved in raising their children, and specifically when co-parents work as partners, all benefit. Are you looking for a way to support father engagement and co-parenting in your program?

Come find out about the strategies, tools, and outcomes from the **Supporting Father Involvement (SFI) Program**, an evidence-based parenting program designed for families that are culturally and economically diverse.

Facilitators:
- **Deutron Kebebew**, Brazelton Touchpoints Center National Facilitator, SFI
- **Ramona Villarreal-Padilla**, Brazelton Touchpoints Center National Facilitator, SFI

Lifting Your Voice for Children: Strategies for Advocating for Policies in Support of Infants, Children, and Families

As the pandemic continues its grip on communities and families, advocating to elected officials can feel like the last thing you have time for. At this divided and polarized time in our country’s history, heading into contentious midterm elections that will determine control of Congress, is it even worth it? Does talking to state or national legislators make any difference at all? Ironically, pandemic-driven changes have made elected officials and their staff more accessible to constituents than ever. Join Catriona Macdonald, a 25-year veteran of working Capitol Hill on behalf of young children and families, for this nuts-and-bolts workshop. We’ll talk about whether advocacy matters; finding the right people to talk to; setting up your meeting; preparing for your advocacy; and following up to make the voice of your community heard in policy decisions at the state and national level.

Facilitator:
- **Catriona Macdonald, MPP**, Founder and President of Linchpin Strategies, LLC, a Washington, DC, strategic consulting and government relations firm
Continue your learning and professional growth at these Brazelton Touchpoints Center events. Sign up to be the first to hear when new workshops are scheduled.

**Touchpoints: The How of Child and Family Engagement Workshop**
**Beginning May 3**
This 28-hour online course includes live synchronous webinars, online discussion, and reflection activities, and is followed by six monthly one-hour virtual reflective practice sessions with the course facilitator.

[Learn more and register](#)

**Strengths-Based Family Engagement Workshop**
**Beginning June 1!**
Learn how to further cultivate a strengths-based mindset in your work with families. All workshops are 90 minutes and have live Spanish translation and closed captioning available!

[Learn more and register](#)

**Beyond Trauma Informed Care Workshop**
**Beginning April 13**
This workshop series explores strengths-based foundational concepts and actionable strategies related to trauma, adaptation, healing, and resilience. This series is for professionals interested in supporting children and families who have experienced trauma. Professionals may include early care educators, family child care providers, mental health consultants, home visitors, pediatricians, early interventionists, and more.

[Learn more and register](#)

**Development is a Journey Workshop**
**June 23, 2022**
This 3-hour, interactive workshop introduces participants to the Development Roadmap and its focus on honoring families' knowledge of their child. We explore why providers and families sometimes have differences of opinion about children and screenings.

[Learn more and register](#)
Upcoming Events

Our free webinar series are made possible thanks to the generosity of our Sponsors, the Brazelton Touchpoints Foundation and our community of donors. Thank you for your support!

Parenting While Black 2022 Series
Every other Monday through May 16
This free webinar series offers a safe and welcoming space to hold conversations for and by Black families. All are welcome to join and engage in these powerful conversations! The six-part series began on Monday, March 7, and continues every other Monday, from 3 to 4:30 PM ET / 12 to 1:30 PM PT, through May 16.

Learn more and register

LGBTQ2+ Families Then and Now
Beginning April 11
Through conversations with a diverse range of families who identify as LGBTQ2+ at different stages of family life, we will explore the changing landscape of LGBTQ2+ parenting during the last several decades. The six-part free series begins on Monday, April 11, and will be held every other Monday, from 3 to 4:30 PM ET / 12 to 1:30 PM PT, through June 20.

Learn more and register

Learning to Listen: Conversations for Change
"Who Rocks the Cradle" with Andrew Solomon
April 20, 2022
Join Andrew Solomon, Ph.D., LGBTQ rights, mental health, and arts activist; New Yorker and New York Times contributor; and award-winning author of Far from the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity and The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression as he ponders how COVID has challenged and changed our families, bringing many parents and children closer—sometimes too close for comfort—while separating them from so many others in their lives. And find out who rocks the cradle now.

Learn more and register

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
BTC was founded 26 years ago by Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and his colleagues at Boston Children’s Hospital. A pioneer in the field of developmental pediatrics and infant mental health, Dr. Brazelton was an advocate for all children and their families. He helped generations of pediatricians and other family-facing professionals learn to see all babies as unique individuals who, along with the unique strengths of their cultures and communities, help their families learn who they are and how to help them grow and flourish.

We honor his legacy and celebrate BTC’s 26th anniversary with this three-day event focused on the ways families and communities nurture child flourishing with the rich diversity of both unique and shared stories, histories, experiences, perspectives, traditions, values, and visions for their futures.

Gratitude
Thank you again for taking time out of your busy lives to join us. We hope that in these next three days you will find community, inspiration, hope, and affirmation for the vision you aspire toward every day to benefit every child and family.

Thank you to my BTC colleagues for the vision, precision, and passion they’ve put into bringing us together for our second virtual National Forum. Thank you to Ms. Evelyn D. Lee, the Boston Renaissance Children’s Choir, Dr. Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz, and our bringers of blessings.

Thank you to our plenary presenters and workshop facilitators for sharing your wisdom, expertise, and experience with us all, and to our sponsors and supporters who believe in BTC’s mission and make our work possible.
STAY IN TOUCH

We’d love to hear from you! Here is how you can reach us...

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