



## MTB Team Bios December 2015

The *Minding the Baby*® (MTB) team consists of two full-time and six part-time personnel, including a nurse, social worker, research assistant, four faculty members who serve as Co-Directors, and a Project Director who oversees the various arms of the program. In addition to this core team, the work of MTB is supported by select student researchers, interns, and outside consultants. Bios are included here for the Co-Directors, Project Director, and Clinical Staff.

**Lois S. Sadler, PhD, RN, PNP-BC, FAAN; MTB Co-Director:** A Professor at the Yale University School of Nursing and the Yale Child Study Center, Dr. Sadler received her BSN from the University of Massachusetts, her MSN from Yale University School of Nursing, and her PhD from the School of Family Studies at the University of Connecticut. Also a certified Family Life Educator, Dr. Sadler practiced for decades as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in a special school for pregnant and parenting students in the New Haven community. In her faculty role she teaches master's and doctoral students, and mentors post doctoral fellows and junior faculty members. Dr. Sadler's scholarship focuses on the transition to parenthood among urban adolescent mothers and their families, adolescent pregnancy prevention, evaluation of specialized school-based support programs for adolescent parents, home visiting interventions for at-risk young families, community-engaged research methods and ethics. Her work with colleagues from the MTB program is currently being replicated with young at-risk families living in three urban communities in the United Kingdom, sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, as well as in Miami-Dade County, Florida through a partnership with Florida State University's Young Parents Project.

**Arietta Slade, PhD; MTB Co-Director:** Clinical Professor at Yale Child Study Center and Professor Emerita of Clinical Psychology at The City University of New York, Dr. Slade is an internationally recognized attachment theorist, researcher, and infant mental health specialist. She received her BA from Sarah Lawrence College and her PhD in Clinical Psychology from New York University. Dr. Slade's research on mother-infant attachment led to the development of The Parent Development Interview (with Aber, Berger, Bresgi & Kaplan), as well as the elaboration of the construct of parental reflective functioning, both of which have had a significant impact in the field of infant mental health and attachment. She has presented her research and clinical work around the world and is the author of over 60 articles and book chapters. She is editor, with Jeremy Holmes, of *Attachment Theory* (SAGE Publications, 2013); with Elliot Jurist and Sharone Bergner, of *Mind to Mind: Infant Research, Neuroscience, and Psychoanalysis* (Other Press, 2008); and with Dennie Wolf, of *Children at Play: Developmental and Clinical Approaches to Meaning and Representation* (Oxford University Press, 1994). One of the founders of MTB, she is currently engaged in all aspects of the program, including development, training, supervision, replication, and dissemination.

**Nancy Close, PhD, IMH-E® (IV); MTB Co-Director:** An educator and clinician, Dr. Close specializes in the assessment and treatment of children under age five. She received her BA from Connecticut College and her PhD in Education and Child Development at Bryn Mawr College, and she holds the CT Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement in Infant Mental Health (IMH) as an IMH Mentor. Dr. Close teaches Yale College students and fellows in training at the Child Study Center. The topics of her courses include child development, child psychopathology, developmental assessment and clinical evaluation, mental health consultation, and early childhood education. She conducts developmental assessments of young children and does dynamically oriented psychotherapy with children. In addition, she provides mental health consultation to early childhood education programs in the community. Dr. Close's work includes a focus on reflective supervision in parenting programs that support parent-child attachment and the development of reflective functioning. As one of the MTB co-

directors, she provides reflective supervision to the clinical staff and plays an active role on the training team, having substantially contributed to the development and delivery of the MTB introductory training on clinical approaches for reflective parenting programs that has drawn participants from around the world.

**Linda C. Mayes, MD; MTB Co-Director:** Dr. Mayes is the Arnold Gesell Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology and Director of the Yale Child Study Center. She is also Special Advisor to the Dean in the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Mayes's research integrates perspectives from child development, behavioral neuroscience, psychophysiology and neurobiology, developmental psychopathology, and neurobehavioral teratology. She has published widely in the developmental psychology, pediatrics, and child psychiatry literature. Her work focuses on stress-response and regulatory mechanisms in young children at both biological and psychosocial risk. With other colleagues in the Center, she also studies how adults transition to parenthood especially when substance abuse is involved and the basic neural circuitry of early parent-infant attachment using both neuroimaging and electroencephalographic techniques. She and her colleagues have developed a series of interventions for parents including *Minding the Baby*®. Dr. Mayes is also a distinguished visiting professor in psychology at Sewanee: The University of the South where she is working on intervention programs for to increase family resilience.

**Crista Marchesseault, MAT, MA; MTB Project Director:** Ms. Marchesseault holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Communications from Northeastern University; a Master of Arts in Teaching from Sacred Heart University; and a Master of Arts in Child Development from Tufts University, where she sharpened her expertise in developmental literacy and served as a home visitor for a school-based home visiting program with families of Kindergarteners in Somerville, Massachusetts. In addition to her work in teaching and academic research, Crista's professional background includes work in public relations, nonprofit management, web development, professional editing, grant facilitation, and job training. Crista directs a variety of projects for MTB, including grant and budget management, training coordination, and administrative supervision for an interdisciplinary team of clinical and research staff. She serves as chairperson for the Yale Child Study Center (CSC) Web and Social Media Committee, and sits on the CSC Branding and Networking Committee.

**Denise Webb, MSN, APRN, PNP, IMH-E®; MTB Home Visitor/Trainer:** Ms. Webb received a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Anthropology from Wesleyan University and worked as an early childhood educator for many years, prior to returning to school for Nursing. In 2002, she completed her certification as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and received a Master of Science in Nursing from Yale University. In 2015, she earned the CT Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement in Infant Mental Health (IMH). Denise has been actively involved in the MTB Program since its inception and maintains a part-time clinical caseload while also taking an active role on the MTB training team. She worked with the MTB team to develop an introductory training on clinical approaches for reflective parenting programs that has drawn participants from around the world. She serves as a primary presenter for this training and co-authored accompanying training materials. Denise also serves as a consultant for a similar home visitation program in Florida and is an integral part of the Yale consult team for the MTB program replication efforts now underway in the United Kingdom and Florida.

**Tanika Simpson, MSW, LCSW, IMH-E®; MTB Home Visitor/Trainer:** Ms. Simpson has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Fairfield University in addition to a Master of Social Work from Rutgers University. Having practiced as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Connecticut for 17 years, Tanika also holds the CT Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement in Infant Mental Health (IMH) as an IMH Specialist. Her background includes clinical experience in child and family guidance clinics, early intervention programs, early childhood mental health consultation with early care and education programs, and policy work at the state level. Tanika has served as an MTB Clinical Social Worker for over six years and maintains roles as clinician, consultant, and trainer. She is a member of the MTB Summer Training Institute Faculty and has been integrally involved in the replication of MTB in the United Kingdom and Florida.