



# Primary From the Playroom PROJECT

## A message from our Primary Project co-directors

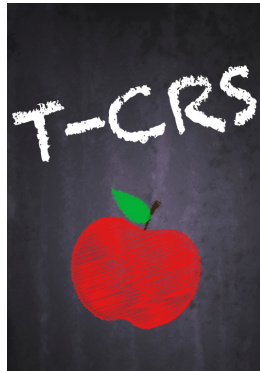
In Rochester, NY, the summer weeks have been hot with long stretches of time without rain. On record, we have endured the greatest number of 90 degree days since 1988. In the early weeks of summer, planting flowers and gardens took time. Progress was slow and at times even unsuccessful. What was noticeable was that weeds grew with determination despite hot, dry conditions while newly planted flowers and vegetables required time - time spent nurturing, supporting, and giving plants "the right conditions" of water, fertilizer, and maintenance.



As the new school year begins and children start filing through the front doors of school buildings, we are reminded of many things similar to what we experienced this past summer. Universally, ALL children need healthy relationships! Every child is different, some are resilient and some children need a bit more support. Children need a bit more additional support and the "right conditions" so they are better able to engage in the school day. That is where Primary Project comes in! Through systematic screening of all children in the grades that are served, Primary Project teams partner with teachers to recognize children who are doing well and identify those that may need more support either through Primary Project or other targeted or intensive interventions. Children selected to participate in Primary Project are given the gift of time so that they can connect with a caring adult, explore, imagine, create, and just "be".

In this *From the Playroom* newsletter, Sarah Gheen, School Counselor at Turnbow Elementary School in Springdale, Arkansas, shares how she uses screening data beyond Primary Project. The "Bringing the Lessons Home" piece focuses on how parents can develop young children's competence. We also introduce the COMET team and highlight some announcements from Children's Institute, so read on and enjoy!

-Shelley M. Sanyshyn, MS and Lynn Smith, LMSW, Co-Directors of Primary Project



## The value of T-CRS data

I have had the unique experience of working with Primary Project previously as a coordinator for a community mental health agency and now as a school counselor. For the past five years, I have served as the school counselor for Turnbow Elementary in Springdale, Arkansas. We have a diverse student population of 650 students: 89% of students receive free or reduced lunch; 65% of students are Latino; 18% are Marshallese; 15% are Caucasian; 2% are African American. Whether in my role as a community mental health professional within an agency or now as a school counselor, I find the data I receive from the T-CRS valuable.

[Click for story](#)

## Bringing the lessons Home

### Building children's competence

Teaching children to be resilient is an essential part of making sure they have the tools to respond to difficult challenges as they grow into young adults. Pediatrician Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg has identified seven important skills to help build resilience. For Bringing the Lessons Home, we are focusing on competence. To explore the other six skills, we encourage you to visit [www.fosteringresilience.com](http://www.fosteringresilience.com) or check out Dr. Ginsburg's book, *Building resilience in children and teens: Giving kids roots and wings*.



[Click for story - English](#)

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## COMET® Meet the COMET team

Since 2008, the COMET team has worked to support the success of children. [Read about the people who develop and support COMET.](#)

## Congratulations to

### Newly certified Primary Project sites

[Click here for list](#)



## Training opportunities available to Primary Project teams:

**The Basics** - September 13 & 14 (closed for capacity) or October 11 & 12

**Month by Month** - September 18

**Sharpening Our Lens: Focusing in the Playroom** - October 5

**Supervision** - November 7 & 8

Visit our website frequently as additional trainings will be added soon.

[Register today!](#)

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**Article published**

A recent article titled "Improving mental health outcomes for young children through the implementation of the Primary Project" was published in the *Journal of School-Based Counseling Evaluation and Policy*. Primary Project (formerly known as Primary Mental Health Project) is one of the longest standing and well-established school-based preventative mental health interventions for addressing the social, emotional, behavioral, and learning needs of preschool through primary grade children. Existing now for over 60 years and building on its historical antecedents, this article describes the history, current state, and future implications of Primary Project. This article discusses children's mental health needs and the role of the school in addressing these needs. Current research efforts are presented with a specific focus on University-community studies in Arkansas and Massachusetts. Implications for future research and school based counseling and policy and evaluation are addressed. Click below for the entire article.

[View article](#)

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**Upcoming events**

**Kids & Trucks**

Frontier Field VIP Lot

**Saturday & Sunday / September 29 & 30**

Saturday, 10am-4pm

Sunday, 10am-3pm

Horn-free: Sunday, 10am-12pm



[Purchase tickets today!](#)



**Spotlight Series**

Hart Theatre / Jewish Community Center

**Keeping schools safe: Essential information for school personnel**

**Wednesday, November 14**

[Click here for information](#)

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CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE - [www.childrensstitute.net](http://www.childrensstitute.net)

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