

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

NAME: Barbara Ball

POSITION TITLE: Research Scientist, Texas Institute of Child and Family Wellbeing, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin

**EDUCATION/TRAINING**

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date	FIELD OF STUDY
State Accredited College of Art Therapy at Nürtingen, Germany	Diploma in Art Therapy	1987-1991	Art Therapy
New York University	M.A.	1992-1994	Art Therapy
New York University	Ph.D.	1994-1998	Art Education (Interdisciplinary work in Art Therapy, Psychology & Psychotherapy Process Research)

**A. Personal Statement**

Dr. Ball is a Research Scientist at the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on understanding pathways to relational permanency and optimal health for child welfare involved youth.

She is a Co-Principal Investigator for the Texas Youth Permanency Study (TYPS) and the Texas Foster Youth Health Initiative (TFYHI). TYPS, a five-year longitudinal study of youth in foster care, examines factors that increase relational permanency, social emotional wellbeing, and positive outcomes in emerging adulthood. TFYHI is a statewide learning community that builds connections across child welfare and adolescent health systems to promote optimal health for child welfare-involved youth. Information and skill-building efforts target youth and their caregivers, promote brave conversations about sexual health, pregnancy prevention, and healthy relationships, and increase capacity in organizations and communities.

Prior to joining the Institute Dr. Ball worked for 15 years at the SAFE Alliance in Austin as Director for Evaluation and Training of Expect Respect, a teen dating and sexual violence prevention program. She was the primary author of the Expect Respect program manual, provided training locally and nationally, and coordinated the program evaluation in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She also chaired community coalitions and assisted school districts with development of policy, staff training, and parent workshops. She is involved in community planning efforts and advocates for the prevention of adverse childhood experiences and increased support for children exposed to violence.

**B. Positions and Honors**

- 1997-1999 Assistant Research Scientist, New York University, New York
- 1997-1999 Adjunct Faculty, Graduate Art Therapy Program, New York University, New York
- 2000-2001 Adjunct Faculty, Kunsttherapie Berlin, Germany, Kolleg für Weiterbildung und Forschung
- 2001-2002 Group Home Therapist, Five Acres Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles
- 2001-2003 Adjunct Faculty, Loyola Marymount University, Graduate Department for Marital & Family Therapy

2003-2006 School-based Counselor, Expect Respect Program, SafePlace Austin  
 2008-2012 Project Director for Start Strong Austin, SafePlace Austin  
 2005-2015 Program Evaluation Specialist, Expect Respect Program, SafePlace Austin  
 2015-2019 Director for Program Evaluation & Training, Expect Respect, a program of the SAFE Alliance  
 2019-2021 Senior Research Associate, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, University of Texas at Austin  
 2021- Research Scientist, Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, University of Texas at Austin

### Other Experiences

2015-2019 Travis County Children’s Mental Health Plan, Planning Group  
 2011-2015 Steering Committee on Children & Youth, Community Indicator Project, Ready-by-21  
 2010-2012 Co-Chair, Children and Youth Mental Health Planning Partnership  
 2004-2006 Director, Board of Directors of the American Art Therapy Association  
 2001-2004 Member of the Research Committee of the American Art Therapy Association

### Honors

1992-1994 Fulbright-Scholarship.  
 1995-1996 Dean's Grant for Student Research, New York University, School of Education.  
 1998 Ascona Prize for Research in the Creative Arts Therapies (Société Internationale de Psychopathologie de l'Expression et d'Art-Thérapie, Paris and International Association for Arts, Creativity and Therapies, Basel).

## C. Contributions to Science

### Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals:

- Ball, B.,** Hoefler, S., Ding, X., Sevillano, L., & Faulkner, M. (2023). Promoting Healthy Relationships in Foster Care – “If I Had Seen What a Healthy Relationship Looks Like, that Would Have Changed My Perspective.” *Violence Against Women*, 29 (14), <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012231199106>
- Ball, B.,** Hoefler, S., Faulkner, M., Requeses, A., Brooks, T., Munoz, G., Pacheco, E., Poland, C., Salmeron, C., & Zelaya, A. B. (2023). Innovation in sexuality and relationship education in child welfare: Shifting toward a focus on ongoing conversations, connection, and consent. *Prevention Science*, 10.1007/s11121-022-01476-z. Advance online publication.
- Ball, B.,** Sevillano, L., Faulkner, M., & Belseth, T. (2020). Agency, genuine support, and emotional connection: Experiences that promote relational permanency in foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 121, 105852
- Reidy, D.E., Holland, K.M., Cortina, K., **Ball, B.**, and Rosenbluth, B. (2017). Evaluation of the Expect Respect support group program: A violence prevention strategy for youth exposed to violence. *Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 100, 235 - 242
- Reidy, D.E., **Ball, B.**, Houry, D., Holland, K.M., Valle, L.A., Kearns, M.C., Marshall, K.J. and Rosenbluth, B. (2016). In Search of Teen Dating Violence Typologies. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 58, 202-207
- Ball, B.,** Holland, K., Marshall, K., Lippy, C., Jain, S., Souders, K. and Westby, R. (2015). Implementing a Targeted Teen Dating Abuse Prevention Program: Challenges and Successes Experienced by Expect Respect Facilitators. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 56, S40-S46
- Ball, B.,** Teten, A., Noonan, R., Valle, L., Hamburger, M., Rosenbluth, B. (2012). Expect Respect Support Groups: Preliminary Evaluation of a Dating Violence Prevention Program for At-Risk Youth. *Violence Against Women*.
- Ball, B.** & Rosenbluth, B. (2010). Where Teens Live: Taking an Ecological Approach to Dating Violence Prevention. In L. Lockhart & F. Danis (Eds.). *Domestic Violence: Intersectionality and Culturally Competent Practice*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Rosenbluth, B., Whitaker, D., Valle, L.A., & **Ball, B.** (2010). Integrating Strategies for Bullying, Sexual Harassment and Dating Violence Prevention: The Expect Respect Elementary School Project. In D.

Espelage and S. Swearer (Eds.). *Bullying in North American Schools*. New York: Taylor and Francis.

- Teten, A. L., **Ball, B.**, Valle, L.A., Noonan, R., & Rosenbluth, B. (2009). Considerations for the Definition, Measurement, Consequences, and Prevention of Dating Violence Victimization among Adolescent Girls. *Women's Health*, 18(7), 932 – 927.
- Ball, B.**, Kerig, P. & Rosenbluth, B. (2009). "Like a Family But Better Because You Can Actually Trust Each Other." The Expect Respect Dating Violence Prevention Program For At-Risk Youth. *Health Promotion Practice*, 10, 45S-58S.
- Clinton-Sherrod, A.M., Morgan-Lopez, A.A., Gibbs, D., Hawkins, S.R., Hart, L., **Ball, B.**, Irvin, N., & Littler, N. (2009). Factors contributing to the effectiveness of four school-based sexual violence interventions. *Health Promotion Practice*, 10, 19S-28S.
- St. John, P., Kaiser, D. & **Ball, B.** (2004) Teaching research: A survey of art therapy educators. *Art Therapy: The Journal of the American Art Therapy Association*.
- Ball, B.** (2002). Moments of change in the art therapy process. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 29, 79 – 92.

### Other Publications:

- Ball, B.**, Belseth, T. & Faulkner, M. (2023). Normalcy: From concept to practice. Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, University of Texas at Austin.
- Ball, B.**, Marra, L., Belseth, T. & Faulkner, M. (2023). A new model for promoting wellbeing in child welfare: Prioritizing relational permanency, normalcy, and competency. Final Report Texas Youth Permanency Study. Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, University of Texas at Austin.
- Hoefler, S., **Ball, B.**, & Faulkner, M. (2022). Texas Foster Youth Health Initiative: Health Care Provider Survey Report. Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, University of Texas at Austin.
- Ball, B.**, Marra, L., Belseth, T., & Faulkner, M. (2021). Feeling connected and empowered: Protective experiences for youth in foster care. Interim Report Texas Youth Permanency Study. Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing, University of Texas at Austin.
- Ball, B.**, Rosenbluth, B., Aoki, A., Greene, M., & Randolph, R. (2019). *Expect Respect: Promoting Safe and Healthy Relationships for Youth*. Austin, TX: SAFE.
- Ball, B.**, Rosenbluth, B., Aoki, A., Randolph, R. (2008). *The Expect Respect Program Manual*. Austin, TX: SafePlace.

### Selected Presentations:

- Ball, B.**, Hoefler, S., & Faulkner, M. (2024, January 11). Brave Conversations about Sexual Health and Relationships: Engaging Stakeholders in Intervention Development and Testing. [Symposium]. SSWR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024: Recentering & Democratizing Knowledge: The Next 30 Years of Social Work Science. Washington DC.
- Ball, B.**, & Hoefler, S. (2023, June 1). Innovation in sexuality and relationship education in child welfare: Addressing system challenges and inequities [Symposium]. SPR 31st ANNUAL MEETING: The Role of Prevention Science in Achieving Social Justice and Health Equity for All, Washington DC.
- Trevino, N., Brooks, T., **Ball, B.**, & Hoefler, S. (2023, April 23-26). Centering the needs of youth in foster care: Trauma-informed strategies in sexual health education [Oral presentation]. Healthy Futures of Texas 12th Annual Symposium, Houston, TX.
- Trevino, N., **Ball, B.**, & Hoefler, S. (2023, April 23-26). THRIVE Youth Curriculum Facilitation Training [Oral presentation]. Healthy Futures of Texas 12th Annual Symposium, Houston, TX.
- Ball, B., & Hoefler, S. (2022, November 6-9). Building connections to improve optimal health outcomes for youth in care [Oral presentation]. 2022 APHA Annual Meeting & Expo, Boston, MA.
- Ball, B., Hoefler, S., & Brooks, T. (2022, October 17-19). Bridging the gap between child welfare and sex education [Oral presentation]. Healthy Teen Network Conference, Miami, FL.
- Ball, B., Hoefler, S., Brooks, T. (2022). Developing a trauma-informed sex and relationship education curriculum for youth in foster care. [Oral Presentation]. Texas Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy Annual Symposium, San Antonio, TX.

- Ball, B., Marra, L., Belseth, T., & Faulkner, M. (2022). Youth participation in child welfare court: "I just want to know that I have a voice and my voice will be used." [Oral Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Conference (SSWR), Washington, DC.
- Ball, B., Marra, L., Belseth, T., & Faulkner, M. (2022). Isolated, limited, and depressed: The impact of COVID on school connectedness and peer relationships. [Oral Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Conference (SSWR), Washington, DC.
- Ball, B., Hoefler, S., Xiao, D., Sevillano, L. (2022). "No one ever really sat down with me" - Missed opportunities to learn about relationships and sexuality in the foster care system. [Poster Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Conference (SSWR)
- Ball, B., Marra, L., Belseth, T., & Faulkner, M. (2021). Feeling Empowered and Connected: Protective Experiences for Youth in Foster Care. [Oral Presentation and Training]. Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing
- Ball, B., Sevillano, L., Faulkner, M., & Belseth, T. (2021). What experiences help youth in foster care achieve relational permanency? [Oral Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Conference (SSWR)
- Ball, B. (2017). Skills for Healthy Relationships – Essential for Success in School, College, Work and Life." [Oral Presentation]. Ready-by-21 National Meeting, Austin, TX.
- Ball, B. (2016). "Promoting Healthy Relationships among Youth Exposed to Violence." [Oral Presentation]. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Strengthening Youth & Families Conference, Arlington, TX.
- Ball, B., Holland, K., Marshall, K., Lippy, C., Jain, S., Souders, K., & Westby, R. (2014). "Implementing Expect Respect Support Groups for Teens Exposed to Violence - A Qualitative Study of Facilitators' Experiences and Perspectives." [Oral Presentation]. Society for Prevention Research, Annual Conference in Washington, DC.
- Ball, B. (2013). "Lessons Learned from Start Strong." Panel Discussion with Federal Agencies in Washington DC
- Ball, B. (2012). "Expect Respect Support Groups: Developing a Model of Change for Dating Violence Prevention with At-risk Youth." [Oral Presentation]. Society for Prevention Research Annual Conference in Washington, DC.
- Ball, B. (2011). "Changing the Whole School for the Better: Expect Respect's Community Level Primary Prevention Model for Schools." [Oral Presentation]. Building Healthy Futures III Conference, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.
- Ball, B. (2011). "Middle School Matters: Promoting Healthy Relationships and Preventing Teen Dating Violence." Panel with Debbie Lee and Casey Corcoran, 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, San Diego, CA.
- Ball, B., Teten, A. L., Valle, L.A., Noonan, R., & Rosenbluth, B. (2010). "Developing Instruments to Evaluate the Expect Respect Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program." [Oral Presentation]. National Summit on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Across the Lifespan, Dallas, TX
- Ball, B. (2010). "Expect Respect: A School-Based Program for Preventing Teen Dating and Sexual Violence and Promoting Safe And Healthy Relationships." [Oral Presentation]. Conference for Evaluating Community-Based Risk Prevention Programs for Youth: Informing Abstinence Education in Arlington, VA
- Ball, B. (2010). "Understanding School Prevention Policies." Webinar series for CDC Violence Prevention 2010 Web Conference and Learning Exchange, Delta Prep Programs
- Ball, B. & Rosenbluth, B. (2008). "Expect Respect: Preliminary Program Evaluation Results." [Oral Presentation]. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta.
- Ball, B. (2007). "Expect Respect: Taking an Ecological Approach to Teen Dating Violence Prevention." [Oral Presentation]. Teen Dating Violence Research Conference in Washington, DC.
- Ball, B. (2007). "Dating Violence Prevention for At-Risk Youth: Change Processes in Expect Respect Support Groups." [Oral Presentation]. American Society for Criminology Conference in Atlanta, GA.
- Ball, B. & Rosenbluth, B. (2007). "Expect Respect: A Comprehensive Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program." [Oral Presentation]. National Institute of Justice Conference in Washington, DC.
- Ball, B., Hamburger, M., & Charles, C. (2007). "Dating Violence Prevention for At-Risk Youth: Evaluation of Expect Respect Support Groups Implemented in 2005-2006." [Oral Presentation]. 10<sup>th</sup> International Family Violence Research Conference in New Hampshire.
- Ball, B. (2006). "Expect Respect: A Dating Violence Prevention Program." [Poster]. CHPR Conference on Advancing Women's Health at UT Austin.

- Ball, B. & Rosenbluth, B. (2005). "Strategies for Program Evaluation in School-Based Dating Violence Prevention." [Oral Presentation]. 9<sup>th</sup> International Family Violence Research Conference in New Hampshire
- Ball, B. (2005). "Program Development and Program Evaluation in Dating Violence Prevention." [Oral Presentation]. School-Based Prevention Meeting by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Alexandria, Virginia.
- Ball, B. (2005). "School-Based Strategies in Dating Violence Prevention." [Oral Presentation]. Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin.
- Ball, B. (2004). "Linking Process and Outcome Research: What Works in Art Therapy and Why?" [Oral Presentation]. 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the American Art Therapy Association, San Diego, CA.
- Ball, B. (2001). "Bridging the Gap between Art Therapy Research and Practice." [Oral Presentation]. 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the American Art Therapy Association, Albuquerque, NM.
- Ball, B. (2000). "Researching Moments of Change in the Art Therapy Process." [Oral Presentation]. 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the American Art Therapy Association, St. Louis.
- Ball, B. (2000). "Integrating Research, Practice and Theory in Art Therapy." [Oral Presentation]. International Jubilee Congress of the World Psychiatric Association, Paris.

#### **D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance**

##### **Recently Funded Research Proposals:**

**Moritz Center for Societal Impact, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin**

**A Community-Participatory Study of Homelessness Among Youth with Experience in Foster Care.**

Role: Principal Investigator

**3/15/2024 – 3/14/2025**

Funded: \$25,000

**DHHS Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Tier 2 Rigorous Evaluation Cooperative Agreements**

**Evaluating THRIVE– A Promising Sexual Health Intervention for Youth in Foster Care and Child Welfare Professionals**

**9/15/2023 – 8/30/2028**

Role: Principal Investigator

Funded: \$5,000,000

##### **Completed Collaborative Projects:**

**DHHS Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, TPP Tier 2 Innovation and Impact Network Grants: Achieving Optimal Health and Preventing Teen Pregnancy in Key Priority Areas**

**Texas Foster Youth Health Initiative**

**7/15/2020 – 6/30/2023**

The Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing partners with the Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, Healthy Futures of Texas and the North Texas Alliance to Reduce Unintended Pregnancy in Teens (Ntarupt) to coordinate and support a multidisciplinary network and learning community that will develop and test cutting edge sexual health interventions for youth in foster care and their caregivers.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Faulkner

Funded: \$5,400,000

**Office on Violence Against Women, Consolidated Youth Program**

**10/1/2014 – 9/30/2018**

Collaborative project led by SAFE's Expect Respect Program in partnership with Manor Independent School District, Travis County Sheriff's Office, Travis County Family Violence Task Force, Travis County Office of Children's Services, Con Mi Madre and the African American Youth Harvest Foundation. The collaborative supports children and youth exposed to violence, engages parents and youth in prevention programs, increases community awareness of domestic, dating and sexual violence, and promotes a safe and responsive school environment.

Role: Project Director  
Funding Amount: \$999,975

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Start Strong:  
Building Healthy Teen Relationships**

**12/1/2008– 11/30/2012**

Comprehensive 4-year initiative designed to promote healthy relationships and reduce teen dating and sexual violence. Implementation of a community-wide prevention program targeting 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Role: Project Director  
Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

**Completed Research Support:**

**Small Grants Program, Steve Hicks School of Social Work,  
University of Texas at Austin**

**8/1/2019 – 7/31/20**

Learning about healthy relationships: The experiences of young adults aged out of foster care  
This exploratory study will investigate (1) how youth living in foster care explore romantic and intimate relationships, (2) how relationships with caregivers and other important adults impact what they learn about healthy, respectively unhealthy relationships, and (3) how their emerging understanding of themselves and others shapes the formation of relationships as young adults.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Faulkner  
Funded: \$20,000

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Contract 200–2010-34099**

**8/28/2010 – 8/31/2015**

Controlled outcome evaluation of Expect Respect Support Groups, a teen dating violence prevention program for at-risk middle and high school students, in 3 school districts.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator  
Funding Amount: \$997,984

**Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International, Subcontract 23-47U-8235**

**Primary Contract, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 200-2001-00123 9/01/05 - 8/31/06**

Pilot study evaluating Expect Respect support groups including development of survey instruments. Dissemination of Expect Respect in Ohio. Development of program manual for program replication.

Role: Program Evaluation Specialist for SafePlace

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 200-2001-00123**

**9/01/03 - 8/31/05**

Evaluation Assistance for Projects Designed to Prevent First-Time Male Perpetration of Sexual Violence and cross-site analysis of four promising programs. Expect Respect developed outcome measures and conducted a qualitative study of the participants' experiences in Expect Respect Support Groups.

Role: Evaluation Team Member at SafePlace' Expect Respect Program.

**E. Technical Skills**

**Proficient in:** Microsoft Words and SPSS

**Other Languages:** German, French