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EDUCATION

Ed.D., University of Tennessee. Major: Early Childhood Education/Collateral in Child and Family Studies

Dissertation: A Study of the Effects of Storytelling and Story Reading on the Oral Language Development of Young Children

M.S., East Tennessee State University. Major: Early Childhood Education and Supervision

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| 1998-present | Director, Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning and Development. |
| 1991-present | Professor, Early Childhood Education, East Tennessee State University. |
| 1992-present | Director of Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance Pilot Project. |
| 1985-95 | Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, East Tennessee State University. Responsible for course schedules, program development, student advisement, graduate committees. |
| 1985-91 | Associate Professor, Early Childhood Education, East Tennessee State University. |
| 1980-85 | Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education, East Tennessee State University. |
| 1984-86 | University of Virginia, Abington: adjunct, taught Learning in Young Children, Gifted and Creative Children, Curriculum Design for Gifted/Talented. |
| 1980-82 | Director, Child Study Center, East Tennessee State University – Model program for normally developing & handicapped children ages 3-5 years. Supervised staff and developed curriculum, while teaching a full load of classes in early childhood education. |
| 1975-78 | Supervised all kindergarten student teachers for the Department of |

Curriculum & Instruction, East Tennessee State University, in addition to teaching Language Arts Methods for elementary education majors.

- 1972-75 Coordinator/Teacher, Academically Gifted Program K-5, Greeneville City Schools, Greeneville, TN.
- 1971-72 Teacher of three-year-olds, Child Study Center, East Tennessee State University.
- 1965-70 Teacher, grades K-6, Greeneville City Schools, Greeneville, TN.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Designed and Supervised the Renovation of the “New” Child Study Center. In 2000-2001, a facility was constructed for the University’s lab school, The Child Study Center. This new facility serves infants, toddlers, and preschool children in a literacy rich environment. It is a model early childhood program that is NAEYC accredited.

ETSU Distinguished Faculty Award 1994 – Distinguished achievement in teaching.

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance – On state steering committee that planned the comprehensive training for caregivers working in Tennessee child care facilities. Directed the ETSU pilot site for training and developed training modules to be used in Tennessee.

Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning & Development – With Dr. Wesley Brown, wrote, submitted, and implemented the proposal, which resulted in the establishment of the Center in 1985. Currently Isbell is the Director of the Center with ongoing duties that include responsibility for supervising training and research involving young children in the Center and the region. She oversees 2.7 million dollars in grants related to young children and their families. In 1988 the Tennessee Higher Education Commission identified the Center as an Accomplished Center of Excellence.

Early Childhood Conference – Assumed responsibility for this summer workshop for early childhood professionals in 1985. In 1993 more than 750 professionals attended the conference. Developed the program, contacted keynote speakers of national reputation, and organized small group sessions. In 2005 over 1,100 early childhood educators attended the conference.

Program Development

Graduate Programs in Early Childhood Education – Researched, wrote, and received approval of the proposal for the Master of Arts and Master of Education in Early Childhood Education in 1987. Developed the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Teaching, leading to initial licensure at the graduate level in PreK-3. Program approved, in 1991. In 1992 and 1995, the graduate program was revised and approved by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Undergraduate Major & Concentration in Early Childhood Development – Researched and

wrote a proposal for an interdisciplinary undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Development implemented in January 1990. Developed concentration that meets competencies leading to licensure in PreK-3 by the Tennessee Department of Education. The first program in that state to receive approval for the new PreK-3 licensure. NAEYC approved in 1993, 1995, 2001.

Courses Taught – Have taught courses related to the development and education of young children for the departments of Human Development and Learning, Curriculum and Instruction and Applied Human Science. Graduate faculty. Undergraduate courses include: Infant and Child Development, Program Design in Early Childhood Education, Learning in Young Children, Parent Involvement and Education, Creative Processes in Young Children, Curriculum in Early Childhood Education, and Literacy in Early Childhood. Graduate courses include: Theories of Play, Early Childhood Learning Environment, Parent Education and Involvement, Advanced Creative Process in Young Children, Language and Literacy Development, and Mentoring in Early Childhood.

Currently teaching: Designing Early Childhood Environments and HDAL 5317 Processes of Creative Development in Young Children.

RESEARCH

Major Funded Projects

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| 1993-present | “Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance Pilot Project.” \$132,009, 1993-94; \$81,765, 1994-95; \$86,000, 1995-96; \$95,000, 1996-97; \$115,000, 1998-99; \$375,000, 1999-2000; \$250,130, 2000-2001; \$353,378, 2001-2002; \$458,085, 2002-2003; \$358,760, 2003-2004; \$247,972, 2004-2005. Director of Project. |
| 1985-present | “Center for Early Childhood Learning and Development.” Approximately \$150,000, 1985-88; \$175,000 annually, 1988-2004. Center of Excellence, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Designated an “accomplished” center, 1988. Major responsibility in formulating the proposal, including space design, budget, training, and research opportunities This Center provides research, training and publications that focuses on young children, their families and those who work with them. |
| 1999-2005 | “CCAMPUS: Child Care Access at Little Buccaneer Student Child Care Center” provides support for low-income students through assisting with quality childcare, while attending ETSU. Includes a parent education component. The Child Study Center funding was \$66,571, 2001-2005. Funding for Little Buccaneer Student Child Care was \$61,788, 1999-2003. |
| 1998-2000 | “Kellogg: Hawkins County Community Learning Center” – development of a resource center for Hawkins County that provides training and materials for parents, teachers, and child care providers serving children 0-8 years of age. \$56,380 per year. |

- 1998-2003 “Literacy Program for At-Risk Young Children” jointly provided with Johnson City Housing Authority. \$100,000.
- 1997 “Improving Instruction in Early Childhood Through the Use of the Reggio Emilia Principles.” \$3,200.
- 1985-88 “Southern Appalachian Early Intervention Center: A Transdisciplinary Model Program Serving Moderately and Severely Handicapped Children from Birth to Three.” \$305,000, Handicapped Children Early Intervention Program, Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. Co-authored with Dr. Wesley Brown & others. Involved in planning design of proposal, hiring of staff, and implementation of outreach program. Specific areas of interest: parent education programs, language development, and teacher training.

Other Funded Research

- 1987 “The influence of Television Viewing on the Sociodramatic Play of Young Children.” Association of Childhood Educators.
- 1986 “The influence of Television Viewing on the Play of Young Children.” Research Development Council, East Tennessee State University.
- 1984 “Measuring the Effectiveness of Parent Education on Family Television Viewing Habits.” Research Development Council, East Tennessee State University. With Dr. Jean Flanigan.

Other Research Projects

- 2002-2005 “A Study of the Effects of Storytelling and Story reading on the Language Development of Young Children.” Three year study with 3-8 year old children.
- 1990-91 “A Study of the Environmental Factors that Influence Young Children’s Interactions with Books.”
- 1989 “An Analysis of the Oral Language Production of Young Children Participating in Three Types of Play Centers.” Co-researcher: Dr. Shirley Raines, George Mason University. Findings presented at Eastern Educational Research Conference, Clearwater, February 1990. Received “Award of Merit for Outstanding Educational Research.”
- 1988 “Low Book Interest Behavior of Selected Four-Year-Olds in Preschool Settings.” Co-researcher: Dr. Shirley Raines, George Mason University. Findings presented at Research Forum, Association of Childhood Educators International, Indianapolis, April 1989.
- 1988 “A Survey of Educators’ Use of Wordless Books with Young Children.”

1988 "Determining the Book Interests of Young Children in Early Childhood Programs."

1988 "A Comparison of the Language of Young Children in Sociodramatic, Blocks, and Housekeeping Centers."

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Isbell, R., & Raines, R.C. (in press). Creativity and the Arts with Young Children, (2nd ed.). Clifton Park, NY: Delmar.

Isbell, R., & Isbell, C. (2005). Inclusive Learning Centers for Children with Special Needs. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.

Isbell, R., & Isbell, G. (2003). The Complete Learning Spaces Book for Infants and Toddlers. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.

Isbell, R., & Raines, R.C. (2002). Creativity and the Arts with Young Children. Clifton Park, NY: Delmar.

Isbell, R., & Exelby, B. (2000). Early Learning Environments for Young Children. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.

Isbell, R., & Raines, S. (2000). Tell it again 2: Stories for young children. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House. Received the Parent Choice Award and the Gold Seal from National Parent's Press Association.

Isbell, R., & Raines, S. (1999). Tell it again: Stories for young children. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House. Received the Parent Choice Award.

Isbell, R. (1995). The Complete Learning Center Book. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.

Raines, S., & Isbell, R. (1994). Stories: Children's literature in early education. Albany, NY: Delmar. This textbook is widely used in early childhood literacy courses.

Isbell, R. (1994). Teacher's guide for Stories: Children's literature in early education. Albany, NY: Delmar.

Refereed Journal Article

Isbell, R., Sobol, J., Landauer, L., & Lowrance, A. (2004). The effects of storytelling and story reading on the oral language complexity and story comprehension of young children. Early Childhood Education Journal, 32(3), 157-163.

Isbell, R. (2004). Can't find anything? Tips for storing and displaying materials. Child Care Exchange, (157), May/June 2004, 54-7.

Isbell, R. (2002). Telling and retelling stories: Learning language and literacy. Young Children, 57(2), 26-30.

Isbell, R. (2002). An environment that positively impacts young children. Early Childhood News. 20-23.

Isbell, R., Reece, P.M., & Lowery, A.V. (1997). The road traveled to the NAEYC annual conference. Young Children, 52(3), 22-24.

Raines, S., & Isbell, R. (1994). The child's connections to the universal power of story. Childhood Education, 70(3), 164-167.

Raines, S.C., & Isbell, R.T. (1992). Identification and description of four-year-olds with low-book-interest behaviors in three classroom contexts. In J.B. Smith & J.G. Coleman, Jr. (Eds.), School Library Media Annual 1992: Vol. 10 (pp. 119-128). Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.

Isbell, R.T., & Raines, S. (1991). Young children's oral language productions in three types of play centers. Journal of Research in Childhood Education, 5(2), 140-146.

Isbell, R., & Morrow, B. (1991). Should your children be asked to protect themselves? Childhood Education, 67(4), 252-253.

Isbell, R.T., & Dwyer, E. (1990). Reading aloud to students. The Education Digest, 56(1), 70-71.

Isbell, R.T. (1990). An interview with kindergarten teacher Edna Loveday. Childhood Education, 66(5), 288-290.

Isbell, R.T., & Dwyer, E. (1989). The lively art of reading aloud to students. The Clearing House, 63(3), 111-113. Reprinted in The Education Digest, (1990), 56(1), 70-71.

Isbell, R.T., & Raines, S. (1989). Children's sense of story: a review of selected studies using wordless picture books. Dimensions, 17(4), 24-26.

Isbell, R.T., & Raines, S. (1988). Talking about wordless books in your classroom. Young Children, 43(6), 24-25, 181-182.

Isbell, R.T. (Guest ed.). (1986). Young children - our investment in the future [Special feature section]. Tennessee Educational Leadership, 13(1), 7-32.

Isbell, R.T. (1986). Learning from the past: Developing the future. Tennessee Educational Leadership, 13(1), 7-10.

Other Writings:

Regular columnist for ParentLife a magazine published by Southern Baptist. Focus on child development and parenting.

Selected INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL and Regional PRESENTATIONS

“Designing Spaces that Work for all Children.” Association for Childhood Educators International. Washington, DC. March 23, 2005.

“Creating Wonderful Learning Spaces for Infants and Toddlers-Ways to Invite Participation.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. Anaheim, CA. Nov. 12, 2004.

“The Effects of Story Reading and Story Telling on the Oral Language Development of Young Children.” Mid-South Educational Research Assoc. Gatlinburg, TN. Nov.10, 2004.

“Storytelling from Many Cultures.” World Forum on Early Childhood Education. Acapulco, Mexico. May 13, 2003.

“Integrating the Creative Arts into the Early Childhood Classroom.” Association for Childhood Education International. Phoenix, AZ. April 2003.

“Beautiful Environments for Young Children and their Teachers.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. New York. November 2002.

“Creating Environments that Work for Young Children.” International Association for Childhood Education. San Diego, CA. April 2002.

“Morals and Messages for Young Children through Storytelling.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. Anaheim, CA. November 2001.

“Stories that Work with Young Children.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. Atlanta, November 2000.

“Tell it Again: Stories for Young Children.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. New Orleans, November 1999.

“Magic, Mystery, and Morals.” Association for Childhood Education International. San Antonio, TX. April 1999.

“Two Steps at a Time: Implementing Reggio Emilia in Early Childhood Programs.” With Dorothy Sluss. National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators. Toronto, Canada. November 1998.

“Storytelling with Young Children.” Association for Childhood Educators International. Tampa, FL. April 1998.

“Stories Worth Telling Again and Again.” Association for Childhood Education International. Tampa, FL. April 18, 1998.

“Learning Centers in the Early Childhood Classroom.” Southern Early Childhood Association. Louisville, KY. March 1998.

“Telling Stories to Young Children: A Literacy Celebration.” Southern Early Childhood Association. Louisville, KY. March 27, 1998.

“Making New Literacy Connections in Learning Centers.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. Anaheim, CA. November 13, 1997.

“Breaking Barriers to Build Continuity in Early Childhood Training.” National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators. Anaheim, CA. November 12, 1997.

“Centered on Young Children.” Athens Area Association on Young Children. Session I Workshop. Athens, GA. November 8, 1997.

“New Literacy Connections in Learning Centers.” Teacher To Teacher. Kingsport, TN. October 13, 1997.

“From Traditional to Unique: Learning Centers That Work With Young Children.” Ohio Early Childhood Education and School-Age Child Care Annual Conference. Columbus, OH. October 12, 1997.

“From Traditional to Unique: Learning Centers That Work.” Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children. Gatlinburg, TN. September 27, 1997.

“From Traditional to Unique: Making the Literacy Connection.” Highlands Community College. Abingdon, VA. August 5, 1997.

“An Introduction to Reggio Emilia.” Early Childhood Conference, Johnson City, TN. July 18, 1997.

“Making the Literacy Connection in Traditional and Unique Learning Centers.” Association for Childhood Education International. Portland, OR. April 12, 1997.

“What is Really Happening in Learning Centers.” Southern Early Childhood Association. Myrtle Beach, SC. March 7, 1997.

“From Traditional to Unique: Learning Centers That Work.” A 3-hour Pre-conference session, National Association for the Education of Young Children. Dallas, TX. November 20, 1996.

“Making The Literacy Connection Through Centers.” Marion Primary School. Marion, VA. November 16, 1996.

“Learning Centers That Inspire Today’s Children.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. Washington, DC. November 1995.

“The Power of Stories in Early Childhood Classrooms.” A 3-hour Pre-conference session, National Association for the Education of Young Children. Atlanta, GA. November 30, 1994.

“Tennessee’s Approach to Training: TECTA.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. Anaheim, CA. November 12, 1993.

“Invitations to Culturally Diverse Literature.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Association for Childhood Educators International. Phoenix, AZ. April 10, 1993.

“Articulation Agreements Between Two and Four Year Institutions: Making Them Work.” National Association for the Education of Young Children: Professional Development Conference. Minneapolis, MN. June 4, 1993.

“Predominate Curriculum Themes and Supporting Children’s Literature in Early Childhood Education.” Association for Childhood Educators International. Chicago, IL. April 23, 1992.

“The Library Corner: An Invitation to Books.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Association for Childhood Educational International. San Diego, CA. April 19, 1991.

“Literacy Development from the Beginning: Infants and Toddlers.” With Dr. Julia Holmes and others. Southern Association on Children Under Six. Atlanta, GA. March 16, 1991.

“Whole Language Classrooms: How Early Childhood Educators Are Making the Transition.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. A 3-hour Pre-conference session, Southern Association on Children Under Six. Atlanta, GA. March 14, 1991.

“A Study of Four-Year-Olds with Low Book Interest Behaviors in Three Classroom Contexts.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Eastern Educational Research Conference, Boston, MA: February 1991. “Certificate of Merit” for outstanding research paper.

“A Comparison of Young Children’s Oral Language Fluency and Vocabulary Diversity in Three Types of Play Centers.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Research Forum, Association of Childhood Educators International. Pittsburgh, PA. April 20, 1990.

“A Library Corner in Every Classroom and a Book in Every Child’s Hand.” Southern Association of Children Under Six. Dallas, TX. March 31, 1990.

“An Analysis of the Oral Language Production of Young Children Participating in Three Types of Play Centers.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. “Award of Merit for Outstanding Educational Research” at the Eastern Educational Research Conference. Clearwater, FL. February 14, 1990.

“Beginning at the Beginning: Literacy Development from Infancy Through Kindergarten.” A 3-hour Pre-conference session, National Association for the Education of Young Children. Atlanta, GA. November 2, 1989.

“Will They Be Ready for the Twenty-First Century?” Keynote address for Tennessee Association on Young Children. Knoxville, TN. October 5, 1989.

“Low Book Interest Behavior of Selected Four-Year-Olds in Preschool Settings.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Research Forum, Association of Childhood Educators International. Indianapolis, IN. April 2, 1989.

“Helping Young Children Develop Language Actively During Center Time.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Association on Children Under Six. Richmond, VA. April 14, 1989.

“Providing Successful Experiences for Beginning Readers with Wordless Books.” Southeastern Regional Conference, International Reading Association. Charleston, WV. November 11, 1988.

“Designing Dramatic Centers That Activate Play in Young Children.” American Association for Child’s Right to Play and International Play Association. Washington, DC. November 2, 1988.

“Understanding Developmentally Appropriate Kindergarten Classrooms.” Keynote presentation, State of Tennessee Meeting for Kindergarten Teachers, Supervisors, and Principals. August 1988.

“A Research Study of the Effects of Television on the Dramatic Play of Young Children.” Association of Childhood Educators International. Salt Lake City, UT. April 1988.

“An Array of Teaching Ideas Using Wordless Picture Books.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Association of Childhood Educators International. Salt Lake City, UT. April 1988.

“Fours and Fives Sense of Story and Language Responses to Wordless Books.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators. Chicago, IL. November 1987.

“Enhancing the Language Experiences of Young Children Using Wordless Picture Books.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Association of Childhood Educators International. Omaha, NB. May 1987.

“Using Wordless Books to Stimulate the Language Development of Young Children.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. Washington, DC. November 1986.

“Kindergarten and Early Reading.” Association of Childhood Educators International. Greensboro, NC. April 1986.

“Exploring the Interests of Gifted Children.” With Dr. Jean Flanigan. Association of Childhood Educators International. Greensboro, NC. April 1986.

“Beyond the Grocery Store and Beauty Shop: New Ideas for Socio-Dramatic Centers.” National Association for the Education of Young Children. New Orleans, LA. November 1985.

“Three States’ Approach to Excellence in Early Childhood Education: Tennessee, Oklahoma, and North Carolina.” National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators. New Orleans, LA. November 1985.

“Encouraging the Young Writer.” With Dr. Shirley Raines. Association of Childhood Educators International. San Antonio, TX. June 1985.

“Turning Television into a Constructive Force for Your Family: How to Conduct a Parent Education Workshop.” With Dr. Jean Flanigan. Association of Childhood Educators International. Vancouver, British Columbia. June 1984.

“Turning Television into a Positive Force in the Lives of Children.” With Dr. Jean Flanigan. International Reading Association. Atlanta, GA. May 1984.

“Language Development and the Television Experience: The Teacher’s Role.” With Dr. Jean Flanigan. National Council for Teachers of English. Seattle, WA. April 1983.

“Understanding the Influences of Television on the Oral Language Development of Young Children.” Southern Association of Children Under Six. Lexington, KY. March 1983.

“The Effects of Storytelling on the Oral Language Development of Young Children.” Southern Association of Children Under Six. Charleston, SC. March 1982.

“Using Children’s Interest in Commercial Television to Expand Their Language Experience.” With Dr. Jean Flanigan. Association for Childhood Educators International. Atlanta, GA. April 1982.

Additional regional presentations to professional and parent groups.

Topics for professional groups include: Infant and Child Development, Learning Centers, Literacy Development.

Frequent speaker for parent groups on topics related to the development of young children. Popular topics include: Taking Control of the Television Monster, Developing Responsible Behavior in Young Children, Creating a Reader during the Early Years, Providing Positive Support for the Young Developing Child.

SERVICE

University Service

- 1995–present University Core Curriculum Committee.
- 1995–present College of Education Long Range Planning Committee.
- 1995-present College of Education Curriculum Committee.
- 1995-present Work on articulation agreements from Community Colleges.
- 1982-present Early Childhood Conference. Co-sponsored by East Tennessee State University and Tennessee Department of Human Resources.
- 1990-93 Faculty Senate representative for the College of Education. Executive Board Member, 1990-1991.
- 1989-93 Committee on the Status of Women.
- 1993-present Served on twenty-one doctoral committees for Ed.D. in Department of Supervision & Administration and over 50 thesis committees.
- 1989-90 Wrote self-study documents for NCATE accreditation review of undergraduate concentration in Early Childhood Development, basic

M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, and advanced M.Ed. and M.A. in Early Childhood Education.

1989 Led team in self-study and writing for accreditation by the National Association of Educators of Young Children for the Early Learning Program and Infant/Toddler Program. The ETSU center was the first in this region to receive accreditation.

State Service

2005- Member of State Steering Committee to oversee the PreK programs in TN

2000 Member of State Committee at Southern Governors' Conference

1995-1996 State Steering Committee for "Families First."

1994-present State Steering Committee for Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance.

1989-92 Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Certification in Early Childhood Education, Tennessee State Board of Education. PreK-3 certification approved by board May 1, 1990.

1986-2000 Consultant for Basic Skills of Kindergarten, Tennessee State Department of Education.

1986-87 Consultant for Project Star, Tennessee State Department of Education, research study to determine class size for grades K-3.

1984-86 State committee to "Improve the Quality of Teacher Education in Tennessee," Early Childhood representative, Tennessee Board of Regents for state.

National Service

1989-present Board Member for the Division of Early Childhood Education, Association for Childhood Education International

2002-present Ethic's Committee for Association for Childhood Educators International.

2000- present Articles and regular column for Life Way on issues for parents of young children. (Parent Publication)

Other Professional Service

1987-97 Governing Board, Tennessee Association of Young Children

1984-present Advisory Board, Walters State Community College, Morristown, TN

Frequent consultant to school systems, hospitals, community colleges, childcare centers, etc. on issues related to the care, development, and education of young children.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators

National Association of Educators of Young Children

Association of Childhood Educators International

Southern Early Childhood Association

Tennessee Association on Young Children

Delta Kappa Gamma

Phi Delta Kappa

Phi Kappa Phi

Personal Interest

Learning Environments, including Learning Centers

Literacy Development

Working with Families of Young Children

Power of Storytelling