



The Work Sampling System[®] Content Experts

Personal and Social Development

Dr. Ross Thompson — Professor at University of California, Davis. Thompson's work focuses on early personality and socioemotional development in the context of close relationships, an interest that contributes to the cross-disciplinary field of developmental relational science.

Language and Literacy

Dr. Lynne Vernon-Feagans — is a William C. Friday Distinguished Professor of Early Childhood, Intervention and Literacy and Professor of Psychology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Over the last 30 years, Lynne Vernon-Feagans has focused her interest on children at risk – especially African-American children who live in poverty. Presently, Vernon-Feagans is principal investigator of a 10 year NICHD multi-site, multi-disciplinary, birth-cohort study of a representative sample of children born in each of three poor, rural Pennsylvania and North Carolina counties. Additionally, Vernon-Feagans serves as co-principal investigator of the National Research Center on Rural Education Support funded by the Institute of Education Sciences. With colleagues, she developed a series of randomized clinical trials to test the effectiveness of her Targeted Reading Intervention, a web based consultation (Tier II intervention) for classroom teachers. Results suggested significant reading gains for children in limited income rural kindergarten and first-grade classrooms. Her recent articles include “An Eco-cultural Perspective of Early Literacy: Avoiding the Perils of School for Non-mainstream Children,” co-authored with Darlene Head and Kirsten Kainz, also of UNC-Chapel Hill.

Sandy Putnam-Franklin — spent 18 years as an Education Specialist and Interagency Coordinator at the Massachusetts Department of Education, Early Learning Services, and the new Department of Early Education and Care. She also was an instructor and supervisor of student teachers in elementary and early childhood education at Curry College for 10 years. For 15 years she served as Director/teacher of a private preschool program.



Mathematical Thinking

Dr. Juanita Copley — Professor Emerita at University of Houston. Has written and edited five books about early childhood mathematics, four that were co-published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

Scientific Thinking

Cynthia Hoisington — is the senior curriculum/instructional design associate for Education Development Center (EDC) as well as the science advisor for the Emmy-winning educational television series *Curious George*, for which she received recognition from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She has also developed online science materials for *Peep and the Big Wide World* and *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot about That!* At EDC, she focuses on instructing and mentoring preschool teachers in Teacher Quality Science projects, and she has contributed to the development of inquiry-based science curricula and mentoring protocols as well as to teacher, classroom, and child science assessments. Hoisington is the author of “Picturing What’s Possible—Portraits of Science Inquiry in Early Childhood Classrooms” and coauthor of “The Science and Mathematics of Building Structures,” “A Walk in the Woods: A Partnership with an Arboretum Gets Preschoolers Outside and into Science,” and “The Importance of Executive Function in Early Science Education.” Hoisington received a BS in biology from the University of Massachusetts and an MEd from Bridgewater State College.

Dr. Djanna Hill — Associate Professor of science and urban education in the College of Education at William Paterson University. She received her EdD from Teachers College, Columbia University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in educational foundations, general methods, and elementary and secondary science methods.

Social Studies

Dr. Gayle Mindes — Professor of Education and Program Leader for Early Childhood Education at DePaul University in Chicago. She teaches in the pre-service early childhood and elementary education programs there. Mindes, a life-long urban educator writes and speaks on the topics of assessment, social studies, and kindergarten.



The Arts

Sarah Sivright — holds a Studio Art BA from Carleton College and an MA in Child Development from the Erikson Institute in Chicago. She has worked for over 20 years as an early childhood and art educator, as well as a school director.

Physical Development

Dr. Jennifer Rosinia — teaches physical growth and development in Erikson's master's degree programs. She has more than 25 years of experience in pediatric occupational therapy. Her expertise is in neuroscience with a particular interest in sensory processing, the role of emotions, and the impact of relationships on the developing child. She also is a consultant and president of Kid Links Unlimited, Inc.

Other Content Experts

English Language Learners (ELL)

Dr. Teresa Dalle — Dr. Dalle is a professor at University of Memphis and teaches and researches in the area of English as a Second Language, second language pedagogy, and classroom-based language acquisition. She has presented at regional, national, and international conferences and consults with local and state educational agencies on issues concerning English language learners. Her publications focus on linguistics, English language teaching, and classroom practices. She is actively involved in several professional organizations including TESOL, Tennessee TESOL, and the Shelby-Memphis Council of Teachers of English.

Mildred Aponte — is a dual language early childhood teacher at Inter-American Magnet School in Chicago. Aponte has a degree in early childhood, is ESL certified and has 20 plus years teaching dual language learners in an urban preschool setting.



Technology

Dr. Warren Buckleitner — holds degrees in elementary education from Central Michigan University, an MA in early childhood education (Pacific Oaks College) and a doctorate in educational psychology from Michigan State University. He founded the Dust or Magic Institute on the Design of Children’s Interactive Media and the Mediatech Foundation. He is a former preschool, elementary and college teacher who has provided testimony to the FTC and the US Congress. In 2003, he started contributing to the New York Times and covers kid’s technology for Gadgetwise blog. He also contributes to Scholastic Parent & Child, Parents and KidScreen, and he is the founding editor of Children’s Technology Review.

Special Education

Dr. Rhonda Vander Laan Kraai — is Assistant Professor of Special Education at Eastern Michigan University. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor of Special Education and taught at Marion Community Schools, Timothy Johnson Academy, SAU #38, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Baker University, Wabash Hospital, and Ball State University.

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