

“The WebGuide is the best resource for finding research about children and families on the Web. It directs parents and students to web sites that have been evaluated and that you can trust. What a valuable resource in this high-tech day and age,” states distinguished professor David Elkind, Ph.D., author of several best selling books including, *The Hurried Child* and *All Grown Up and No Place to Go*.

The Tufts University Child and Family WebGuide is excited to launch a powerful new tool that will assist parents and professionals to find trustworthy information on the Web about infants, children and adolescents. The WebGuide’s “Child Health Search” (<http://www.cfw.tufts.edu/search>) will combine Google's ability to find information instantly with the WebGuide's ability to determine which information is credible. The “Child Health Search” will enable users to search through a select group of trustworthy sites on children’s health and development that has already been identified by Tufts faculty and graduate students.

The Child and Family WebGuide is a non-profit project spearheaded by faculty of the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child development at Tufts University. The goal of the WebGuide is to help parents, professionals, students and others interested in child development find trustworthy, research-based information about infants, children and adolescents. The WebGuide addresses one of the major concerns of the Internet: how to obtain credible, research-based information. For example, when searching on the Internet for the topic of disciplining children, a user could find individuals’ sites presenting personal opinion, religious organizations’ sites, and other sites presenting perspectives that are not based in research. The WebGuide selects mainly those sites that provide non-technical and user-friendly information from authoritative sources and that is grounded in

research. The information addresses specific medical conditions and treatments as well as a broad range of child development information such as obesity, self esteem, discipline, anxiety, child care, educational issues and sibling relationships. All sites have undergone a rigorous evaluation process by graduate students who are supervised by faculty at Tufts University. The evaluations are based on criteria that have been recommended by a panel of scholars and research practitioners as well as findings from focus groups and interviews with parents. Both modes of research indicated the need for credible and non-technical information, criteria that the WebGuide relies upon in selecting sites. As a result of the latest “Child Health Search” powered by Google, the WebGuide can further help parents instantly find the specific, trustworthy information about children that they seek.