

Stacy Gehringer ([00:06](#)):

Hello. Welcome everyone. Thank you for tuning in to the CASCW podcast channel. My name is Stacy Gehringer and I'm the Outreach Director at the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare. We are excited to share our latest podcast series with you. The series is titled Early Development and Child Welfare and features interviews with a variety of professionals in the fields of early childhood and child welfare. Listeners will enjoy content related to attachment, culture, screening, brain development, infant mental health, and more. Please be sure to subscribe to our channel for future episodes. Thank you for listening and take care.

Stacy Gehringer ([00:50](#)):

Welcome to our podcast series Early Development and Child Welfare, a collaboration between the Center for Early Education and Development and the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare at the University of Minnesota. I'm Stacy Gehringer, director of outreach at Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare. We often call ourselves CASCW. So we're a research and training center that is located in the school of social work at the university.

Anne Larson ([01:17](#)):

Hi everybody. I'm Anne Larson. I'm a research associate at the Center for Early Education and Development in the Institute of Child Development also at the University of Minnesota.

Stacy Gehringer ([01:28](#)):

So a large part of our work at CASCW includes creating professional development opportunities and training resources for frontline child welfare professionals and other advocates that support children and families involved in the child welfare system or who are at risk of child welfare system involvement. And part of our mission is to collaborate across systems and disciplines and to expand the child welfare knowledge base across the workforce.

Anne Larson ([01:55](#)):

So we're really happy to be collaborating on this initiative or, introducing today, as it aligns with both CEED's mission and CASCW's mission. And at CEED our mission is to integrate the science of early development to enhance the work of professionals. And in this case, focusing on child welfare workers.

Stacy Gehringer ([02:13](#)):

And CASCW and CEED have had a long lasting partnership. And we aim to provide outcomes for young children and their families by helping the practitioners who serve them . In short previous collaborations have sought to apply child development research to the child welfare system.

Anne Larson ([02:30](#)):

And at CEED we've also offered professional development in a variety of formats, such as, experiential learning, intensive in-person learning, reflective consultation, virtual training, and through publications.

Stacy Gehringer ([02:41](#)):

Together we also developed and launched a pilot training program in understanding infant and early childhood mental health. So with some of these previous evaluations of the CASCW and CEED collaborations and projects, they've suggested that many child welfare workers have the time to read a large amount of material or participate in lengthy trainings to continue their professional development.

Anne Larson ([03:06](#)):

So our goal for this podcast series is to offer new ways for you as child welfare professionals, to learn about important infant mental health and early social and emotional development concepts in a podcast format.

Stacy Gehringer ([03:18](#)):

Yeah, so, like Anne said, we really hope that these podcasts offer more digestible learning opportunities for professionals as you think about and work with children and families. So we know that child welfare workers are busy and we hope that they can catch an episode in the car driving to and from visits or perhaps listen, while taking a walk. These podcasts can also be used as learning tools for child welfare units and teams to discuss together and use in their community. And so practically we hope that these podcasts can reduce or eliminate the need for child welfare professionals who participate in infant adult training to have to download print and read assigned literature.

Anne Larson ([04:01](#)):

So to tell you a little bit more about the topics we have an exciting lineup of podcasts that are a part of this Early Development and Child Welfare Series. They include topics related to infant and early childhood mental health, like the foundations of attachment, stress biology, and toxic stress and early brain development and neuroscience. There are also some podcasts related to development and screening that describe what we would expect in typical development. And also explain the process for screening, including what that process looks like for required developmental screening under CAPTA or the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Finally, we have two podcasts that discuss the application of a cultural lens to child welfare work. These include a panel of professionals who share how their unique cultural perspectives have influenced their work in child welfare.

Stacy Gehringer ([04:51](#)):

We really look forward to hearing your feedback, questions, and ideas for future topics to add to this series. Please feel free to contact us at [cascw@umn.edu](mailto:cascw@umn.edu), [c-a-s-c-w@umn.edu](mailto:c-a-s-c-w@umn.edu) at any time. We really hope you enjoy this series. Thank you for listening to the early development and child welfare podcast series. This podcast was supported in part by the Minnesota Department of Human Service Children and Family Services Division.