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Dr. Natale is a Professor of Pediatrics and a pediatric and community psychologist at the Mailman Center for Child Development at the UM Miller School of Medicine. Her research addresses critical gaps in the field of pediatrics by evaluating and implementing evidence-based services and programs to childcare centers aimed at improving children's developmental trajectories. Through her role as Principal Investigator on local and NIH, DOE, and USDA grants, she has developed toolkits for childcare providers that have been widely distributed. Her team was one of the first in the nation to develop an obesity prevention program for preschoolers with disabilities in childcare settings that both parents and teachers could use to promote healthy lifestyle habits. Dr. Natale's work is frequently published, and she serves on many task forces related to early childhood development.