This project examines human development in Singapore by using innovative methods to understand factors that can promote Singaporean children's early childhood development, and provide input that can help address these factors. The main research questions are on the state of Singaporean children; how family, childcare and early education institutions, community, and state interact to shape the development of Singapore’s children; and, how these investments affect intergenerational mobility and social stratification in Singapore.

This project will collect longitudinal data in a national survey and five satellite projects. The core national survey will be a 2-wave panel study for 5,000 households with children aged 0 to 6 and will assess motor, social-emotional, linguistic, cognitive, health and well-being, as well as factors that potentially shape child development and family resilience, such as early childcare arrangements, preschool attendance, time and technology use, financial and non-monetary investment in children, mother and father's roles, and family stress.

The five satellite projects, based on smaller samples, are: (1) an ethnographic study focusing on the children of cross-cultural families, (2) a laboratory experiment of early childhood linguistic development with a special interest in how the language development of children in multilingual families compares to others and identifying developmental delay, (3) intervention programs that train children’s minds to build social-emotional skills such as cooperation, empathy, and self-control, and identify neural correlates of social cognition and decision-making for children, (4) a randomized control trial (RCT) that evaluates various incentives’ success at improving pre-school attendance for disadvantaged children, and (5) an assessment of the impact of matched savings programs on children's development.