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Brenda T. Hussey-Gardner, PhD, MPH

Academic Title:

Associate Professor

Primary Appointment:

Pediatrics

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Education and Training

1981-1985 BS Special Education from University of Maryland. College Park, Maryland

1985-1987 MA Special Education from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

1985-1987 MPH Maternal & Child Health from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

1991-1995 PhD Early Childhood Special Education from University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Biosketch

Dr. Hussey-Gardner is a clinician, university instructor, author, presenter and advocate.

Clinician

Dr. Hussey-Gardner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where she is a developmental specialist. She has more than 30 years of clinical experience with infants, toddlers, and their families. Dr. Hussey-Gardner evaluates the development of infants in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and she sees patients in the NICU Follow-Up Program. In both settings she provides parents with strategies for fostering development through play and during daily routines. If needed, Dr. Hussey-Gardner links families with early intervention services in their community.

University Instructor

In addition to teaching pediatric residents and neonatology fellows about development, Dr. Hussey-Gardner holds an adjunct faculty II position with the Psychology Department at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on developmental psychology, parenting, children with disabilities, infant assessment, early intervention, and infants born prematurely. Anonymous student reviews consistently rank her as one of the top instructors at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Author & Presenter

Dr. Hussey-Gardner has been the author or co-author of 19 articles published in peer-reviewed journals and she has co-authored 3 textbook chapters. In addition, she has given 146 invited speeches at national, regional, and local conferences; 93 peer-reviewed, national and regional presentations; and has participated in 32 television, radio, magazine or internet interviews regarding child development. In addition, Dr. Hussey-Gardner has developed and published a number of resources that are used by professionals serving infants and toddlers, and by the families themselves. These publications include: *Understanding My Signals: Help for Parents of Premature Infants* (currently in its third edition), *Taking Care of Me: Help for Parents of New Babies*, *Parenting to Make a Difference: Your One to Four Year Old Child*, *Best Beginnings: Helping Parents Make a Difference*, and *PPOD: Parents & Pediatricians Optimizing Development*. She is also the creator of the *Best Beginnings Developmental Screen*, a tool for screening developmental milestone attainment and quality of performance in adaptive, social-emotional, fine motor, cognitive, language, and gross motor domains of children from birth to 39 months of age.

Advocate

Dr. Hussey-Gardner has a history of advocating for children with developmental delays in Maryland. She has been a member of the Maryland State Interagency Coordinating Council since 2006, an Executive Board member since 2007, and in 2011 she became the Chair of this council whose job is to advise and assist the early childhood intervention and education system of services in Maryland. At the state level, she has conducted research to substantiate and change high probability conditions for early intervention eligibility in Maryland. Her research led to inclusion of infants with chronic lung disease and surgical necrotizing enterocolitis. In addition, Dr. Hussey-Gardner led the effort to create the *Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program Physician's Guide*, released in 2009. Her advocacy work related to the use of adjusted age for infants and toddlers born prematurely resulted in a Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) change in 2013. Beginning in 2012, Dr. Hussey-Gardner also began advocating for

all of Maryland's young children when she became a member of the State Early Childhood Advisory Council (formerly known as the Governor's State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care) and a member of the Executive Leadership Committee for Ready at Five. Locally, Dr. Hussey-Gardner has been a member of the Baltimore City Interagency Coordinating Council since 1996 and was the Chairperson from 1997-2001.

Research/Clinical Keywords

Developmental evaluations of infants and toddlers, developmental outcomes of infants born prematurely, early intervention, fostering development of infants and toddlers, parenting

Highlighted Publications

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Hussey-Gardner B. Best Beginnings Developmental Screen. Baltimore, MD: 2005, 2006.

Hussey-Gardner B. Understanding my signals: Help for parents of premature infants. 3rd ed. Palo Alto, CA: VORT; 2008.

Hussey-Gardner B. Best Beginnings for Parents. Palo Alto, CA: VORT, 2016.

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