



A. Dirk Hightower, Ph.D

A. Dirk Hightower, Ph.D. has been Executive Director of Children's Institute, Inc. since 1991. He is also a Senior Research Associate at the University of Rochester. Prior to that Dirk served as Research Director for Children's Institute and the Center for Community Study from 1982 to 1991. He has co-authored scores of research papers, chapters and a book. He has served on the editorial board of various research journals. His primary interests include social and emotional assessment, promoting healthy social and emotional development, evidenced-based prevention interventions for young children, community collaboration and the use and development of web-based decision support systems to enhance the translation and use of information (COMET). He has been principal investigator on state and federal grants. He helped initiate and continues to have significant involvement with the RECAP, a multiagency collaborative focused on prekindergarten outcomes. He is a co-founder of the COMET Informatics system. In addition, he is Past President of the New York Association of School Psychologists, served three terms on the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District, and presently serves on multiple city, county and state advisory boards that focus on the success of children.