Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2023
October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023
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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Just when you might think things can’t possibly get any worse, it seems like they often do. I will not re-traumatize us with a litany of this past year’s bad news. With all the hatred and fear, there is too much noise, and too little light. Back during the Balkan Wars, Berry Brazelton met a young psychologist in Sarajevo. She described the unspeakable brutalities she had witnessed and asked, “How do you hold onto your humanity?” He replied, “I go play with a baby.” And that’s what they did.

The work of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC) has always been to restore the position of babies and children as the first priority of communities and societies everywhere. When babies and children come first, everything else falls into place. Our accountability for their futures, and their children’s futures, is our biological and spiritual imperative. In this year’s Annual Report, you’ll find out how BTC has been doing its part in fiscal year 2023 to put babies and children first.

Humans have known how to honor and act on this imperative for a very long time. Children are sacred. Babies and children are, as an Indigenous colleague recently shared, “our ancestors’ dreams and breath.”

Most of us are not able to do as much as we would want to end the harm and heal our precious planet. Yet, despite understandable despair, we can find solace and purpose in doing what is within our power to honor our ancestors’ dreams and protect their breath — the babies and children we know, and those we don’t — and the humans who care for and about them. In this Annual Report, I hope you’ll find that this is what BTC has been up to this past year, and maybe even that it will provide some solace for you too. For many of us, as it was for Berry, this is also how we take care of ourselves when we are struggling to hold onto hope.

With gratitude,

Joshua Sparrow, MD
Executive Director
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, cope with adversity, advance racial and economic equity, steward our planet's fragile resources, and experience the joy of nurturing the next generation to do the same. Every child is all our children.

Mission

To partner with family-facing providers, researchers, advocates, policymakers, and their institutions to listen to and amplify the unheard voices of babies, children, and families, and to co-create with them practical, incremental solutions to the challenges they express.

Values

BTC is committed to creating equitable and inclusive opportunities for learning and growth through collaborative, strengths-based, culturally-affirming approaches within its own organization and in its partnerships with all others.

Our Founder

BTC was founded in 1996 by Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, a pediatrician and researcher at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Brazelton's pioneering research and clinical experience laid the groundwork for the fields of developmental and behavioral pediatrics, family engagement, infant mental health, and the subsequent half century of research on early development and the earliest interactions.

Brazelton listened to 25,000 families over 50 years, and always said that they taught him, giving him the “nuggets” that he assembled into the Touchpoints theory of relationship-driven development. Moreover, he traveled the world to listen to newborn babies and their families, who taught him the importance of place and of embracing without extracting the wisdom of their cultures. His view that “parents are the experts on their children” was made one of the Touchpoints Strengths-Based Parent Assumptions beginning back in 1996. For more on Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, see: brazeltontouchpoints.org/about/our-founder/

“Our goal is that parents everywhere work with supportive providers, feel confident in their parenting role, and form strong, resilient attachments with their children.”

— T. Berry Brazelton, MD (1918 – 2018)
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Anti-Racism

BTC is dedicated to creating a lasting community where equity, diversity, inclusion, belonging, and anti-racism can thrive. We engage in reflective practices to enhance equitable processes and outcomes, and to reduce bias — including our own. At BTC, we come alongside and learn with the infants, children, families, and communities that we are honored to work with. While we still have much work to do, we see the path to racial equity and justice as a journey — one that we have wholeheartedly embarked on. BTC is committed to creating learning and growth opportunities through collaborative, strengths-based, culturally-affirming approaches within our organization and in our partnerships with all others.

Central to our work is cultural humility and the pursuit of equity. We continue to focus on both our intention and impact. BTC’s recognition of the ethnocentric biases in Euro-American research on human development and learning is rooted in Dr. Brazelton’s research on the strengths of newborn babies and their families around the world. We collaborate with families and communities to co-construct approaches to supporting children’s development and well-being, lifting up their expertise in creating the knowledge, skills, and practices they need to raise their own children. At BTC, family engagement is doing with, rather than doing to or for families. In all our work, we partner with communities to promote joy, healing, and the reclamation and affirmation of the resources, strengths, and capacities that have always been present in their cultures and traditions.

In values and practice, equity manifests in BTC’s:

- Human-centered design approach to iteratively developing, testing, and evaluating programs, which ensures the centrality of the voices, knowledge, and power of the families, communities, providers, and organizations with whom the programs are co-designed to benefit
- Recruitment, retention, mentorship, and cultivation of a diverse staff and Board, shared organizational values, and support for individual and organizational learning
- Experience creating accessible programs and resources for speakers of languages other than English, and for those who are hearing impaired
- Investment in creating programming that embraces all voices (i.e., safe/brave spaces for authentic, differing, and neurodiverse perspectives)
- Investment of organizational resources to create hybrid and fully online versions of existing and new professional development programs that increase access for those who cannot attend in-person trainings
The Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative (IELC) is now an Institute! In July 2023, a $400,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation was awarded to support the IELC in strengthening its internal systems and operations — founding the IELC Institute — while launching a new phase of work with existing IELC members and expanding opportunities with new partners into the next two years.

BTC and its partner, First Light Education Project, launched the IELC in January 2021 with a $1.5 million two-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, initially enabling it to work with four Indigenous communities of practice located in Michigan, Minnesota, Washington, and Hawaii. Building upon its initial partnership with the Wiikwedong Early Childhood Development Collaborative of Michigan, the IELC in 2022 was awarded three grants from the Foundation for Child Development, including a two-year grant in the amount of $573,000 to continue the work.

IELC partner members celebrate their successes in Seattle, Washington, in July.
The IELC Institute seeks to make short- and long-term contributions to the field of Indigenous early learning and care, starting with local inquiries and, later, expanding to collective broader shared inquiry. The first year of the IELC’s work focused on visioning and implementing locally driven Community-Based Inquiry projects. The past year (2022–23) focused on examining the lessons learned from the initial implementation of inquiry findings across the four partner sites. We also focused on sharing the collective knowledge journey of the IELC, including through the international premiere in January 2023 of a documentary film about the IELC’s work and impact in its partner communities.

A reflection on the film’s story confirms the power of the IELC’s vision, mission, and goals:

“I felt unified with other community teams. We have the same passions and devotion to the work and our communities. We started with a small question, and it went beyond what I could ever have imagined. To unify us in this manner and we [had] never met them — it’s a whole other level. [And]... for others, ...[such as] people in the current program I am in, it would inspire them to learn about who they are.”

— IELC Member, Keiki Steps, 2023

The IELC impact story is reaching diverse audiences across the spectrum of early learning and development, from local Tribal communities of practice to researchers and national associations, contributing to broader fields of scholarship. The IELC’s scholarly contributions include presenting its collective work at the Society for Research in Child Development (Invited Salon, March 2023) and the Native Children's Research Exchange (Invited Bob Emde Memorial Talk, September 2023).

We are excited to share that the IELC will be featured in a special issue of the American Indian Culture and Research Journal. IELC Institute Director Dr. Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz envisions this special issue as an important step to shaping the landscape of Indigenous early learning and care scholarship. “Our IELC communities of practice and their inquiry stories,” Dr. Yazzie-Mintz says, “will be foundational to this special issue.” The issue is expected to be published in Spring 2024.
More on the IELC

As the IELC becomes an institute, our mission to work closely with Indigenous-serving communities of practice remains rooted in locally implemented Community-Based Inquiries seeking to strengthen early learning and care systems.

Visit the IELC webpage to view the IELC documentary film, featured stories, and published reports.  https://bit.ly/3QXfrJY

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The IELC’s approach to implementing Community-Based Inquiry is “…one of those processes where you get started with something, live it out, and see what needs tweaking as you move forward … a living practice and pedagogy!”

— IELC Member, Daybreak Star Preschool, 2023

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First Light Education Project, Starting With What Works

First Light Education Project's guiding principle, Starting with What Works, represents a strengths-based and question-driven approach, focused on developing relationships with educators and educational organizations, generating effective professional development programs, providing high-quality data collection and analysis, helping educators and organizations optimize performance and services, and creating and disseminating knowledge.

First Light Education Project grew out of a desire to work with individuals, teams, educational organizations, institutions, and systems to build from strength — to identify what is working and why, and to use those strengths as the foundation to work upward and outward.
BTC's Research and Evaluation team uses a relational and developmental research approach to guide the design and implementation of its research, evaluation, and consultation activities. Our approach is founded on equitable, collaborative, and ongoing partnerships. We partner with organizations and communities working to build their capacity and strengthen their systems to support the healthy development and well-being of infants, young children, and their families. Community and organizational members are important sources of data in the co-learning that guides our work. Their collaboration generates opportunities for them to conduct and use research processes and results for their own growth. In addition to co-creating relational, interdisciplinary, and mixed-method research designs, we also work with our partners to develop data collection and analysis processes that drive our shared recommendations for their programs.

Our 2023 Partners and Projects

- Buffett Early Childhood Fund and Southwest Human Development, Breakthrough/Acceleration Construct Coaching Project
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)
- East Boston Social Service Centers, Every Child Shines Project
- Grady Hospital and Rollins Center, Talk with Me Baby
- Mathematica Policy Research, Head Start REACH (Strengthening Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement Approaches with Families)
- Mathematica Policy Research, Home Visiting REACH (Understanding and Expanding the Reach of Home Visiting)
- Mount Sinai Parenting Center, Sparks Video Project Evaluation
- Neighborhood Villages
- Parents as Teachers National Center, Evaluation of Parent Educators and Peri-Natal Families
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health)
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Indigenous Project LAUNCH
- Tribal Child Care Association of California
- Tribal Early Childhood Research Center
- United Way of Greater Houston Bright Beginnings Project
- William Penn Foundation Caregiver Engagement Initiative
- Winnebago Indigenous Project LAUNCH
The Caregiver Engagement Initiative, which began in 2017, provided five years of funding for three social service agencies and two early childhood education (ECE) organizations to implement evidence-based parenting curricula to support school readiness and the well-being of families and children living in high-poverty communities in greater Philadelphia. BTC evaluated curricula implementation across multiple sites as well as program, facilitator, family, and child outcomes using a multi-method quasi-experimental longitudinal research design. BTC investigated best practices in implementation of parenting curricula and whether participation in parenting curricula was associated with parents’ distress and parent-child relationships. Funding for this initiative ended in 2022, and evaluation results were recently published on the Foundation’s website.

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Indigenous Project LAUNCH
The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Indigenous Project LAUNCH is a five-year, SAMHSA-funded initiative that focuses on implementing effective early childhood mental health services in their Tribal community. The aim is to promote better outcomes for young children and their families and build the capacity of adult caregivers of young children to promote healthy social and emotional development. BTC is conducting a mixed-methods longitudinal evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of the interventions and cultural activities that operationalize the core LAUNCH strategies through December 2023. These strategies include integrating behavioral health into primary care, screening and assessing youth and caregivers, strengthening family activities, providing mental health consultation in early care and education settings, and enhancing home visiting through increased focus on social and emotional well-being.

United Way of Greater Houston Bright Beginnings Project
For more than 20 years, the United Way of Greater Houston Bright Beginnings (UWBB) project has supported high-quality early education experiences and school readiness of young children. Bright Beginnings staff provide ongoing coaching, consultation, and professional development to center-based and family child care programs in culturally diverse, high-poverty communities in greater Houston. BTC is the ongoing evaluator for the project, and our collaboration is entering its fourth year. The evaluation examines the relationship between the structural and process quality components of UWBB Bright Beginnings programs and program, staff, family, and child outcomes. BTC is also conducting a longitudinal evaluation of UWBB children’s outcomes in public school, including attendance and discipline records and reading and math achievement.

William Penn Foundation Caregiver Engagement Initiative
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BTC offers professional development programs for family-facing professionals across many fields, including:

- early childhood care and education
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- infant/early childhood and family mental health
- perinatal and pediatric health care
- child welfare
- early intervention
- family support
- home visiting
- public libraries

Our programs are research-informed, embedded in organizational and systemic change, and incorporate principles of adult learning theory, behavioral change, and self-care. All programs are led by BTC Staff Facilitators and members of our National Facilitator Team.

In fiscal year 2023, we provided 90 professional development programs to over 2,500 participants across the United States and internationally. During the pandemic, we moved all of our trainings online, making our programs accessible to many more people than ever before. This year, as the pandemic relented, we also began delivering in-person trainings again. Individuals and groups can register for our year-round professional development offerings through our new online learning management system. We also contract with early childhood programs, community organizations, health clinics, libraries, and state agencies to bring our programs to their staff. This year, we delivered 57 trainings to 35 different agencies and organizations.
More on Programs for Professionals

New Offerings

Engaging Fathers – In an exciting collaboration with the founders of the Supporting Father Involvement (SFI) Co-parenting Program, BTC now offers a 24-hour training for teams interested in implementing SFI in their organizations. SFI is an evidence-based, parenting group that increases father involvement in parenting, improves the co-parenting relationship, and fosters children’s social and emotional health. BTC also developed a new two-part interactive workshop series, called Partnering with Fathers, that explores some of the unique ways that fathers parent — and the benefits for children’s development — as well as strategies for engaging fathers in early childhood programs and supporting parents as co-partners, whether romantically involved, cohabiting, or not.

Supporting Leaders – Recognizing that program leaders need ongoing support to sustain systemic change in their organizations, BTC launched two new trainings specifically for leaders and managers. Strengths-based Leadership, Mentorship, and Coaching is a two-part workshop series that helps leaders deepen their relationships with staff by focusing on and appreciating staff strengths. Using the Touchpoints Approach in Reflective Supervision and Coaching is a 14-hour training for leaders focused on using the Touchpoints principles and assumptions to support staff.

Collaborating with State Systems

In FY 2023, states continued to partner with BTC to bring professional development to their family-serving workforces. States prioritized topics such as family engagement, trauma-informed care, engaging families in developmental screenings and referrals, and strengths-based supervision and coaching. These state systems partnered with us in a variety of ways, from hosting BTC-delivered professional development programs to becoming Touchpoints Training Sites.

Current partners include:

- Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education
- California State Library
- Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, Home Visiting Program
- Georgia Home Visiting Program
- Massachusetts Children’s Trust
- Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
- Massachusetts Library System
- Maine Children’s Trust, Home Visiting and Child Abuse Neglect Councils
- Maine Department of Education, Child Development Services
- Minnesota Library System
- Oklahoma State Department of Health, MIECHV (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting) Program
- Vermont Children’s Health Improvement Project.
- Washington State Department for Children, Youth, and Families
- Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System
More on Programs for Professionals

**Intensive Courses**

BTC’s intensive training courses are multi-day programs that feature interactive learning opportunities and small class sizes. They include reflective practice sessions following training completion to support learning integration over time. Our intensive courses include:

- Act Early: Partnering with Families on Developmental Screening and Referrals
- Addressing Behaviors that Challenge
- Facilitating the Touchpoints Parenting Program
- Families in Recovery: Touchpoints in the Context of Substance Use Disorder
- Family Connections Institute
- Supporting Father Involvement Co-Parenting Program
- Touchpoints: The How of Child and Family Engagement
- Touchpoints in the Context of Developmental Challenges
- Touchpoints in Libraries
- Touchpoints for Mental Health Clinicians
- Touchpoints Train the Trainer Program
- Using the Touchpoints Approach in Reflective Supervision and Coaching

**Workshops**

BTC’s interactive workshops run from 90 minutes to 3 hours. They are designed to introduce participants to the foundational concepts of Touchpoints and describe how they can be used to welcome and honor parents’ expertise, build trust, and strengthen parent-provider relationships in a wide range of settings and situations. Our workshops include:

- Beyond Trauma-Informed Care: A Developmental-Relational Framework for Engaging Adults and Children in Healing and Resilience
- Development is a Journey: A Conversation Roadmap for Talking with Families
- Family Connections: Mental Health and Relationship-Building Workshops for Staff and Families
- Navigating Challenging Conversations
- Partnering with Fathers
- Strengths-based Leadership, Mentoring, and Coaching
- Strengths-based Family Engagement
- Strengths-based Family Engagement in Libraries
- Supporting Everyone’s Mental Health

Learn more about our professional development programs:  
[www.brazeltontouchpoints.org](http://www.brazeltontouchpoints.org)

Register for a program at:  
[learn.brazeltontouchpoints.org/catalog/](http://learn.brazeltontouchpoints.org/catalog/)
The Brazelton Institute (BI) stands on the foundation of Dr. T. Berry Brazelton’s transformative research on newborn behavior. It is dedicated to promoting the healthy development of infants and families through research and programs for providers and caregivers who partner with families, at birth and through the early months of life. The BI provides training on the Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS) and the Newborn Behavioral Observations (NBO) system and oversees an international network of 10 NBAS and 12 NBO training sites. During the past year, the BI held 40 trainings reaching over 600 providers across the world.

“Leaders in the Field” Webinar Series

The BI also hosts Newborn Behavior International (NBI), a global online learning community. “Leaders in the Field” is NBI's free webinar series featuring internationally recognized scholars and practitioners from across the globe discussing emergent topics related to infant behavior and health. 2023’s speakers have included Jay Belsky (University of California, Davis), Paula and Charles Zeanah (Tulane University and University of Louisiana), Dominique Charlot-Swilley (Georgetown University), Patricia Marks Greenfield (UCLA and Harvard University), Sara Harkness and Charles Super (University of Connecticut), Jane Barlow (University of Oxford), Louise Newman (Monash University), Kaija Puura and Antoine Guedeney (Tampere University and Hopital Bichat Claude Bernard AP/HP Paris), Carmen Noroña (Boston University) and Nucha Isarowong (University of Washington), and Martha G. Welch (Columbia University). An average of 270 attendees registered for each webinar.

View previous Leaders in the Field webinars [here](https://bitly.ws/ZXzm).

First NBO Training in Spanish

In June, the BI launched its first NBO training in Spanish. The team of Spanish-speaking trainers worked closely with BI Director Dr. Lise Johnson and Director Emeritus Dr. Kevin Nugent to become qualified to deliver the NBO training in Spanish with linguistically and culturally validated materials. The BI team of Spanish-speaking trainers is a cadre of experienced NBO practitioners and subject matter experts in their respective fields.
More on the Brazelton Institute

Honoring Dr. Kevin Nugent

On July 14, 2023, NBAS and NBO trainers from around the world met for a one-day conference at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. The conference day was held prior to the 18th World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) World Congress.

Following the conference, colleagues, friends, and family of Dr. Kevin Nugent gathered to honor him and his contributions to the field of newborn behavior at the historic Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin. Extra reception rooms needed to be hired to accommodate the swelling numbers, and many more contributed to a tribute video compiling messages of gratitude, admiration, and love — the same sentiments that were etched into a commemorative Simon Pearce bowl presented to mark the occasion. Learn more about the celebration here.

Brazelton Institute Director Dr. Lise Johnson presents BI Founder Dr. Kevin Nugent with a commemorative Simon Pearce bowl.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11</th>
<th>Trainers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Trainings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>429</td>
<td>Total training hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>Trainings participants around the world</td>
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National Facilitator Team

The BTC National Facilitator Team is a cadre of diverse, experienced, and talented training and workshop facilitators who are Touchpoints Approach practitioners and subject matter experts in their fields. Together, this team of direct service providers and researchers in pediatric and perinatal health, early care and education, mental health, psychology, social work, child development, family studies, and other related fields bring a wealth of knowledge and a wide range of experience that mirrors the learning needs of training and workshop participants.

BTC National Facilitators work closely with BTC staff to deliver core professional development offerings, including, for example, intensive Touchpoints and Supporting Father Involvement Co-Parenting Program training and interactive workshop series on topics such as newborn behavior, children’s development and behavioral challenges, strengths-based family engagement, mental health and substance use, trauma and healing, and navigating challenging conversations. We match National Facilitators to local trainings BTC offers in diverse communities based on their expertise, their familiarity with the local context, and the demographics of the training participants. National Facilitators train in person and virtually, and are based in 13 states across the United States, the District of Columbia, and Canada.

In fiscal year 2023, our National Facilitators led 68 in-person and virtual trainings, totaling 950 training hours, to communities and organizations in the United States, England, and Canada.

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<th>National Facilitators</th>
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<td>14</td>
<td>States and DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Countries (U.S. and Canada)</td>
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<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Trainings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Languages spoken (Arabic, Amharic, ASL, English, German, Hindi, Spanish, Tamil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>950</td>
<td>Training hours</td>
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At BTC, we strive to sustain and grow a National Facilitator Team that reflects the cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity of the organizations and communities we partner with. Our National Facilitators speak Arabic, American Sign Language, Amharic, English, German, Hindi, Spanish, and Tamil. Below are the cultural, ethnic, and racial self-identifications of our National Facilitors. Many identify as multiethnic and/or multiracial.
**BTC Learning Network**

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center Learning Network (BTCLN) is a key strategy for scaling the Touchpoints Approach. It is a community of practice for providers and organizations from across the country and around the world that strengthens their implementation of the Approach in their work with infants, children, families, and community partners. BTCLN members include professionals in early childhood care and education; home visiting; child welfare; early intervention; family support; mental and behavioral health; prenatal, perinatal and pediatric health; public libraries; social services; and other family-facing fields. Together we are committed to learning to listen to families and communities and to supporting their discovery of what they can do together so that all children flourish.

The BTCLN includes Touchpoints Training Site members: programs, organizations, agencies, and systems of care that complete BTC’s Train the Trainer program, which prepares them to deliver Touchpoints training and mentorship to providers in their own communities. These sites choose to implement Touchpoints in their areas of impact as a way to:

- Support their goals in delivering effective services to families
- Develop a common language and framework for understanding child and family development, and engaging children, families, and communities of care
- Enhance providers’ child and family engagement skills
- Create seamless systems of care where families feel more competent and confident in their own abilities to parent their child

Touchpoints Training Site members receive ongoing professional development, consultation, and mentoring from BTC staff to support the full integration of Touchpoints in their site and in provider practice, and achievement of their goals. Areas of focus for Touchpoints professional development and mentoring include:

- Understanding development as a relational process, and its implications for practice
- Enhancing listening and observational skills
- Encouraging curiosity, imagination, cultural humility, and radical empathy
- Using reflective practice to solidify practice change
- Applying the Touchpoints Approach to supervision, leadership, and coaching to create a strengths-based organizational culture
- Building effective facilitation skills and strategies
- Facilitating conversations about culture, race and racism, and bias

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>New sites</th>
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<td>Sites</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>States and DC</th>
<th>Countries, including the U.S., Canada, Italy, Portugal, Singapore</th>
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<td>States and DC</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Touchpoints trainers across all sites</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>Touchpoints trainers across all sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Touchpoints Training Sites

Alabama
- Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (Montgomery)

Arizona
- Pinal Gila Community Child Services Head Start (Casa Grande)

California
- Child Care Resource Center (Chatsworth)
- EPU–Exceptional Parents Unlimited (Fresno)
- First 5 Santa Clara County
- Home-SAFE Vista del Mar (Los Angeles)
- IABA–Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (Brea,)
- Long Beach Unified School District/Educare at Long Beach
- Napa Valley Touchpoints Coalition
- Para los Niños (Los Angeles)

Colorado
- Early Childhood Council of Boulder County
- Educare Denver

Connecticut
- Connecticut Office of Early Childhood

District of Columbia
- Educare Washington DC

Florida
- Champions for Children Tampa
- Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County
- Educare of Miami-Dade

Hawaii
- Keiki Steps

Illinois
- Baby Talk (Decatur)
- Educare Chicago
- Educare Learning Network (Chicago)
- Educare West DuPage (West Chicago)

Indiana
- Purdue University School of Nursing (West Lafayette)

Kansas
- Educare Kansas City

Kentucky
- Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) (Louisville)

Louisiana
- Educare New Orleans

Maine
- Educare Central Maine (Waterville)
- Maine Children’s Trust, Maine Home Visiting (Veazie)
- Maine Department of Education, Child Development Services

Massachusetts
- Aspire Developmental Services (Lynn)
- Community Action Pioneer Valley (Greenfield)
- Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start
- Horizons for Homeless Children (Roxbury)
- Massachusetts Library System

Michigan
- Central Michigan University, Department of Human Development and Family Studies (Mount Pleasant)
- Wiikwedong Early Childhood Development Collaborative (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)

Minnesota
- Wicoie Nandagikendan Urban Immersion Program (Minneapolis)

Nebraska
- Educare Lincoln
- Educare of Omaha
Touchpoints Training Sites

New Jersey
- Montclair State University, Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health
- The Center for Great Expectations (Somerset)
- The Unterberg Children’s Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center (Long Branch)

Oklahoma
- Educare Oklahoma City
- Educare Tulsa Hawthorne
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma (Perkins)
- Peoria Tribe (Miami)

Rhode Island
- Meeting Street (Providence)

Texas
- Brazos County Touchpoints Coalition
- United Way of Greater Houston Bright Beginnings

Utah
- Utah State University Touchpoints Collaborative (Logan)

Vermont
- Vermont Children’s Health Improvement Project (Burlington)

West Virginia
- West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (Morgantown)

Wisconsin
- Educare Milwaukee
- University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System

International
- Associazione Natinsieme (Rome, Italy)
- Brazelton Gomes-Pedro Foundation for Baby and Family Sciences (Lisbon, Portugal)
- Comox Valley Touchpoints Coalition (Courtenay, Canada)
- Hull Services (Calgary, Canada)
- National University Hospital, Child Development Unit (Singapore)
Community Conversations – Family-to-Family Real Talk

Piloted in 2021 with Parenting While Black, BTC's Family-to-Family Real Talk Series continues to create dialogue and connections that build community among affinity groups of parents, and open up safe spaces for honest conversations about challenges and opportunities that matter to their families today.

All conversations include guest speakers from around the country and are free and open to all parents, families, providers, and others who are interested. As part of our commitment to equitable access to all programming, we provide live Spanish translation and closed captioning, as well as downloadable resources to continue the learning and dialogue after each webinar session. We also make the episode recordings available to registrants for a limited time following each episode.

In 2023, in response to audience feedback, we expanded some of our conversations to 90 minutes to include a live 30-minute Q&A with our speakers. We engage in a continuous feedback loop each year — and sometimes following each session — to ensure we meet our audience’s needs, and we add conversation topics generated from live webinar chat and the audience feedback survey.

Series participants come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, four Canadian Provinces, and many foreign countries, including Australia, France, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Germany.

22,900+ registrations
2900+ recording views on YouTube

In the News!

In October 2022, the Bezos Family Foundation, a series sponsor, wrote about the Family-to-Family Real Talk Series on its website. Read “The Healing Power of Real Talk.”
Somos Latinx Families
(September–December 2022)

Episodes:
1. What Does It Mean to be Latinx and a Latinx Parent in 2022?
2. Embracing our Latinx Identities and Parenting Our Children to Know Who They Are
3. Becoming Allies for our Latinx Children Who Identify as LGBTQIA+
4. Our Emotional Health and Well-being as Latinx Parents
5. Our Latinx Children’s Emotional Health and Well-being
6. Looking Forward: Hopes and Dreams for Our Latinx Children

Facilitator: Eva Rivera, MSW, Professional Development Program Manager and National Facilitator at BTC

Eva Rivera has been a certified National Facilitator of the Touchpoints Approach since 2015. From 2017 to 2022, Eva was a Professional Development Program Manager at BTC. In that role, she supported the creation of new methods, strategies, and projects to respond to the emerging needs of BTC’s partners and the communities they serve. Eva utilized her Social Work background along with her knowledge of human-centered design and quality improvement to inform program design and content development.

Prior to joining BTC, Eva served in various positions in early childhood fields working on program development and design, outcomes measurement and quality improvement, coaching and facilitation, and project management. She currently serves as the Policy Director for Early Childhood Development at The Children’s Partnership, a nonprofit advocacy and research organization in California. She is fluent in both Spanish and English.
Parenting While Rising to Developmental Challenges
(September–December 2022)

Episodes:
1. The Whole Child
2. The Day We Found Out
3. Getting What You and Your Child Need from the Professionals
4. What Developmental Differences Mean Where I Come From
5. Siblings of Children with Developmental Differences

Facilitator: Jayne Singer, PhD, IECMH-E®, Director of Developmental and Relational Health at BTC

Dr. Jayne Singer is the Director of Developmental and Relational Health at BTC and a clinical psychologist at Boston Children’s Hospital (BCH). She has extensive experience working with a diverse array of children and families in hospital and community-based settings. At BCH, she provides evaluation and treatment for children from birth throughout childhood with medical, developmental, emotional, behavioral, and familial challenges, including trauma.

Jayne is also an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She was the founding president of the Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health (MassAIMH) and is involved in advocacy work in infant and early childhood mental health.
Parenting While Black
(March–June 2023)

Episodes:
1. Raising Bold Black Children – Fostering the Dreams
2. Birthing While Black – Pregnancy, Birth, and the First 1,000 Days
4. Embracing Developmental Differences in Black Children
5. Raising Bold Black Children II – Manifesting the Dreams

Facilitator: Eurnestine Brown, PhD, Director of Racial Equity and Belonging at BTC

Dr. Eurnestine Brown brings a wealth of experience to her roles as the first Director of Relational Equity and Belonging at BTC and as the Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Access in the Division of Developmental Medicine at Boston Children’s Hospital. She leads our efforts to become an anti-racist and inclusive Center that promotes sustainable excellence by creating an organizational culture that is committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging.

As a developmental psychologist with 25+ years of experience, she is dedicated to improving the lives of birthing people, families, infants, toddlers, and children — especially those who are racially and historically marginalized. She has extensive experience in research design, implementation, analysis, and evaluation, and all aspects of data collection, observation, and coding with infants, children, and families. She has consulted for nonprofit agencies, school districts, and child and adolescent clinics across the United States. She is a former Early Head Start/Head Start Program Director.

In October 2022, Eurnestine was invited to give a presentation on Parenting While Black at the 51st Annual Conference of the National Black Child Development Institute. She titled her talk, “Centering Black Joy and Excellence: Parenting While Black.”
LGBTQ2IA+ Families Then and Now
(May–June 2023)

Conversations with:
1. Danielle and Avi Silber, siblings raised during the 1980s and 90s by lesbian and gay parents who were among the first LGBTQ2IA+ people to intentionally form families including children
2. Candi Brings Plenty and her young adult daughters, Breana Brave Heart and Helena Brings Plenty. Candi is an Oglala Lakota Sioux, Queer Indigenous, Non-binary, Two Spirit advocate and leader for environmental justice, Indigenous rights, and Two Spirit visibility.
3. Keanna and Karen Jackson, exploring the intersections of racism, wealth inequality, LGBTQ2IA+ issues, and military service in their family and parenting life together
4. Alison Gee and Falyn Taylor, leaders at Parents as Teachers National Center, reflecting on their separate experiences as LGBTQ2IA+ parents (a generation apart) and their work-informed observations of current LGBTQ2IA+ parenting issues
5. Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, gay parents and award-winning children’s book authors of a frequently banned book, *And Tango Makes Three*

Facilitator: Laura Benkov, PhD, a clinical psychologist and author of *Reinventing the Family: The Emerging Story of Lesbian and Gay Parents*

Dr. Laura Benkov is a clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist who has worked with children, adults, couples, and families for decades in a variety of community mental health, private practice, school, and hospital settings, providing supervision/training, psychotherapy, and psychological/neuropsychological evaluations.

She is the author of one of the first books (and several subsequent articles) on the subject of lesbian and gay parenthood, *Reinventing the Family: The Emerging Story of Lesbian and Gay Parents*. She has been on staff at Boston Children’s Hospital and is formerly the Clinic Director at Think: Kids at Massachusetts General Hospital. During the 1980s and 90s, she worked at Fenway Community Health Center in Boston, focusing on HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ family formation.
What People Are Saying

- “This webinar was truly extremely helpful and educational for everyone.”
- “I always feel so empowered and feel even more capable as a parent to empower my own children and the families I serve!”
- “This was amazing! Very timely for Black Maternal Health Week and as a Black, pregnant doula myself. Such important work.”
- “Amazing and thank you for your wisdom, big hearts, and insights!”
- “Listening to our children opens another realm of positive parenting.”

Thank you to our series sponsors!
Learning to Listen: Conversations for Change is a free webinar series that features virtual conversations with inspiring leaders working on the frontlines of current and emerging issues for children and families. All conversations are one-hour long and feature live Spanish translation, closed captioning, and an interactive Q and A.

**Fall 2022 Season**

- **Meeting the Challenges Facing Our Children and Youth**
  with Geoffrey Canada, Founder, Harlem Children’s Zone and William Julius Wilson Institute

- **Celebrating Indigenous Family and Cultural Strengths & Promoting Health Equity**
  with Melissa Walls, PhD, Anishinaabe social scientist, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Director, Great Lakes Hub, Johns Hopkins University Center for American Indian Health

- **Listening to What Voters Want for Children**
  with Linda Smith, Director, Early Childhood Development Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Council

**Spring 2023 Season**

- **How to End Gun Violence and Homophobic Hate: Two Mothers’ Journey through Love and Loss**
  with Jane Clementi, Founder of the Tyler Clementi Foundation, and Scarlett Lewis, Founder of the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement

- **Harm and Healing: The Mental Health of AAPI and LGBTQ Children**
  with Warren Ng, MD, MPH, President, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Director of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Services, Medical Director of Outpatient Behavioral Health, and Professor of Psychiatry at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center

- **Human-Centered Design for a World Without Racism**
  with Makeeba McCreary, President of the New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund, and Augusta Meill, Founder, and Executive Director at Agncy
What People Are Saying

- “The honesty and bravery of these two women was remarkable and I do not know how anyone would not find something useful in these conversations.”

- “I enjoyed Dr. Ng’s calming and confident presence. I wanted to offer him a cup of tea to continue listening to him on this topic.”

- “The conversation felt personal and authentic. I could see their pain, their determination, and their willingness to risk themselves.”

- “What I liked most was the personal experience story and the hope that we can make a difference in children’s lives by providing opportunities for positive relationships and experiences.”

- “I felt as if I was listening to a friend.”

9800+ registrations

2600+ recording views on YouTube

Watch or listen to the past five years of Learning to Listen episodes on our YouTube Channel.
https://bit.ly/49zu0e1

brazeltontouchpoints.org
T. Berry Brazelton’s Enduring Legacy: Learning to Listen

T. Berry Brazelton, MD, foresaw the many new challenges facing families today, including the interference of social media and digital technology with family relationships and child development, and their polarizing effects on public debate. Dr. Brazelton was a master of the kind of observation and listening so desperately needed today, and helped generations of parents and professionals around the world learn to listen to babies, children, and to each other.

BTC created the Learning to Listen webinar series to celebrate Dr. Brazelton's enduring legacy by learning from other masterful communicators about what children and parents have taught them through the power of listening.

Thank you to our sponsor
Community Conversations

When influencing the halls of power — whether those halls are in your town hall, your state capitol, or Washington, DC — advocacy makes a difference. In this free webinar series, participants learned skills to be effective advocates for issues they care about and to play meaningful roles as coalition members, grassroots organizers, and leaders.

All webinars were one-hour long and featured live Spanish translation and closed captioning. Participants received an Advocacy Reference Guide they can use to support their future advocacy efforts.

**Episode 1: The Nuts and Bolts of Advocacy**
This webinar provided an overview of why advocacy matters and how it makes a big difference for infants, children, and families, and the professionals who care for them.

**Episode 2: Telling Your Story for Impact**
Participants learned how to frame their issues and ideas to point toward solutions and tell their story for maximum impact on decision-makers and the policies they create.

**Episode 3: It Takes a Village**
This webinar explored the strategies and methods for implementing an advocacy plan and being the most effective advocate you can be.

Download the [Advocacy Reference Guide](#).

More on Learning to Advocate

Facilitator: Catriona Macdonald, MPP, Founder and President, Linchpin Strategies, LLC

Catriona Macdonald assists organizations in the areas of health, education, and disability in communicating their priorities and needs to audiences at all levels of government. Since founding Linchpin Strategies, LLC, in 2004, she has led successful efforts to establish new medical research funds; protect small business opportunities from federal agency overreach and multi-million dollar competitors, and secure increases of more than $4 billion for early childhood education.

Catriona’s experience on Capitol Hill includes working for Senator Edward Kennedy on the Senate Labor Committee; staffing domestic social issues and appropriations for Congressman Steny Hoyer; and serving as the Legislative Director for Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. Her experience in the executive branch includes working as a budget and policy analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget at the US Department of Health and Human Services.

What People Are Saying

- “Seeking justice and an equitable society begins with me. I will use the ideas gleaned to better speak up for others.”

- “I will be finding who to contact and work on establishing relationships with staff to get the message to the right people.”

- “I have been reminded again how important it is to involve politicians in the daily reality of our work.”

- “It helped me in knowing how to get contact information, what to say, and what to expect. I would say I am 90% more likely to use this method to advocate for my families compared to if she just told us how to rather than showing us how to.”

4150+ registrations

840+ episode views on YouTube
Families in recovery are the experts on their families and their children — and on the unique challenges and opportunities of their first 1,000 days. BTC’s second National Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Summit invited family members with lived experience of SUD, including those who now devote their lives to supporting other families in recovery, to share with us their expertise. Tom Coderre, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at SAMHSA (U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) — and himself a person in recovery — provided opening remarks.

Over 540 participants!

The Summit featured three nationwide conversations on:

- **Preconception and Pregnancy**: Parents with lived experiences and frontline providers shared what they have learned on the recovery journey before and during pregnancy. Together, we spotlighted strengths-based approaches that value birth equity, are inclusive, and create communities of belonging while also addressing the isolation, fear, trauma, loss, and grief experienced by expectant and birthing families as they move toward healing and transformation.

- **The Newborn**: Newborns showing signs of withdrawal can be challenging to care for, undermining new parents’ confidence and trust in their skills and relationship. Yet the new responsibility of caring for a newborn can motivate parents to seek treatment and strive for recovery. In this conversation, we heard about the many ways that infancy can offer us hope for the child’s development and for parents’ recovery journey.
Infants and Toddlers: The first years of life can be challenging and exhausting for all parents. For parents living with SUD, these challenges can feel overwhelming. In this conversation, we discussed how the vulnerabilities of this period can be opportunities for providers to build trusting relationships with parents that promote their motivation for recovery, children’s well-being, connections to community resources, and resilient responses to the relapses that so often characterize this disease’s course.

To view the full agenda and list of speakers, download the [Summit Program](#).

What People Are Saying

- “I appreciated the emphasis on lived experience and the courageous sharing by the women who participated.”
- “I will use the insights around ‘tolerating risk’ to better serve, not save, the families that I impact.”
- “I feel so re-centered in the value and importance of keeping families together, and was reminded again how critical it is to recognize the harm of separation and loss on children and their parents.”
- “I learned the importance of holding space for clients to tell their story and meeting them where they are in their journey.”
- “The idea of ‘We are more than our past’ was very powerful and something I'll carry forward.”

Thank you to our sponsor!

[Perigee Fund]
BTC’s 2023 National Forum focused on the ways that families and fatherhood are changing, and how more men want to be involved in raising their children. The three-day virtual Forum brought together fathers and the men in children’s lives for a series of roundtable conversations that:

- Provided fresh perspectives on the many facets of masculinity that fathers and men bring to children and families
- Shifted mindsets about the roles of fathers and men in children’s lives — from the beginning and before
- Built awareness of cultural, ethnic and racial differences and similarities in father roles, and in the supports and barriers for fathers’ involvement in their children’s lives
- Understood fatherhood as a developmental process across the lifespan
- Explored the role of fathers’ relationships with children’s mothers, whether cohabiting or romantically involved or not, in their involvement in their children’s lives
- Affirmed fathers and men who work with children and families for their essential role in children’s lives — from the beginning and before

U.S. Congressman Jimmy Gomez (CA-34), founder of the Congressional Dads Caucus, and Office of Head Start Director Khari Garvin, the first man in that role, provided opening and closing remarks. The Boston Renaissance Charter Public School Chorus, Voices of Renaissance, provided an uplifting closing choral performance.
All About Fathers Roundtable Conversations

- Finding the “Dad” Path – Two Native Men Discuss their Journey to Successful Fatherhood
- Men at the Beginning of Life and Before
- Men Who Play Professional Roles in the Lives of Children and Families
- Black Fathers’ Mental Health – Trauma, Loss, Hope, and Joy
- Supporting Father Involvement (SFI) – Parents as Partners
- Gay and Trans Dads
- Black Fathers Supporting Black Mothers and Babies

To view the full agenda and list of speakers, download the Forum Program.

What People Are Saying

- “Remarkable speakers, lovely facilitation! It felt very comfortable, like sitting on a couch and having nice conversations with interesting people.”

- “The conference was phenomenal! I enjoyed every session of every day and took so much away about the roles of Dads and their impact on children’s lives. Thank you for all you do!”

- “This event opened my consciousness to the experience of fathers and men, and their needs, struggles, and dynamics together. It definitely increased my sense of importance in having men on staff, and what we miss without them.”

- “I have a reminded and renewed zeal to be respectful of all fathers — free from stereotypes — and to approach my work with humility, which hopefully engenders vulnerability and trust with those I work with and serve in my work.”
The T. Berry Brazelton Award is given to those who 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.

The 2023 T. Berry Brazelton Award was awarded posthumously at BTC’s National Forum to our friend and colleague — and Berry Brazelton's too — the late Dr. Betty Bardige. Betty was honored for her extraordinary scholarship in early language and literacy development and for her leadership in using research for advocacy and activism in support of our youngest children and their families.

“Parents really told me what I should be thinking about... and so my research became a window into how to think for me as a provider, but also into how they were thinking.”

— T. Berry Brazelton, MD
Recipient of the 2013 Presidential Citizens Medal
BTC’s Speakers Bureau brings internationally sought-after experts to organizations, conferences, and communities worldwide for keynote presentations, plenaries, and workshops for professionals who work with young children and their families.

Our speakers give presentations in person and virtually and have expertise in a wide range of topics, including:

- birth equity and reproductive justice
- culturally-affirming approaches to child and family development
- development and developmental delays
- early relational and infant and parent mental health
- family and community engagement
- mental models and unsticking stuck systems
- organizational learning and change
- promoting positive cultural and racial identities
- race, racism, and racial equity in education, health care, and social services
- social-emotional development in the early years
- trauma-informed care and healing-centered engagement
- whole family, whole community substance use disorder recovery

This year, our speakers presented to the following audiences:

- The First3Years 2023 Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award Conference (Dallas, TX)
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Division of Services for Children with Special Needs (Hauppauge, NY)
- THOM Early Intervention Program (Boston and Springfield, MA)
- Children’s Trust of South Carolina (Columbia, SC)
- Santa Clara County Library District (Gilroy, CA)
- National Head Start Association Fall Leadership Institute (Arlington, VA)
- Annual Healthy Montana Families Home Visiting Meeting and Conference (Helena, MT)

Meet Our Faculty!

Eurnestine Brown, PhD
Director of Relational Equity and Belonging

Jayne Singer, PhD, IECMH-E®
Director of Developmental and Relational Health

Joshua Sparrow, MD, DFAACAP
Executive Director

Dewana Thompson, PhD
Director of BTC’s National Facilitator Team
In November 2022, BTC launched a new user-friendly website and Learning Management System (LMS) to make it easier for professionals and families to learn about our programs and services, find resources and information they need, and register for our professional development offerings and events.

The LMS — located at learn.brazelontouchpoints.org — is the delivery backbone of BTC’s professional development programming. Users can easily create an account, register for trainings and events, track progress in completing courses, and access learning materials, workshop recordings, and certificates of completion.

User engagement in less than a year!

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<th>Website visitors</th>
<th>LMS visitors</th>
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<td>133,600+</td>
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<td>266,400+</td>
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Selected Staff Publications


With Gratitude to the Foundations that Support Our Work

Bezos Family Foundation
Buffet Early Childhood Foundation
Burke Foundation
Cambridge Trust
Community Health Acceleration Partnership
(a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors)
Eastern Bank Foundation
Mailman Family Foundation
Packard Foundation
Pediatrics Supporting Parents Funder Collaborative
Perigee Fund
Sherwood Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
William Penn Foundation
Together in Community

Your support is essential to keeping our circle of learning going.

BTC’s work is sustained by the Brazelton Touchpoints Project, which garners resources to support BTC’s accessible and innovative programming. The Project is governed by a Board of Directors whose members come from across the family-facing fields and around the country, providing advice and counsel to BTC as we develop new programs, build partnerships, and increase resources.

### Brazelton Touchpoints Project Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Kori Bardige</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stella Biira</td>
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<td>Eric deRegt</td>
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### Emeritus Directors

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<th>Betty Bardige</th>
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<td>Polly Brazelton</td>
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<td>Maximilian D. Stone</td>
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Learn how you can support BTC's mission and vision
[www.brazeltontouchpoints.org/donate/](http://www.brazeltontouchpoints.org/donate/)
Stay In Touch!

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