

What is the Offord Centre?

The Offord Centre for Child Studies is a highly regarded research institute affiliated with McMaster University and McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario.

It is a leader in the search for solutions to improve children and youths' mental health:



> leading new scientific research that will influence programs, policies and solutions to increase children's opportunities in life;

> forging partnerships in the community to increase awareness about research findings;



> seeking ways of applying new knowledge, to have the maximum positive impact through families and communities on children's development;

> training the next generation of scientists and policy makers to carry on this mission.



Why a Centre?

Director Dr. Michael Boyle describes the guiding vision of the Centre, which comes from its founder, the late Dr. David (Dan) Offord:

“The Offord Centre for Child Studies is named after Dr 'Dan' Offord, a much loved and respected child psychiatrist whose mission in life was to level the playing field for all children in Canada. Dan was a champion for children born into disadvantaged circumstances and through his work sought to improve their opportunities in life.

Members of the Offord Centre are committed to understanding and reducing health inequalities among children and youth – inspired by Dan's vision of creating that level playing field.”

Dr. Boyle has worked with the Offord Centre since its formation in 1992 and was appointed its new director in 2014. He is currently designing and implementing a sequel to the groundbreaking Ontario Child Health Study that looked at a large number of children and teenagers in families and continued to follow some of them over time. That study brought to light a hidden burden of mental health problems among young children and teens in the 1980s.