

## **Karen Cadigan**

Dr. Karen Cadigan is the Director of the Minnesota Office of Early Learning. Cadigan together with Deputy Commissioner of Health, Jim Koppel, and Assistant Commissioner of Human Services, Erin Sullivan-Sutton, form the Minnesota Office of Early Learning (MOEL) Leadership Team and work together to align, coordinate, and improve the statewide system for children from birth to eight years old and their families.

Prior to August 2011, Dr. Cadigan was Research Fellow at the Center for Early Education and Development, and the Policy Director at the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Family Consortium (CYFC) where she led the Family Impact Seminars, a model used in 26 states to connect research to public policymaking. Cadigan also co-created and led the development of Wonder Years: The Science of Early Development, a National Science Foundation-funded collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota (<http://www.smm.org/wonderyears>).

Cadigan has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota and an M.Ed. in School Psychology from the University of Washington. Dr. Cadigan is a licensed school psychologist and worked in public schools for seven years, most recently as the coordinator of the Minneapolis Schools' early childhood autism programs. When not working to improve outcomes for Minnesota's young children, Karen can be found dancing with her three-year old daughter or looking for indigo buntings.