

John M. Love, Ph.D. Biographical Sketch

John M. Love retired at the end of June 2010 after 18 years with Mathematica Policy Research, where he was a senior fellow and area leader for early childhood research. He now provides independent consulting in early care and education research, program evaluation, and policy from his home in Ashland, Oregon. He has been involved in teaching, research, and evaluation studies of programs for children birth to age 5 and their families since the mid-1960s. He began his program evaluation career in 1972 with a randomized evaluation of the Home Start Demonstration Program for what was then the Office of Child Development in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. He followed this with many other multisite studies of Head Start programs—including studies of Project Developmental Continuity, Home Start Training Centers, and Free to Grow (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)—Early Head Start, child care, and prekindergarten programs. In the 1980s, Dr. Love addressed issues in early childhood assessment through the Head Start Measures Project, and a decade later he participated in the planning phase of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten cohort. Dr. Love continues as a key player in Early Head Start research and evaluation studies, which began its infant-toddler phase in 1995 and has continued through its prekindergarten and fifth-grade follow-up studies. As project director for the EHS national evaluation, he also served as the chair and facilitator for EHS Research Consortium meetings.

From early 2007 through June 2010, Dr. Love directed a family of studies of the Los Angeles County First 5 Children and Family Commission's (First 5 LA) universal preschool program that is noteworthy for the highly diverse population the program serves. He served as a principal investigator for Mathematica's evaluation of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Early Learning Initiative in Washington state. And he directed a multisite experimental study of preschool curricula (PCER) funded by the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education. He has studied child care for the State of California and in Early Head Start, and currently consults with Mathematica on its study of the Harlem Children's Zone early childhood programs. First 5 LA has contracted with Dr. Love to assist in planning, conducting, and reporting on meetings of its 28-member Research Advisory Committee.

After receiving his B.A. at the University of California, Davis, and M.A. at San Jose State University (both in psychology), Dr. Love earned his Ph.D. in child behavior and development from the University of Iowa. Before joining Mathematica in 1992, he served as director of research at the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and headed the Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy at RMC Research Corporation in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Dr. Love serves on a number of advisory committees, including the advisory panel for the evaluation of the Denver Preschool Program, the Research Advisory Committee for the randomized impact study of Oregon's Healthy Start America Program, and Secretary Sebelius's Advisory Committee on Head Start Research and Evaluation. Past advisory committee service has included the Technical Work Group on Head Start Performance Measures, Secretary Shalala's first Advisory Committee for Head Start Research and Evaluation (which presented recommendations related to the Congressionally mandated Head Start Impact Study), Carnegie Corporation's Starting Points advisory panel, and the Commission on Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. In April 2011 he joined the Board of Directors of ZERO TO THREE.