

Sarah E. Dennis, Ph.D. (maiden name: Katsaros) www.sarahedennis.com

Chicago, IL

nameillinois@gmail.com

(773) 930-7714

EDUCATION:

- **Ph.D. New York University** (Sept 2008), Teaching and Learning, GPA 4.0
- **M.A. New York University** (Sept '05), Literacy Education, Dean's List each term, GPA 4.0
- **B.S. New York University** (May 2001), Early Childhood/Elementary Education, Magna Cum Laude, Dean's List each term

AWARDS:

- 2013 Distinguished Education Research Article Award from Association for Childhood Education International for Dennis, S. & O'Connor, E. (Dec 2012). "Reexamining Quality in Early Childhood Education: Exploring the Relationships Between the Work Environment and the Classroom." *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 27(1), 74-92.
- The 2007 Leaska Dissertation Research Award for: "Reexamining Quality in Early Childhood Education: Exploring the Relationship Between the Work Environment and the Classroom"
- Winner of the Summer 2006 Study Abroad Photo Essay Contest (http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/photo_essays/southafrica2)
- 2001 Student Teacher of the Year Award from Kappa Delta Pi

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

New York State Teaching & Literacy Specialist Certificate (Birth-6th grade)

Illinois State Teaching Certificate (Birth-3rd grade)

Program Administration Scale Certified Assessor

CLASS certified (PreK, and Kind.-3rd grade, 6th-12th grade)

CLASS Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI) Instructor

EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty, Loyola University, Jan 2016-May 2016 and Jan 2018-present. Teaching Junior Undergrads: Integrating Content, Cultures, and Communities to Early Childhood Special Education teacher candidates; Language and Literacy for Diverse Students: Teaching and Assessing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students; Using Classroom Data in a Collaborative Environment; Discipline-Specific Literacy for Diverse Students.

Adjunct Faculty, University of Illinois at Chicago, teaching early childhood teachers in an Alternative Licensure Program, Fall 2018-Spring 2020, Chicago, IL.

Consultant/Trainer providing professional development trainings and coaching to early childhood teachers, and adults in other fields on anti-bias/anti-racism/microaggressions and TEAM Reading, including for District 65, YWCA, Chicago Hopes for Kids, and others, Jan 2017-the present.

Consultant/Trainer proving training and distance coaching about anti-bias in early childhood and persona dolls to PreK-2nd grade teachers in Louisville, KY, Fall 2018-Spring 2019.

Assessor for Erikson Institute’s New Schools Project, Jan-Feb 2017 & April-May 2018, & Oct-Nov 2018. Assessing PreK-3rd grade classrooms with the ELLCO.

Trainer for PreK teachers in the Archdiocese of Chicago on Literacy, Writing and Reading, Aug 2018-Aug 2019.

Founder and Co-Leader of Illinois chapter of NAME (National Association for Multicultural Education: Advancing and Advocating for Social Justice and Equity), Summer 2016-Present.

Founder and Co-Leader of Families for Racial Justice Chicago group, August 2016-Present.

Expert Trainer for Erikson Institute’s Professional Development “Effective Literacy Strategies in Early Childhood” Chicago, IL. February and June 2017, October 2018.

Consultant for The Early Childhood Center of Professional Development Coaching Project, Spring 2016-Spring 2017, Providing Professional Development and Coaching to Coaches of PreK teachers around the state of Illinois.

Trainer-in-Training with the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond to co-facilitate Undoing Racism Trainings. March 2017-December 2017.

Consultant for KAPLAN Early Learning Company, Feb 2016-Aug 2017. Part of a National team of trainers for the new Connect4Learning Curriculum.

Assessor for Fractal Educational Systems, Jan-Feb 2017, Chicago, IL. Observing in PreK classrooms using the CLASS assessment.

Co-organizer of Helping Professionals Dismantling Oppression group for teachers, social workers, etc. Fall 2016-Spring 2017.

Consultant for SchoolRise, Nov 2015-April 2016. Collaborated with School Rise Staff, analyzed data, wrote reports for schools.

Editor for writing by John Taylor Gatto, for Oxford Scholars Press, Nov 2015-Dec 2015.

Learning Cultures Program Manager & Achievement Coach at the Urban Assembly, August 2013-present. Managing Learning Cultures implementation; providing coaching and professional development to coaches and teachers to improve quality of instruction (6th-12th grades at 3 schools).

Coach with the Ounce of Prevention Fund i3 grant, April 2012-July 2013. Providing professional development training and coaching to preschool teachers and administrators, Chicago, IL.

Consultant to Audubon Elementary School, Jan 2013-June 2013, providing coaching and professional development, as well as support for unit planning for PreK-3rd grade teachers.

Site Facilitator with New Schools Project at Erikson Institute. Oct 2009-Dec 2012. Provided weekly coaching and group professional development to PreK-3rd grade teachers at Audubon Elementary school regarding literacy and social studies instruction, as well as curriculum alignment.

Mentor Coach for Heartland Head Start (Bloomington, Illinois) Early Learning Mentor Coach grant, 7/10-5/12 (\$225,000 for 17 months, funded by the Office of Head Start). Helped develop grant, & collaborated with two other mentor coaches to provide weekly coaching to protégé coaches.

Consultant for Chicago Public Schools. Jan 2009-June 2013. Provided professional development trainings to teachers, and early childhood coaches. Trained Professional Development Staff, wrote training vignettes. Helped develop 2009 pre and full applications for Early Reading First Competition (awarded over \$4 million).

Adjunct Faculty at Roosevelt University, Spring 2011 and Fall 2011 semesters, teaching Literacy in Early Childhood methods course (ECHD 337/347) to undergraduate and graduate students, Chicago & Schaumburg campuses

Ad Hoc Reviewer, NHSA (National Head Start Association): A Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field, Feb 2011, Peer reviewed journal article

Consultant for Hull House Association. June-July 2009. Provided training for Infant/Toddler staff.

Expert Peer Reviewer – Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Competition
U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC. March-April 2009

Consultant with Early Reading First project at Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL, Sept 2008-March 2009. Supervising and organizing coders of transcripts, as well coding transcripts; collaborated with Dr. Molly Collins on an article published by the National Head Start Association Journal.

Assessor with Early Reading First project at Hull House, Chicago, IL, Sept 2008 – March 2009. Assessing preschool children (3-4 year olds) on Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, PALS Pre-K (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening for Preschool) at various preschools

Project Coordinator and Literacy Coach, NY, NY, February 2003 to August 2008
Early Reading First/Early Childhood Centers of Excellence Project,
Child and Family Policy Center, New York University
Coached early childhood teachers on classroom strategies to support early literacy and parent involvement activities, developed training resources, developed content rich early literacy curricula, and coordinated project's training and research activities.

Consultant for Cool Culture, NY, NY Summer 2007 – lead 9 workshops for providers; developed and wrote a series of activities for providers to lead parent workshops at their sites with parents

Supervisor of NYU Masters Students during Student Teaching Field Work at Head Start programs in Bronx, NY, Fall 2007 and in Brooklyn, NY, Fall 2006

Adjunct Professor, New York University, Department of Teaching and Learning. Language and Reading Instruction for Young Children I (E27.1176 - 'Fall 05) and II (E27.1177 - Spring '06)

Trainer/Assessor, August 2004 to August 2006, NYU. Administered social-emotional classroom assessments, trained teachers on improving supports for social emotional development, and developed resources to accompany social-emotional classroom assessment instrument.

Expert Peer Reviewer of Federal Early Reading First Pre- and Full-Proposals, Spring 2004

Expert Peer Reviewer of Federal Early Childhood Professional Development Grants, Spring 2005

Project Coordinator, and Literacy Trainer/Assessor, September 2001 to February 2003
Best Practices in Early Literacy Project, Child & Family Policy Center, New York University
Trained early childhood professionals in group meetings, conducted city-wide workshops, coordinated project, and developed training resources

Taught PreK/K, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades in New York City public schools, NY, NY 1998-2001.

PRESENTATIONS:

Dennis, S. & Hawley, M. "Let's Organize for Equity in Early Childhood Education." The National Association for Multicultural Education: Advancing and Advocating for Social Justice and Equity National Conference, Memphis, TN, Nov 2018.

Dennis, S. & Bhimani, M. "Anti-Racism in the Workplace: Tools, Processes, and Questions to Ask. WomenBelong Seeds for Growth webinar (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=27&v=G5I6mANM0d4), Nov 2018.

Dennis, S & Wallace, C. "Navigating Conversations about Race with Children." Lincolnwood Elementary, Evanston, IL, October 2018.

Dennis, S. "How Young Children Learn to Read." Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL, Oct 2018.

Dennis, S. "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" Deerfield Public Library, Deerfield, IL, Oct 2018.

Dennis, S. "Racial Equity through Anti-Bias Pedagogy." CPS Face & Embrace Race Conference, Chicago, Aug 2018.

Dennis, S. "Anti-Racist Pedagogy and Our OWN Racial Identity Development." Early Childhood Conference at Concordia University, River Forest, IL, August 2018.

Dennis, S. "Anti-Bias with Young Children." CPS Ready...Set...Teach Conference, Chicago, Aug 2018.

Dennis, S. & Wallace, C. "Navigating Conversations on Race with Children." WeWill, Chicago, July 2018.

Dennis, S. "Anti-Racist Pedagogy and OUR OWN Racial Identity Development" and "Children's Literature that Supports a Growth Mindset AND Young Children's Language Development." Symposium of the Collaboration for Early Childhood, Oak Park, IL, Feb 2018.

Heineman, E. & Dennis, S. "Microaggressions: Intent vs. Impact." YWCA, Evanston, IL, Dec 2017.

Dennis, S., Wallace, C., Soto, C., Bruce, F., Campos, M., & Gregory, P. "Introduction to Equity in Early Childhood." Joseph E. Hill Early Childhood Center, Evanston, IL, Dec 2017.

Dennis, S., Johnson, J., Holmes, A., Eigler, C., Almaraz, M., & Hughes, M. "Teach-In: CPS Curriculum on Police Torture and Reparations." Chicago Public Library, Nov 2017.

Dennis, S. "TEAM Reading." Chicago Hopes for Kids, Chicago, IL, Nov 2017.

Dennis, S. "NAME Illinois: the Illinois state chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education: Advancing and Advocating for Social Justice and Equity." Illinois Coalition of Educational Equity Leaders. Elgin, IL, Nov 2017.

Dennis, S. "Re-envisioning Anti-Bias Work in Early Childhood in 2017." NAME National Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, Nov 2017.

Dennis, S. "Anti-Racist Pedagogy" and "10 Strategies that Work for Supporting Young Children's Language Development" at the Early Childhood Conference at Concordia University, River Forest, IL, Aug 2017.

Dennis, S. "That's Not Fair!: Activism with Young Children." ILAEYC Teachers. Chicago, IL, April 2017.

Dennis, S. "Anti-Racist Pedagogy and OUR OWN Racial Identity Development." Teachers for Social Justice Curriculum Fair teachers, and ILAEYC Teachers. Chicago, IL, Feb & March 2017.

Dennis, S. & Fritch, P. Workshop for Harm Reduction Roundtable of Heartland Alliance/Heartland Center for Systems Change, Chicago, IL, Feb 2017.

Dennis, S., Keleher, T., Gossett, N., Thompson, N., Cannon, P. Panel on Racism and Anti-Racism White Organizing for the Quentin D. Young Equity Project, Feb 2017, Chicago, IL.

Dennis, S. “10 Strategies that Work: Supporting Young Children’s Language Development.” Opening Minds, Chicago, IL, Jan 2017, and Symposium of the Collaboration for Early Childhood, Oak Park, IL, Feb 2017.

Dennis, S. “Anti-Racist Pedagogy in Early Childhood Education.” Teachers for Social Justice Curriculum Fair, Nov 2016.

Dennis, S. “5 R’s: Revolutionary Reading Routine = Resounding Results.” Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago, IL, January 2015.

Dennis, S. “Supporting In-Service Teachers to be Life-Long Learners: Professional Development and Coaching that Works.” Dialogue of Two Cities: NYC and Reggio Emilia – Exploring Possibilities for Quality Early Childhood Education for All Children. NY, NY, November 2014.

Dennis, S. “5 R’s: Revolutionary Reading Routine = Resounding Results.” Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL, October 2014.

Dennis, S., Maxwell, C., and Mitra, S. “Integrating Rigor AND Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Writing Instruction.” Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL, March 2013.

Dennis, S. “Boosting Children’s Writing (Quantity and Quality) in Your Classroom!” Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL, March 2013.

Dennis, S. “Boosting Children’s Writing (Quantity and Quality) in Your Classroom!” Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago, IL, January 2013.

Dennis, S. & Hamburg, L. “10 Effective Strategies for Classroom Quality Improvement: Research Based Coaching That Works.” National Association for the Education of Young Children’s 21st National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development. Indianapolis, IN, June 2012.

Maxwell, C., Dennis, S., Mitra, S. “High Quality PreK-3rd in the Age of “Rigor”: Preparing Educators to Implement and Defend Practices that are Developmentally Responsive and Intellectually Rich.” National Association for the Education of Young Children’s 21st National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development. Indianapolis, IN, June 2012.

Dennis, S. “How Children REALLY Learn to Read: Practical Tips for Preschool Teachers.” Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children Opening Minds, Chicago, Jan 2012. & Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL, March 2012.

Dennis, S., & Hamburg, L. “Goodbye Drive Through Training: Coaching for Reflection in the 21st Century.” Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children Opening Minds, Chicago, Jan 2012 & NAEYC Professional Development Institute, Indianapolis, June 2012.

Dennis, S. "10 Strategies that Work for Supporting Young Children's Language Development." Presentation at Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children's Conference. Chicago, January 2011 & Illinois Reading Council Conference, Springfield, IL, March 2011.

Dennis, S. "Looking at Quality in Early Childhood Education through an Ecological Lens." Paper presentation as part of Roundtable Session: New Perspectives on Early Childhood Education: Part I. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference. Denver, CO, May 2010.

Dennis, S. "South African Preschool Teachers Describe their Experiences with their Principals: Implications for Examining Classroom Quality." Paper presentation as part of Roundtable Session: Caribbean and African Studies in Education- Roundtable Session II. AERA. Denver, CO, May 2010.

Collins, M. & Dennis, S. "Targeting Oral Language Development in Preschoolers At Risk for Reading Difficulties." Paper presentation as part of symposium: Supporting Struggling Learners in Preschool: Emerging Approaches and Opportunities. American Educational Research Association Conference. Denver, CO, May 2010.

Dennis, S. "10 Strategies that Work for Supporting Young Children's Language Development." Presentation at Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children's Conference. Chicago, January 2010.

Dennis, S. "Reexamining Quality: Exploring the Relationship Between the Early Childhood Work Environment and the Classroom." Poster at Head Start's 9th National Research Conference. Washington, DC, June 2008.

Smith, S. & Dennis, S. "Professional Development to Improve Literacy Instruction: Lessons from Early Reading First." Poster Symposium at Head Start's 9th National Research Conference. Washington, DC, June 2008.

Dennis, S. "Calling all Directors: Assessing and Improving Your Program." Presentation at New York City's 13th Annual Interagency Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, Jan 2008.

Dennis, S., & Smith, S. "Coaching Methods that help teachers use intentional supports for children's language and social-emotional development." Presentation at NAEYC's 16th National Institute for Professional Development. Pittsburgh, PA, June 2007.

Smith, S., Dennis, S., Vukelich, C., Reed, S., Chevalier, S. "Coaching: Providing Teachers with Intentional Supports to Enhance their Teaching and Children's Learning." Presentation at the Early Reading First 2006 Grantees Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2007.

Dennis, S. & Smith, S. "Putting it all together: Finding ways to include both literacy *and* social-emotional supports." Presentation at New York City's 12th Annual Interagency Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, January 2007.

Smith, S. Beaufort, W., & Dennis, S. "An Intensive, Integrated Parent Involvement Model." Poster Presentation at Head Start's 8th National Research Conference. Washington, D.C., June 2006.

Dennis, S. "Using Information from Child Assessment/Monitoring Tools to Individualize Supports for Children's Learning." Presentation at 11th Annual Interagency Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, Brooklyn, NY, January 2006.

Dennis, S., & Smith, S. "Tools for Improving Classroom Supports for Preschoolers' Language Development." Presentation at the Early Reading First 2005 Grantees Meeting, Miami, FL, Oct '05.

Smith, S., Dennis, S., Davidson, S., & Beaufort, W. "Tools and Strategies for Improving Classroom Supports for Preschoolers' Social Emotional Development." Presentation at 10th Annual Interagency Early Childhood Professional Development Institute. Brooklyn, NY, January 2005.

Dennis, S., & Smith, S. "Helping Teachers Develop a Content-Rich Theme-Based Curriculum." Poster Session at Early Reading First 2004 Grantees Meeting. Phoenix, AZ, Oct 2004.

Smith, S., & Dennis, S. "Tools and Strategies for Helping Teachers Create High Quality Classrooms and Individualized Supports for Children's Learning." Presentation at the Early Reading First 2004 Grantees Meeting. AZ, Oct 2004.

Smith, S., Katsaros, S., Beaufort, W. "A New Instrument for Monitoring Preschoolers' Literacy Growth and Planning Individualized Supports." Poster Presentation at Head Start's National Research Conference. Washington, D.C., June 2004.

Smith, S., Katsaros, S. & Davidson, S. "A New Instrument for Assessing Early Childhood Classrooms' Supports for Young Children's Emergent Literacy." Poster Presentation at the National Head Start Research Conference, Washington D.C., June 2002.

Katsaros, S. & Davidson, S. "Best Practices in Early Literacy: Strategies for Helping Teachers Enhance Young Children's Language Development to Support Early Literacy Development." NYC Administration for Children's Services Seventh Annual Child Care Staff Development Conference. Bronx, NY, June 2002.

Katsaros, S., & Davidson, S. "Strategies for Helping Teachers Enhance Young Children's Language Development to Support Early Literacy." 4th Annual National Institute for Early Education Research Conference, Princeton, N.J., June 2002.

Clark, C., Rust, F., Ely, M., Bullmaster, M., Callahan, M., Katsaros, S., Spinello, A., & Lauritzen, L. "Developing Habits of Inquiry in Preservice Teacher Education." 23rd Annual Ethnography in Education Research Forum. Philadelphia, PA, March 2002.

Katsaros, S., Davidson, S., McEvoy, E., & Smith, S. "Strategies for Helping Teachers Enhance Young Children's Language Development to Support Early Literacy." 7th Annual Interagency Early Childhood Conference, NY, NY, Jan 2002.

SELECTION of TRAININGS

Dennis, S. "How Young Children *REALLY* Learn to Read: Effective Literacy Strategies in Early Childhood." Erikson Institute Continuing Education course, Chicago, IL, Feb 2017.

Dennis, S. "Working with Families to Support Young Children's Social Emotional and Literacy Development." Oct 2016, KidsWork, Chicago, IL.

Dennis, S. "Planning, managing, grouping, facilitating and assessing small group activities." A series of 5 trainings for Preschool for All teachers, Chicago, IL, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years.

Dennis, S. "10 Strategies that Work to support young children's language & literacy development." Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL, October 2010.

Dennis, S. Eight Series' of Four Parent Workshops on Supporting Young Children's Early Literacy Development. S. Dennis. Parent Involvement Component of NYU ERF. Children's Aid Society, Bronx, NY & Audrey Johnson Day Care Center, Brooklyn, NY, Fall 2003-Spring 2007.

Katsaros, S., & Davidson, S. "Supports for Early Literacy Assessment (SELA)" Training for National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) researchers. New Brunswick, NJ, Aug '03 & Workshop at Bank Street College of Education. New York, NY, April 2003. & Workshop for state-wide Staff Developers at the New Jersey Department of Education. Trenton, NJ, July 2002.

PUBLICATIONS:

Dennis, S. & O'Connor, E. (December 2012). "Reexamining Quality in Early Childhood Education: Exploring the Relationships Between the Work Environment and the Classroom." *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 27(1), 74-92.

Smith, S., Murphy, D., Dennis, S., Davidson, S., & Light, R. (July 2009). "Providing extra supports for language and literacy development to struggling learners in preschool." *NHSA DIALOG: A Research to Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field*, 12 (3). 210-226.

Collins, M., & Dennis, S. (July 2009). "Targeting Oral Language Development in Preschoolers: Language Focus Groups as a Model for Children At Risk of Later Reading Difficulties." *NHSA DIALOG: A Research to Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field*, 12 (3). 245-256

CURRICULUM & TRAINING MANUALS:

Dennis, S., & Smith, S. (2008). *Discovering Paths to Reading: An Early Literacy Curriculum*. NYU's Child and Family Policy Center, self-published.

Dennis, S. & Smith, S. (2007). *Preschool Teachers' Toolkit: Resources to Support Quality Improvement*. NYU's Child and Family Policy Center, self-published.

Smith, S., Davidson, S., Weisenfeld, G., & Dennis, S. (2005). *Supports for Early Literacy Assessment*. NYU's Child and Family Policy Center, self-published.

Smith, S., Keenan, A., Katsaros, S. (2002). *The Early Literacy Activity Series for Parents and Children: A Resource for Early Childhood Teachers*. NYU's Child and Family Policy Center, self-published.