



**Early Childhood Surveys at the National Center for Education Statistics:
Data User's Training Seminar on The Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies (ECLS) and
The National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES)**

**2009 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
Denver, Colorado**

April 1, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is sponsoring a 1-day professional development course at the 2009 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) on April 1, 2009 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in Denver, Colorado. This seminar will provide researchers access to some of the most comprehensive early childhood education and care data resources in the nation, focusing on three nationally representative early childhood studies conducted by NCES: the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998–99 (ECLS-K), the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), and the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) early childhood components. The seminar will provide information on the range of topics covered by each study, the common measures used across the studies, and the limitations of each data source.

The ECLS-K permits the examination of the relationship between a wide range of family, school, classroom, and individual variables and children's development, learning, and school performance from kindergarten through eighth grade. The ECLS-B provides detailed information on children's early development, health, care, and education from birth through kindergarten entry. Oversamples in the ECLS-B offer a unique opportunity to analyze the early learning experiences of low and very low birth weight, twin, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaska Native children. The NHES early childhood surveys consist of multiple cross-sectional surveys focusing on children's early learning activities, school readiness, and nonparental child care and early education arrangements and allow analysts to study how these have changed since the early 1990s. The designs of the three studies enable researchers to use data from more than one NCES study to examine early childhood issues.

During the seminar, study design and technical issues relevant to data use will be presented, and computer demonstrations of software that assists users in preparing data for analyses will be provided. The overall goals of the seminar are to inform researchers about these studies and describe what the databases can offer separately and in complement with each other. The seminar also highlights technical issues researchers must recognize to correctly analyze these data.

Researchers will have the opportunity to work on their own research directly with NCES staff involved with these studies. NCES will provide participants with binders that include hard copies of all slideshow presentations; handouts about the survey instruments; guides for using the electronic codebook (ECB) software; links to the ECLS-K, ECLS-B, and NHES websites; and tables providing information on sample sizes, weighting and variance estimation, and other technical issues related to the data. Participants will also receive the ECLS-K and NHES CD-ROMS containing the public-use data files, ECB software, and electronic versions of the survey instruments and user's manuals. Hard copies of the survey instruments and data users' manuals will be available for participants to review during the seminar.

This professional development course is free, but space is limited. To register, please contact us at ecls@air.org.