



# Research in Parent Education

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) offers parenting education throughout Alabama via Extension for Families and Children. HDFS hosts four extension specialists who provide expertise in this area. Dr. Vilches is currently developing and refreshing parent education programming and there are two opportunities to participate in doing research on and piloting parenting education innovations in 2017:

### *HDFS 4980-004 Research and Development of Social Media Applications for Parent Education*

2-3 credits (to be negotiated) The way parents acquire information has shifted from paper-based and in-person classes to social media platforms. However, social media is centered on personal networks and changes the way professionals communicate with parents. Over the next two years, we will transition some paper-based content to social media platforms and document how parents consume information and what they express as their priorities. There is an opportunity for up to three qualified undergraduate students to help create content and document results. We will track analytics, conduct surveys, and encourage participation. You must be a self-starter, confident on social media, and willing to work in a team environment. Total credits will be between 2 and 3. This course is also available as a service learning opportunity (HDFS 3980).

### *HDFS Internship in Statewide Parent Education*

HDFS Extension for Families and Children supports parents and families throughout the state. As an intern you will be involved in preparing materials, supporting delivery, and collecting evaluation data, as well as other duties. There will be a requirement to do at least three short trips with the team (for example, to Birmingham or Selma, two hours each way) to help deliver parent education. You will work with Regional Extension Agents who have Masters degrees, under supervision of Dr. Vilches.

Both opportunities may also work with the Dr. Ellaine Miller in M.W. Smith Hall at the Family Child Care Partnerships and Early Headstart Project offices.

For more information and an application, contact:

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<http://www.humsci.auburn.edu/hdfs/>

<http://www.aces.edu/family-health/families-children/>