

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Journal Aims

Research and Evaluation in Child, Youth, and Family Services seeks to advance the principles of social justice and transformative child welfare through robust inquiry. It achieves this by fostering collaborative partnerships among researchers, agencies, and communities to highlight evidence-informed policies, programs, and services that aim to enhance the well-being of children, youth, and families within diverse social contexts.

Preface

In 2011-2012, the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Ministry of Children and Families Development (MCFD) established a Sponsored Research Agreement to fund and offer a full academic year graduate level research course that enables Masters of Social Work (MSW) students to conduct applied research. This University-Ministry partnership is based on mutual benefit: for students, the ability to learn about research processes and to conduct research projects on timely, relevant and actionable issues, for MCFD to enhance organizational research capacity and that meets MCFD research priorities and needs. Since then, MCFD have continued to commit annual funds and resources to offer a MSW research and evaluation course through UBC.

The *Research and Evaluation in Child, Youth, and Family Services* e-Journal is a compilation of the research completed in my tenure as the instructor for the MSW research and evaluation course since 2018-2019. Working in small research teams, MSW students receive guidance and support from MCFD research sponsors, MCFD research coordinators, and the course instructor to propose/refine the research questions, create a research design, acquire UBC and MCFD research ethics approval, recruit participants, collect and analyze data, and produce a final presentation and report for MCFD. Year-after-year, high-quality research is produced but is not published or available beyond UBC and MCFD. As a Knowledge Exchange and Mobilization (KxM) Scholar at UBC, I aimed to provide an open access format to disseminate the research beyond UBC and MCFD to enhance the child welfare empirical literature in British Columbia, Canada, and beyond. With support from the Centre for the Study of Services to Children and Families (CSSCF), we now have a platform to mobilize this knowledge.



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The **Centre for the Study of Services to Children and Families** provided an avenue to share and further disseminate the e-journal. **Cathy Jiu** was the format editor who transposed the research reports into the ejournal format. **Michelle O’Kane** was the journal editor who helped oversee the editorial and production process.

I want acknowledge the **MSW student researchers** for their hard work and diligence in learning and producing rigorous research that informs social policy and practices. Finally, immense gratitude to the **individuals, teams, agencies, and community partners who participated in the research** and shared insights and recommendations for how to better support the children, youth, families, and communities in British Columbia.

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