



EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY STUDIES (ECFS)
"From a Good to a Great Program"

HISTORY

In 2001, St. Philip's College was approved to start a new program to prepare early childhood professionals under the name "*Child and Families Studies*". Courses were offered for one certificate and Child Development Associate National Credential (CDA) governed by the Council on Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. At that time, the program started with 12 students pursuing a CDA. In 2002, course offerings began for the inception of a Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS). In this same year, the Early Childhood and Family Studies program began partnering with Nursing, Allied Health programs, and local health and human services agencies to host *Child Check*. Child Check is a community service project that offers free health and developmental screenings for children birth to 3 years old in the local San Antonio Area.

In 2004, the advisory committee approved a name change to its present official name, "*Early Childhood Studies*". In 2005, the program celebrated the first group of students to graduate with an AAS degree and announced being awarded a 5 year grant for \$750,000.00 under the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Office of Head Start (OHS), Higher Education Grant (HEG). To date, the program has over approximately 400 students and is on the college's Top Ten List of Self-Declared Majors.

In 2007, under the leadership of Dr. Adena Williams Loston the program was charged to continue its work toward student success and quality care for all children and families under the model of "Good to Great". In 2008, the program was approved to offer additional AAS degrees with specializations in Language and Literacy, and Leadership Accreditation. In 2009, the program underwent a name revision, "Early Childhood and Family Studies" to reflect an instructional unit preparing students to work with "children and families".

PURPOSE

As a collaborative team, our purpose is to provide students opportunities that support excellence in teaching and learning.

MISSION

The program will provide the community a student-centered instructional unit using research-based practices responsive to diversity, innovation, authentic learning and hands-on experiences. The results are successful individuals well prepared for a variety of job opportunities in the early care and education profession.

VISION

To be the best accredited program in the nation.

MOTTO

"Make a Difference in the Life of Children and Families"

ACCREDITATION

The Early Childhood and Family Studies Program is under self-study toward the National Association for the Education of Young Children Accreditation (NAEYC), Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation (ECADA).