

Jeffrey Leffler
19 Oakview
Purvis, MS 39475
601-310-7302
Jeffrey.Leffler@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

- 2017** **Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum & Instruction**
 Minor: Community College Leadership
 Mississippi State University
 Mississippi State, Mississippi
- 2010** **Educational Specialist in Elementary Education**
 Mississippi State University
 Meridian, Mississippi
- 2001** **Master of Science in Early Intervention**
 University of Southern Mississippi
 Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 2000** **Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Studies**
 University of Southern Mississippi
 Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- 1998** **Associate of Liberal Arts**
 Jones County Junior College
 Ellisville, Mississippi

EXPERIENCE:

- 2016 to present** **Assistant Professor of Elementary Education**
 Division of Education
 Mississippi State University-Meridian
 My teaching responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate level courses, supervising students during field placements, and advising undergraduate and graduate students. Other responsibilities include pursuing an active program of research, publication, and service as well as collaborating with faculty in the division to achieve common goals.
- 2012 to 2016** **Executive Director, Center for Child Development**
 Visiting Assistant Professor, Child & Family Studies
 University of Southern Mississippi
 I served as executive director for the Center for Child Development and

as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies. My responsibilities included teaching two child development courses each semester, leadership for the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast Centers, securing and managing externally funded projects, and contributing to the research mission of programs in the Department of Child and Family Studies.

**2009 to
2012**

**Project Coordinator
Early Childhood Institute
Mississippi State University**

I coordinated statewide early childhood initiatives including regional training conferences for early childhood professionals, a quality enhancement program providing technical assistance to child care centers, and early childhood professional development programs. My responsibilities included staff training and supervision, program development, research, and delivery of direct services.

**2010 to
2011**

**Adjunct Instructor
Mississippi State University-Meridian**

I taught courses including RDG 3113 (Early Literacy I), RDG 3123 (Early Literacy II), EDE 3123 (Early Childhood Education) and EDE 3343 (Teaching Adolescent Literature) and team-taught the Elementary Math Block for the Division of Education at the Meridian campus.

**2001 to
2011**

**Adjunct Instructor
University of Southern Mississippi**

I taught classes in the Department of Child and Family Studies including CD 350 (Child Development), CD 351 (Advanced Child Development), CD 352 (Behavior and Guidance), CD 452 (Methods and Materials), CD 453 (Creative Activities), and CD 455 (Student Teaching Practicum). I also supervised student teachers in Special Education.

**2008 to
2009**

**Classroom Environment Evaluator/Monitor
Early Childhood Institute
Mississippi State University**

I evaluated and monitored child care centers in the southern half of Mississippi participating in the *Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System*.

**2004 to
2008**

**Elementary Teacher and Principal
School of Excellence**

I served as a fifth and sixth grade language arts and social studies teacher and principal of the private elementary school.

**1997 to
2008**

**Children's Pastor
River of Life Church**

My responsibilities included leading all aspects of the church's ministry to children from birth to junior high including outreach ministries and the founding of an early education program in 2000 of which I served as a preschool teacher and administrator.

**2000 to
2002 &
2006 to 2008**

**Technical Assistant/Evaluator
Mississippi State University**

I served as a part-time consultant for the Early Childhood Institute at MSU providing evaluation and technical assistance to improve the quality of Mississippi's child care centers.

**2004 to
2007**

**CDA Trainer
University of Southern Mississippi**

I participated in a program offered through the Child and Family Studies Department and the Mississippi Department of Human Services to provide training for early childhood teachers seeking the Child Development Associate credential from The Council for Professional Recognition.

2004

**Adjunct Instructor
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College**

I taught the child care administration course for one semester.

**2000 to
2004**

**R.E.A.L. Learning Specialist
Group Publishing, Inc.**

I provided training for churches using Group's children's ministry curricular resources including *Hands On Bible*, *Faithweaver*, and Group VBS in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

CREDENTIALS:

**2011 to
2019**

**Class AAA Teacher's License
Special Education Birth-Kindergarten
State of Mississippi**

**2016 to
2017**

**Class A Teacher's License
Jr. High Social Studies
Mississippi Association of Independent Schools**

2001

**Ordination for Gospel Ministry
River of Life Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

2017 to

Professional Development Commission Chair

present	Southern Early Childhood Association I serve as chair of a commission that guides the leadership development initiatives of the Southern Early Childhood Association.
2016 to present	Advisory Council Mississippi Early Childhood Association I serve in an advisory capacity for the president for the association.
2016 to present	Research Agenda Advisory Committee Mississippi Department of Education I serve on a committee that serves in an advisory role to assist with the research efforts of the agency.
2014 to present	Member-at-Large Southern Early Childhood Association Board of Directors I serve as member-at-large. In this position I am responsible for representing the diverse early educators of the South.
2015 to 2017	Leadership Commission Chair Southern Early Childhood Association I serve as chair of a commission that guides the leadership development initiatives of the Southern Early Childhood Association.
2013 to 2014	Immediate Past President and Interim Executive Director Mississippi Early Childhood Association I serve as the immediate past president and interim executive director of the association. In this position I am responsible for assisting the president in implementing all programs of the association.
2014	Early Childhood Stakeholder Meeting Mississippi Department of Education I represented USM and MsECA on a panel of early childhood stakeholders giving input on MDE's planned preschool expansion grant application with the US Department of Education.
2014	Bridging the Gap: School Readiness by 5 Panelist I participated in a roundtable discussion and as a panelist for a community conversation hosted by the City of Hattiesburg, the National League of Cities and the U.S. Department of Education.
2014	Textbook Reviewer Pearson Education, Inc. I reviewed a textbook entitled <i>Creating Environments for Learning: Birth to Age Eight (2nd Ed.)</i> by Julie Bullard.

- 2012 to 2014** **Quality Rating and Improvement System Revision Group**
I served on a group for the Mississippi Department of Human Services to make recommendations for revisions to Mississippi's Quality Rating and Improvement System for child care programs.
- 2003 to 2014** **Executive Director**
Zoe Kids Ministries
I served as the volunteer executive director of this ministry to children and families. The organization provided ministry events for families, resource materials, children's ministry training and an early education program called Faith Roots Preschool.
- 2012 to 2013** **President**
Mississippi Early Childhood Association
I served as the president of the association. In this position I was responsible for implementing all programs of the association.
- 2011 to 2013** **Editorial Committee**
Southern Early Childhood Association
I served on the committee that provides direction for the association's publications including the peer-reviewed professional journal, *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.
- 2012 to 2013** **Early Learning Guidelines Revision Task Force**
I served on a task force for the Mississippi Department of Education to revise current Early Learning Guidelines and write Early Learning Standards in the area of creative expression.
- 2002 & 2008 to 2012** **Executive Board Member**
Mississippi Early Childhood Association
I have served as president-elect, 1st vice president, and child care licensure chair. I also assisted in the planning and implementation of regional education conferences.
- 2012** **Early Childhood Focus Group: Pre-Kindergarten Legislative Funding Request**
I served on a focus group for the Mississippi Department of Education to assist in the design of a request for proposals for a grant programs for school districts in Mississippi to implement pre-kindergarten programs.
- 2011** **Race to the Top Professional Development Committee**
I served on this committee making recommendations to improve the State's early childhood professional development system as part of the Race to the Top grant application.
- 2010 to** **Conference Chair**

2011 **Mississippi Early Childhood Association**
I served the association by leading the development and implementation of the Imagine conference, the association's annual conference.

2008 to 2010 **Conference Program Chair**
Mississippi Early Childhood Association
I served the association by developing the program for the association's annual conference.

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES:

2016 to present MSU College of Education
Office of Clinical/Field-Based Instruction, Licensure, and Outreach (OCFBI) Advisory Committee

2012 to 2016 USM Department of Child and Family Studies
Child Development Emphasis Workgroup

2013 to 2014 USM College of Education and Psychology
College Recruitment, Retention and Public Relations Committee

2012 to 2013 USM Department of Child and Family Studies
Search Committee for assistant professor

CURRENT RESEARCH:

School Readiness Perceptions of Early Childhood Stakeholders in Mississippi.

MSU IRB Number: 16-090

Approval Period: 3/30/16-12/31/18

An investigation of the perceptions of parents and teachers in Mississippi about the impact of standards on preschool experiences and their understandings about experiences that promote kindergarten readiness.

GRANTS SUBMITTED:

None submitted at this time

GRANTS FUNDED:

Graduate Recruitment Assistance Grant (2016). Mississippi State University. Submitted by: Dr. Kimberly R. Hall, Counselor Education; Dr. Lindon Ratliff, Secondary Education; Dr. Mark Fincher, Community College Education; Jeffrey Leffler, Elementary Education. \$10,000.

Playground Enhancement at the Center for Child Development (2015). The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation. Principal Investigator. \$10,000.

Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates through the Provision of Child Care Services to Low-Income University Students (2015). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$288,840.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2015). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$45,000.

Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates through the Provision of Child Care Services to Low-Income University Students (2014). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$288,840.

EYN Early Childhood Conferences (2014). Mississippi Department of Human Services. Principal Investigator. \$78,118.

EYN TTA Credential (2014). Mississippi Department of Human Services. Principal Investigator. \$52,874.

Early Intervention for First Steps at the Center for Child Development (2014). Mississippi State Department of Health, First Steps Early Intervention. Principal Investigator. \$10,000.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2014). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$38,000.

Early Years Network Partnership (2014). Mississippi Department of Human Services. Principal Investigator. \$108,091.

Early Intervention for First Steps at the Center for Child Development (2013). Mississippi State Department of Health, First Steps Early Intervention. Principal Investigator. \$17,000.

Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates through the Provision of Child Care Services to Low-Income University Students (2013). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$288,840.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2013). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$47,000.

Early Childhood Conferences (2013). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Co-Principal Investigator with Gail Lindsey of Mississippi State University. \$217,375 (\$33,845 subcontracted to the University of Southern Mississippi).

Proposal Development Grant (2013). University of Southern Mississippi. Co-Investigator with Angel Herring. \$2,000.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2012). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$28,500.

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (2012). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$155,720.

Early Childhood Conferences (2012). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Co-Principal Investigator with Lynn Darling of Mississippi State University. \$205,746 (\$25,202 subcontract to the University of Southern Mississippi).

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (2011). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$155,740.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2011). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$38,000.

Early Childhood Conferences (2011). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Principal Investigator. \$175,304.

Bridges to Quality: The Mississippi Early Childhood Professional Development Project (2010). United States Department of Education. Co-Investigator with Elizabeth F. Shores (proposal written by Elizabeth F. Shores). \$750,000.

CDA as a First Step (2010). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Co-Investigator with Monnie Vail. \$150,000.

CDA as a First Step (2009). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Office of Children and Youth. Co-Investigator with Monnie Vail. \$250,000.

Sanctuary Construction (2005). Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. Principal Investigator. \$40,000.

GRANTS NOT FUNDED:

Planning Our Path to Success (2015). United States Department of Health and Human Services. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring and Amanda Williams. \$4,903,687.

Jump Start (2015). United Way of South Mississippi. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$100,000.

Center Based Training and Technical Assistance (2013). United Way of South Mississippi. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$144,002.

Professional Development Programs (2012). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. \$892,569.

On-Site Technical Assistance Programs (2012). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. \$446,882.

Professional Development Programs (2011). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. \$890,000.

Chapel Construction (2005). Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. \$200,000.

REFEREED PUBLICATION:

Zhbanova, K., Leffler, J. & Rule, A. C. (Manuscript in Progress). Children's pictures made with chosen, arranged images reveal attitudes toward unpopular animals.

Young, K. C., & Leffler, J. (Manuscript in Progress). Will personal engagement in play affect the perceived stress scores of early educators?.

Leffler, J., & Zhbanova, K. (Manuscript in Progress). Impact of Common Core State Standards on kindergarten teachers' instructional practices.

Leffler, J., & Zhbanova, K. (Manuscript in Progress). School readiness perceptions of parents, pre-kindergarten teachers, and kindergarten teachers.

Leffler, J., & Shea, D. (Manuscript in Progress). Ecological Sustainability Through Teaching Green in Pre-School.

Herring, A., Parker, J.C., Wright, L., & Leffler, J. (Under Revision). Determining the best quality initiative to pursue for your program. Submitted to *Young Children*.

Parker, J.C., Herring, A., Leffler, J. & Hallberg, C. (2014). Creating a community classroom: Strategies to promote inclusion and reduce bullying- A focus on anti-bullying in early childhood. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, 2(3), 79-86.

Leffler, J. (2012). Extend these ideas with books: Connect story-reading strategies with a children's book [Review of the book *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*]. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.

Leffler, J.L. & Harper, S. L. (2011). The impact of teacher quality on preschoolers' mathematics and literacy achievement. *The Field Experience Journal*, 7, 15-32.

Leffler, J. & Eddowes, E. A. (2010). Books for early childhood educators [Review of the book *Getting it right for young children of diverse backgrounds: Applying research to improve practice*]. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 38(3),39.

Leffler, J. (2010, July). Quality Early Childhood Math & Literacy Instruction. *MSECA Connections*.

VIDEO:

Shores, E.F. (Producer) & Leffler, J.L. (Associate Producer). (2011). *Quick peeks at good practice: Video visits to Mississippi early childhood classrooms* [Video series]. Mississippi State, MS:

Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

BOOKS, REPORTS AND OTHER WRITING:

Leffler, J. (Ed.) (2016, July). *The Leadership Letter*, 10(4). Southern Early Childhood Association.

Leffler, J. & Daily, A. (Eds.) (2016, May). *The Leadership Letter*, 10(3). Southern Early Childhood Association.

Leffler, J., Lindsey, G. & Prince, D. (2014). *Early Childhood Conferences, 2012-2013: Final Report*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

Leffler, J. (2011). *Quick peeks at good practice: Video visits to Mississippi early childhood classrooms; User's guide*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

Shores, E.F., Deng, S., Leffler, J., Thomas, J. & Howard, E. (2011). *Partners for Quality Child Care: 2006-2011*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

Leffler, J. L., & Shores, E. F. (2011). *Education options for early childhood careers in Mississippi* [Brochure]. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

Leffler, J. & Watson, J.C. (2011). *ERS data study*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

Vail, M., Leffler, J., Shores, E.F. & Howard, E. (2010). *The Mississippi Child Development Associate Scholarship Program, 2008-2009: Final Report*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

Vail, M., Leffler, J., Shores, E.F. & Howard, E. (2010). *The Mississippi Child Development Associate Scholarship Program, 2007-2008: Final Report*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

Leffler, J., Leffler, K., Gardner, R. & Breland, J. (2005). *Zoe Kids: A Children's Church Curriculum for Elementary Kids (Vol. 2)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Leffler, J., Leffler, K., Gardner, R. & Breland, J. (2004). *Zoe Kids: A Children's Church Curriculum for Elementary Kids (Vol. 1)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Gardner, R. & Leffler, J. (2003). *Blessed Kingdom Kids: Giving Lessons for Children's Church (Vol. 3)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Gardner, R. & Leffler, J. (2003). *Blessed Kingdom Kids: Giving Lessons for Children's Church (Vol. 2)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Gardner, R. & Leffler, J. (2003). *Blessed Kingdom Kids: Giving Lessons for Children's*

Church (Vol. 1). Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Mauroner, C. & Leffler, J. (2003). *Beginning and Ending with a Bang: Games for Children's Ministry*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

REFRERED AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

Leffler, J. (2017, April). Stakeholders' Perceptions about Kindergarten Readiness in Mississippi. Presented at the Mississippi State University College of Education Research Forum. Starkville, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2017, March). Leadership Summit. Presented at the Southern Early Childhood Association Conference. Biloxi, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2017, March). Supporting Early Literacy Behaviors in the Early Childhood Classroom. Presented at the LiftEd Innovation in Literacy Conference. Jackson, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2016, November). Are Your Children Ready? Featured session presented at the Jackson Association on Children Under Six Lunch and Learn. Jackson, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2016, September). Jazzing Up Relationships. Featured session presented at the Georgia Association on Young Children Annual Conference. Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Leffler, J. (2016, September). Getting Ready for Kindergarten. Georgia Association on Young Children Annual Conference. Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Leffler, J. (2016, June). Supporting Emergent Literacy and Early Literacy Behaviors in the Preschool Classroom. NAEYC's National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development. Baltimore, Maryland.

Leffler, J. & Herring, A. (2015, November). Early Childhood Education: Stakeholders' Perspectives about Kindergarten Readiness. National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference. Orlando, Florida.

Leffler, J. (2015, June). Relationships: The Heart of Healthy Development. Keynote presented at the Blast Off Conference. Oxford, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2014, January). Ten Essential Skills for Every Leader. Presented at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Williamsburg, Virginia.

Leffler, J. & Darling, L. (2012, October). Early Learning Standards/ Common Core State Standards Overview. Presented for the Stone County Excel by 5 Coalition meeting. Perkinston, Mississippi.

Herring, A., Leffler, J., Pegues, B., Burgess, A., & Brookes, S. (2012, June). The Tale of the Hercules Beetle. Paper presented at the National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development, Indianapolis, IN.

Leffler, J. (2012, February). Inviting Parents and Children to the Literacy Club. Presented at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. San Antonio, Texas.

Leffler, J. (2011, July). Inviting Parents and Children to the Literacy Club. Presented at the Rankin County Child Care Directors Association Annual Conference. Brandon, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2011, July). Seven Things Anyone Can Do to Improve Their Leadership. Presented at the Pine Belt Directors Association Annual Conference. Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2008, October). Physical Environment: Tips to Improve your ECERS-R Scores. Presented at the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Jackson, Mississippi.

HONORS & AWARDS:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2014 | MsECA Award by the Mississippi Early Childhood Association for the significant contributions to the education and welfare of young children. This is the state association's highest award. |
| 2013 | Quality Award by the College of Education and Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi for leading the Center for Child Development in earning the 5-star (out of 5) rating with the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System. |
| 2010 | Member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society by election of the chapter at Mississippi State University. |
| 2010 | Hannah Meadors Scholarship for graduate studies in early childhood education awarded by the Mississippi Early Childhood Association. |
| 2009 | ETS Recognition of Excellence, score on the <i>Praxis Series Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K-6</i> ranking within the top 15% of all test takers who took the assessment in previous years. |
| 2000 | Bertha M. Fritzsche Scholarship, for outstanding graduate student in early intervention. |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Mississippi Early Childhood Association

Mississippi Professional Educators

National Association for the Education of Young Children

Southern Early Childhood Association

REFERENCES:

Dr. Lynn Dietrich (former supervisor)
Director, Early Childhood and Family Studies
University of Washington
206-221-3457
lynn76@uw.edu

Dr. Gail Lindsey (former supervisor)
Director, Early Childhood Institute
Mississippi State University
662-325-4836
glindsey@colled.msstate.edu

Cheryl Mueller (former instructor/former supervisor)
Retired
601-520-3282
chylemueller@gmail.com