



DR. ANN BIGELOW

ADVANCING UNDERSTANDING OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

StFX researchers, students and local health professionals have continued to advance groundbreaking research on early childhood development. A group of researchers who studied babies' first contact with mothers have been working to determine if those same babies, at the ages of six to eight years old, received long-term social cognitive and communication benefits. **Dr. Ann Bigelow**, a StFX Psychology professor, along with Human Nutrition professor **Dr. Doris Gillis**, Psychology professor **Dr. Kim MacLean**, and **Michelle Ward**, the executive director of Kids First, have been carrying out this project with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The initial skin-to-skin research work between mothers and their infants conducted by StFX professors, students, and community health professionals, was a first-of-its-kind study in Canada.