

Courtney Beers Dewhirst, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction

August 2016

Specializations: Early Childhood Education and Child Development

Dissertation: "Early Childhood Preservice Teachers' Knowledge of Children's Cognitive Development and Developmentally Appropriate Pedagogical Practices: Understanding the Role of Clinical Experiences"

Committee: Drs. Yash Bhagwanji (Chair), David Bjorklund, Gail Burnaford, John Hardman, and Michelle Vaughan

Mercer University, Atlanta, GA

Master of Arts in Teaching, Early Childhood Education, May 2009

Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor: Education, May 2006

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Cognitive Development and Self-Regulation

High Quality Clinical Practice and Teacher Preparation

Stress and Resilience in ECE

Play in ECE

GRANTS

OU Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program for Students' Success Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.335A (Co-PI, Kwon as PI, \$2,998,016) (Funded)

University of Oklahoma's Faculty Investment Program Proposal: Happy Child Project: Improving Nature-Based Outdoor Play Experiences for Whole Child Development and Well-Being in Urban and Low-Income Communities (Co-Investigator, Kwon as PI, \$15,000) (not funded)

American Institutes for Research Grant for the Play-Based, Trauma-Informed (PBTI) Initiative to Improve Equity in the Early Grades, submitted by Oklahoma City Public Schools, \$4,000,000.00 (not funded)

Caplan Early Childhood Education Grant Proposal: Happy Child Project Improving Outdoor Experiences for Whole Child Development and Well-Being in Urban and Low-Income Communities (Co-Investigator, Kwon as PI, \$73,830, not funded - rejected in 2nd round)

Play-Based Initiatives After a Time of Social Distancing. Submitted to the Spencer Foundation Grant (2020), Co-Principal, \$30,000 (not funded).

AWARDS

The Vice President for Research and Partnerships Annual Award for Excellence in Research Grants (Role: Co-PI); The Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships; University of Oklahoma	2023
The Vice President for Research and Partnerships Award for Excellence in Transdisciplinary, Convergent Research (Role: Key Collaborator); The Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships; University of Oklahoma	2023
Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education Leadership and Citizenship Award	2022
Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum Leadership and Citizenship Award	2022
Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum Junior Faculty Award	2019
Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum Junior Faculty Award	2018
National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Outstanding Dissertation Award	2017
National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators Foundation (NAECTEF) Doctoral Scholarship Recipient (\$1,000)	2016

FELLOWSHIPS

OU Presidential International Travel Fellowship Award (\$1,097)	2023
Toppel Family Early Childhood Doctoral Scholarship (\$24,000)	2015-2016
Toppel Family Early Childhood Doctoral Scholarship (\$24,000)	2014-2015

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 2016-Present
Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education
Department of Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, 2013-2016
Instructor, Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry and
Department of Exceptional Student Education

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, 2012-2014
Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS (note name change from Beers to Dewhirst)

- Dewhirst, C. B., Spivey, E., Jang, C. S., & Grimes, B. (2023).** Early childhood education interns' and cooperating teachers' discussions on trauma-informed practices *Action in Teacher Education*.
- Dewhirst, C. B. (2023).** Exploring the cognitive apprenticeship approach: A case study of an early childhood practicum experience. *Early Child Development and Care*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2023.2187326>
- Dewhirst, C. B., & Casey, E. M. (2023).** Listening to Mothers' Voices: Parent-Child Play Challenges During Social Distancing. *Journal of Early Childhood Research*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1476718X23115307>
- Casey, E., & **Dewhirst, C. (2022).** Play: Important for everyone at every age. *Pathways to Research in Education*.
- Casey, E., **Dewhirst, C. B., Wescoup, S., Durham, S., & Nahar, G. (2022).** Factors Affecting Parent and Child Play Experiences During the COVID-19 Spread and Initial Social Distancing Efforts. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02568543.2022.2027581>
- Dewhirst, C. B., Cascio, C., & Casey, E. M. (2022).** Young children's play during a time of social distancing. *Early Child Development and Care*, 192(13), 2160-2174. doi: 10.1080/03004430.2021.1990907
- Beers, C. (2021).** Case study of a preschool transition: An example of building resilience in times of uncertainty. *Early Years: An International Research Journal*, 41(2-3), 275-290.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09575146.2018.1501554>
- Dewhirst, C. B., & Goldman, J. (2020).** Launching motivation for mindfulness: Introducing mindfulness to early childhood preservice teachers. *Early Child Development and Care*, 190(8), 1299–1312. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2018.1531853>
- Dewhirst, C. B., & Monroe, L. (2019).** DIY child-centered, natural playground. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 47(1), 6-17.
- Beers, C. (2019).** The use of a developmental continuum in early childhood clinical experiences: Building preservice teachers' knowledge of cognitive development. *Early Child Development and Care*, 189(8), 1292-1305.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2017.1374260>
- Beers, C. (2018).** Seven layers of strength in a model early childhood teacher preparation program. *Action in Teacher Education*, 40(1), 3-18.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01626620.2018.1424661>

- Vaughan, M., & **Beers**, C. (2017). Using an exploratory professional development model to introduce iPads in the Early Childhood Education Classroom. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 45(3), 321-331. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-016-0772-3>
- Bjorklund, D. F., & **Beers**, C. (2016). The adaptive value of cognitive immaturity: Applications of evolutionary developmental psychology to early education. In D.C. Geary and D. B. Berch (Eds.), *Evolutionary Perspectives on Child Development and Education* (pp. 3-32). Switzerland: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-29986-0_1
- Vaughan, M., **Beers**, C., & Burnaford, G. (2015). The impact of iPads on teacher educator practice: A collaborative professional development initiative. *International Journal of Technology in Teaching and Learning*, 11(1), 21-34.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Dewhirst, C. B., & Spivey, E. (accepted for June 2023). *ECE Intern and Cooperating Teacher Discussions on Trauma-Informed Practice*. National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, Virtual.
- Lopez, L. D., Kwon, K. A., Jeon, H. J., Dewhirst, C., Kim, S. G., & Jensen, F. (2023, March). *Toddlers' emotion vocalizations during peer conflicts elicit contingent teacher interventions in early childhood settings*. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Zulkifli, A. A., Kwon, K-A., Dewhirst, C., Jensen, F., & Li, H. (2022, November). *Supporting Early Childhood Teachers Working with Children Exposed to Trauma*. Oklahoma Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (OACTE) Fall Conference. Norman, OK.
- Kwon, K.A., Malek-Lasater, A., Dewhirst, C., & Kim, S.G. (2022, June). *Early Childhood Teachers' Needs for Well-Being Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), Virtual.
- Casey, E., Dewhirst, C., Unsicker-Durham, S., & Nahar, G. (2022, April). *Factors Affecting Caregiver and Child Play Experiences During COVID-19 Initial Social Distancing Efforts*. AERA- SIG- Early Education and Child Development, San Diego, CA.
- Dewhirst, C., Casey, E., & Cascio, C. *Parent and Child Play Behaviors During Social Distancing*. (2022, April). Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), St. Louis, MO.
- Dewhirst, C., & Casey, E. (2021, June). *Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Programs as Supports of Parent-Child Play*. National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, Virtual.

Dewhirst, C., & Casey, E. (2021, April). *Play During a Time of Social Distancing*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference, Virtual.

Malek-Lasater, Kyong-Ah, Kwon, Kim, Casey, & Dewhirst, Courtney (2021, April). *Early Childhood Teachers' Voices: Their Well-being and Needs for Support*. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Conference, Virtual.

Dewhirst, C. (2021, February). *Navigating the Terrain of Human-Animal Interaction in Teacher Preparation Programs*. Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Conference, Virtual.

Casey, E., & Dewhirst, C. (2020, November). *Play During Social Distancing: Learning about Parents, Kids, and Play When Stuck at Home*. National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, Virtual.

Dewhirst, C. (2020, November). *Service dogs in the practicum setting: Meeting the Needs of Children and Preservice Teachers*. National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, Virtual.

Dewhirst, C. (2020, July). *Researching a Cognitive Apprenticeship Clinical Model and Empowering Preservice Teachers through High-Quality Practicum Placements*. Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Conference, Virtual.

Dewhirst, C. (2020, June). *Investigating a Cognitive Apprenticeship Approach in an Early Childhood Practicum*. National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, Virtual.

Dewhirst, C. (2020, February). *How to Mindfully Create a Prosocial Classroom*. Presentation at the Southern Early Childhood Association Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Beers, C. (2018, November). *Improving Preservice Teacher Well-Being Through Mindfulness Practices*. Paper presented at the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, Washington, D.C.

Beers, C. (2018, October). *Creating a Natural Outdoor Environment that Supports Purposeful Play*. Presentation at the Early Childhood Conference of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.

Beers, C. (2017, April). *Equal Opportunities for Early Childhood Teachers: Research on High-Quality Teacher Preparation*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Beers, C. (2017, February). *Layers of Strength in a Clinically-Based Teacher Preparation Program*. Paper presented at the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Conference, Orlando, FL.

Beers, C. (2016, November). *Seven Layers of Strength in a Model Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Program*. Roundtable Paper Report. Presented at the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

Beers, C. (2016, February). *Preservice Teachers' Knowledge of Developmentally Appropriate Pedagogical Practices: Understanding the Role of Clinical Experiences*. Research paper presentation at the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Conference, Chicago, IL.

Beers, C. (2016, January). *The Role of Executive Functions in Pretend Play*. Workshop Presentation at the Broward Early Childhood Educators Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Beers, C. (2015, November). *Early Childhood Teacher Educators as Leaders and Advocates for Developmentally Appropriate Schools: Opening the Conversation on the Benefits of Children's Immature Cognition*. Presentation at the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, Orlando, FL.

Beers, C. (2015, July). *Using Well-Constructed Clinical Experiences to Create High Quality Early Childhood Preparation Programs*. Poster presented at the World Organization for Early Childhood Education Conference (OMEPE), Washington, D.C.

Beers, C. (2015, June). *Exploring the Clinical Model: How Do Early Childhood Pre-Service Teachers Learn About Children's Cognitive Development?* Poster presented at the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Beers, C. (2015, March). *Understanding Early Childhood Preservice Teachers' Experiences: How Do They Learn About Children's Cognitive Development?* Poster presented at the International Doctoral Conference, Orlando, FL.

Beers, C. (2014, October). *iPads in the Early Childhood Classroom*. Lecture presentation at the Florida Atlantic University Student Achievement Council Symposium, Boca Raton, FL.

Beers, C. & Vaughan, M. (2014, October). *Using iPads to Engage Early Childhood Educators*. Lecture presentation at the meeting of Broward Early Childhood Educators Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Beers, C. & Bhagwanji, Y. (2014, May). *Building Capacity of Children's Interactions with the Natural World*. Session presentation at Florida Association for Child Care Management, Miami, FL.

Beers, C. (2013, November). *The Importance of Early Childhood Education from an Evolutionary Perspective*. Lecture presentation at Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry Graduate Colloquium, Boca Raton, FL.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Department of Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum

Undergraduate Courses:

EDEC 3333 Social and Emotional Development and Guidance with Young Children

EDEC 3413 Early Childhood Development

EDEC 3541 Field Placement I

EDEC 3573 Diverse Learners

EDUC 4050 Teaching Experience in an Elementary School

EDEC 4513/Level 3 Practicum Preservice Teacher Supervision

EDEC 4123 Curriculum in Early Childhood Education

EDEC 4533 Assessment in Early Childhood Education

Graduate Courses:

EDEC 5970 Diverse Learners

EDEC 6033 Theory and Research in Early Childhood Education

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Department of Exceptional Student Education

Undergraduate Courses:

EEX 3226 Assessment for All Young Children

EEX 3603 Positive Behavior Support in Early Childhood

EEX 3754 Family, School, and Community Partnerships

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Department of Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry

Undergraduate Course:

EEC 4313 Blended Early Childhood Methods: Birth to Age 5

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Palm Beach Day Academy, West Palm Beach, FL

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, 2011-2012

St. Francis Day School, Roswell, GA

First Grade Teacher, 2008-2010

Second Grade Teacher, 2007-2008

Preschool Lead Teacher, 2006-2007

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

College (Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma)

- Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator (Norman Campus, JRCOE), Spring 2018 - Present
- Institute of Child Development Faculty Advisor, Fall 2016 – Present
- Faculty Search Committee, JRCOE, 2021-2022

- Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, JRCOE, 2020-Present
- Outstanding Senior Committee, JRCOE, 2020, 2021, 2022
- Curriculum Committee, JRCOE, 2019-2021
- Technology Committee, JRCOE, 2018-2020
- Academic Misconduct and Appeals Committee, JRCOE, 2017- 2019

Department (Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum)

- Graduate Committee, 2022-Present
- Faculty Search Committees, ILAC, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Awards and Honors Committee, ILAC, 2017- 2019

Professional Field

Editorial

- Editorial Review Board Member, *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 2023-Present

Speaker

- Invited Speaker: *Pedagogy, Practice, and Play* (2021, June 15). Invited by Anderson University's Learning Design & Technology Forum.
- Invited Speaker: Casey, E., & Dewhirst, C. (2021, March 6). *Become a Play Warrior*. Presentation at the OU KEY Conference, Norman, Oklahoma.
- Invited Speaker: *The Benefits of Play for Mental Health and Academic Outcomes* (2020, September 23). Invited by Representative Jacob Rosecrants, How Play-Based Learning Leads to Better Mental Health and Academic Outcomes. Oklahoma State Capitol.
- Invited Speaker: Dewhirst, C. (2019, February 22). *The Power of Pause: Mindfulness Practices for the Classroom*. Presentation at the OU Key Conference, Norman, OK.

Professional Leadership Roles

- Oklahoma Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (OAECTE), President, 2023- Current (Elected)
- Oklahoma Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (OAECTE) Secretary/Treasurer, 2020-2022 (Elected)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA) Program Chair, School Effectiveness and School Improvement SIG (SIG #105), 2021- 2022 (Elected)

Professional Organization Work

- American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference Session Chair, May 2017 & 2022
- Assessment Creator: Collaboration for creation towards a rubric for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) for early childcare providers, Fall 2020
- Oklahoma Play-Based Standards Workgroup, 2019-2021
- Oklahoma Early Learning Guidelines Revision Group Member, 2016 – 2017

Conference Reviewer

- National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education (NAECTE), 2022, 2023
- National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), 2021, 2022
- American Educational Research Association (AERA) Early Education & Child Development Sig, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022
- American Educational Research Association (AERA) Division K, Section 6 Teaching and Teacher Education, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022
- Association of Teacher Educators, 2020
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), 2019 & 2020

Awards Reviewer

- National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education (NAECTE), 2019, 2021, 2022

Journal/Book Reviewer

- Early Child Development and Care, 2022, 2023
- Early Childhood Education Journal, 2022, 2023
- Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Action in Teacher Education, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Journal of Research in Childhood Education, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023
- Psychology Research and Behavior Management, 2022
- Journal of Early Childhood Research, 2021, 2022
- Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy, 2019
- American Journal of Community Psychology, 2018
- Chapter Reviewer, *Advocacy in Education: Research-Based Strategies for Teachers, Administrators, Parents, and the Community*, 2019
- Chapter Reviewer, *Handbook of Research on Field-Based Teacher Education*, 2018

Ancillary

- Early Childhood Undergraduate Writing Group, Co-Organizer, University of Oklahoma, 2016-2018
- Early Childhood Education Institute (ECEI) Advisory Board, 2017
- Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Clinical Fellow, 2016 & 2017
- FAU College of Education Faculty and Student Council Appeal Reviewer, 2016
- Editorial Assistant, *International Journal of Early Childhood Environmental Education*, 2015
- Student Achievement Council at FAU, Peer Mentor Coordinator, August 2012- May 2013