



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Katy Miller, Communications Coordinator
kmiller@rikidscount.org / 401.351.9400, ext. 22

Leading Child Development Expert to Discuss Link between Academic Research, Child Development, and School Improvement

Lecture and Discussion Session: “Reflections on Race, Child Development and School Reform”

Providence, RI (Thursday, May 2, 2013) – *The 2013 Lewis P. and Edna Duchin Lipsitt Lecture in Child and Youth Behavior and Development* will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in Brown University’s Salomon Center, Room 001, in Providence. More than 200 people are expected to attend the lecture, including educators, service providers, advocates, policymakers, and community leaders. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT and Brown University’s Center for the Study of Human Development are sponsoring the lecture. A discussion panel featuring Deborah Gist, Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Education; and Gigi DiBello, MEd, Head of School, Sophia Academy, will be held immediately following keynote remarks. The event is free and open to the public.

The keynote speaker, James P. Comer, MD, will discuss the ways in which race issues and research in child development can impact school intervention and reform efforts. Dr. Comer is the Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine’s Child Study Center, and has been a Yale medical faculty member since 1968. During these years, he has concentrated his career on promoting a focus on child development as a way of improving schools. His efforts in support of healthy development of young people are known internationally.

"Dr. Comer has had an outstanding career working to apply discoveries from developmental science to improve the wellbeing of children and youth throughout the world," said Dr. Stephen Buka, Professor and Chair of Brown's Department of Epidemiology and Director, Center for the Study of Human Development. "His work is especially relevant today in Rhode Island, given his emphasis on how best to align school reform efforts with the needs and resources of urban minority children."

"We must continue to examine how to best meet the needs of our children throughout their development," stated Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. "Dr. Comer's work can help educators, policymakers, and community leaders make informed decisions about what programs and policies will help our children be successful in school and achieve their fullest potential."

###

The annual Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Human Development at Brown University and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children's policy organization that works to improve and ensure the economic well-being, health, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children.

The Center for the Study of Human Development, located at Brown University, is primarily focused on research and teaching related to child and adolescent development.

The Lewis P. and Edna Duchin Lipsitt Lectures in Child Behavior and Development were established by the Lipsitt family in 2000 to celebrate many years of association with Brown University and to preserve an interest in child psychology at the University. Dr. Lewis P. Lipsitt joined Brown in 1957 as an instructor of psychology after receiving his doctorate in child psychology at the University of Iowa. A pioneer in the study of sensory and learning processes, Lipsitt established a laboratory at Women and Infants Hospital in 1958 to study infant behavior and development. He is the founding director of Brown's Child Study Center. Dr. Lipsitt received the 1990 Nicholas Hobbs Award for science in the service of children from the American Psychological Association and the 1994 American Association for the Advancement of Science's Lifetime Achievement Mentor Award for helping minorities and women in the pursuit of scientific careers. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was a resident fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavior Sciences at Stanford in 1979-80.