

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

Name: Linda Carson, Ed D
Title: Founder, CEO
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Linda Carson is the founder and CEO of Choosy Kids, LLC, a company devoted to developing healthy preferences early in life. She is the Ware Distinguished Professor Emerita at West Virginia University and the former Director of the WV Motor Development Center, which provides learning laboratories and applied research for a variety of academic disciplines at WVU.

For more than three decades, Professor Carson has offered award winning physical activity programs for infants, babies, toddlers, pre-school, and elementary school age children in both land-based and water-based learning environments, earning recognition for involving family members as play partners. She has received many honors and awards over her career for distinguished service to teaching and health promotion.

Dr. Carson is recognized for designing innovative children's programs with a focus on healthy living and active learning. She has devoted her career to creating innovative learning experiences for young children and the adults who make decisions on their behalf. The signature feature of her play programs is a character named Choosy who promotes healthy decision making by children and grownups. Dr Carson has written children's music and other resource materials with embedded health messages for teachers, children, and families. www.choosykids.com

Dr. Carson served as an expert trainer for the Office of Head Start's obesity prevention initiative, "I Am Moving, I Am Learning (IMIL). IMIL was the recipient of the 2006 DHHS National Honor Award for Excellence in Partnering. Dr. Carson also served on the training team for "Little Voices for Healthy Choices," an obesity prevention initiative piloted in 24 Early Head Start programs nationwide.

Dr Carson served on the leadership team of WV Games for Health, a series of statewide projects based on the team's pioneering research that demonstrated significant changes in the health indicators of obese children as a result of playing active video games.