

# Claire Vallotton

**Associate Professor of Child Development at Michigan State University**

East Lansing, MI, US

An expert in early childhood education and intervention; parent-child interaction and communication; early development of social skills

---

## Biography

Following her PhD in Human Development at the University of California, Davis, Dr. Claire D. Vallotton won a Clinical Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health to study as a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Vallotton has been awarded the New Investigator Award from the World Association of Infant Mental Health, the Award of Distinction for Young Alumni from the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis, and was named an Exceptional Emerging Leader in childcare research from ChildCare Exchange. Vallotton studies early development of language and social-emotional skills, and how they are shaped by relationships with parents and early child educators. She also studies the factors that influence those relationships and children's development, including family risks, adult mental health, and culture. She has expertise in infant signing (caregiver-child preverbal communication through gestures), and uses infant signing to gain insight into infants' internal worlds, and the effects of early communication skills on later development. Vallotton uses her research to improve the quality of training for the early childcare and education workforce, and provide parents with effective tools support their children's development of social-emotional and communication skills. She has been involved in state-level initiatives on training the early care and education workforce, creating public awareness around children's mental health, and establishing standards of practice to support infant/toddler language and emergent literacy skills. She serves as an expert advisor on infant, toddlers, and families to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Planning, Research, & Evaluation.

---

## Areas of Expertise

Childcare, Infant Mental Health, Parenting, Early Childhood Education , Child Development, Language Development, Cultural Socialization

---

## Affiliations

Member, Network of Infant Toddler Researchers, Office of Planning, Research, & Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families , Member, Home - Based Care Workgroup, Child Care Policy Research Consortium (CCPRC), Member, Michigan Infant Toddler Research Exchange

---

## Education

**Harvard Graduate School of Education**

NIH Postdoctoral Fellow Education

**University of California**  
Ph.D. Human Development

**Simpson College**  
B.A. Psychology

---

## **Accomplishments**

**Faculty Fellow, Strategies and Tools a cross Fields (STAF): Teaching with Writing**  
Writing Center, Michigan State University, May - August 2014

**Lilly Teaching Fellow, "Using technology to enhance quantitative literacy and effective decision - making among ECE students"**  
Michigan State University, 2013 - 2014

**Exceptional Emerging Leader 2015, Emerging Leaders in the Field of Early Care and Education**  
Child Care Exchange and Exchange Live, May, 2015

---

[Please click here to view the full profile.](#)

This profile was created by [Expertfile.](#)