Abigail Gewirtz
Professor, Director of the Institute for Translational Research in Children's Mental Health

Overall Advising/Mentoring Philosophy:
I see my role as mentoring, supporting, and nurturing graduate students towards their research and professional goals in and beyond graduate school. I am a family-based prevention researcher studying families under stress. Our large research team focuses on the development, testing, and widespread implementation of evidence-based parenting programs to promote children’s resilience for populations exposed to stressors including war, violence, and forced migration. Our research is rigorous (usually involving randomized controlled trials) with multiple method and multiple informant measurement of family and individual functioning. Our lab is large and students who are a good fit will be intellectually curious, value team science, and be independent but accountable. I value mutual respect, honesty, and transparency in the advising relationship.

What I expect from you:
• Take the initiative in scheduling regular meetings (weekly or bi-weekly) so that together we can keep track of your progress. Participate actively in our weekly lab meetings.
• Be self-driven and hard-working, but never feel shy about asking questions and for help when needed.
• Be interested in prevention science, parenting and child development in a family context, and/or the impact of stressful events on family processes – and willing to go outside your comfort zone as you learn and consider new concepts, ideas, and questions.
• Commitment to writing peer-reviewed papers and presentations at scholarly meetings.
• Be honest and share if you have any concerns or conflicts so that we can problem-solve and resolve issues.
• Provide me three weeks lead time for feedback on drafts – and be willing to remind me if I haven’t responded to an email; I can be reached by text if needed: 651-283-8433.

What you can expect from me:
• Encouragement and support
• Opportunities to utilize existing family-based prevention datasets as well as opportunities to be involved in ongoing and new research projects
• To challenge you to develop research questions, ponder theories, and learn new methods of examining questions
• Thorough and critical review of your papers and presentations
• Support, problem solving, and good listening skills
• Support for your pursuit of professional opportunities (guidance on grants, fellowship applications, and letters of recommendation)

Joint Responsibilities:
• Mutual Respect
• Commitment to excellence
• High ethical standards
• Transparency
• Accountability
• Appreciating accomplishments