

REGENA FAILS NELSON
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EDUCATION

1997	University of Michigan Ph.D. Early Childhood Education and Developmental Psychology Dissertation: Kindergarten Teachers' Beliefs about School Readiness	Ann Arbor, Michigan
1989	Loyola University of Chicago B.S. Psychology and Political Science	Chicago, Illinois

EXPERIENCE

June 2007 to present	Western Michigan University Professor	Kalamazoo, Michigan
August 2000 to June 2007	Western Michigan University Associate Professor	Kalamazoo, Michigan
December 1996 to August 2000	Western Michigan University Assistant Professor	Kalamazoo, Michigan
August 1994 to December 1996	Western Michigan University Instructor	Kalamazoo, Michigan
January 1994 to May 1994	Western Michigan University Intern Coordinator	Kalamazoo, Michigan
September 1993 to May 1994	Western Michigan University Lecturer	Kalamazoo, Michigan

HONORS AND AWARDS

2006	Top Grad Award Walther Lutheran High School	Melrose Park, Illinois
2004	Courage to Teach Program Fellow Fetzer Institute	Kalamazoo, Michigan

2001	Sabbatical Leave Award Western Michigan University	Kalamazoo, Michigan
2001, 1998	Statistical Database Training Award National Center for Education Statistics	Washington, DC
1998	Research Development Award Western Michigan University	Kalamazoo, Michigan
1997	Presidential Stipend Western Michigan University	Kalamazoo, Michigan
1989-1994	Rackham Merit Fellowship University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, Michigan
1989	Marguerite Wilker Johnson Early Childhood Education Fellowship University of Michigan, School of Education	Ann Arbor, Michigan

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2005 to present	Western Michigan University University Support Systems for Student Parents Examining how financial, academic, and parenting support influences student – parents’ graduation rates. Project Director: Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D.	Kalamazoo, MI
2004 -2005	Kamehameha Foundation Kamehameha Preschool Project Developed a multidimensional program evaluation model for identifying indicators of quality. Project Director: Gary Miron, Ph.D.	Honolulu, HI
2001-2004	Nat'l Center for Education Statistics Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Cohort Analyzed quantitative data to study home and school effects on children’s readiness for school.	Washington, DC

Project Director: Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D.

1999 to
2000 **Western Michigan University** Kalamazoo, Michigan
Implementing the Curriculum Framework.

Developed a professional development model and plan to support Benton Harbor teachers in designing a curriculum for PreK-3 students.

Project Director: Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D.

1998 to
2000 **Western Michigan University** Kalamazoo, Michigan
Institutional Support Survey.

Created survey to evaluate current programs and determine the academic, social and financial needs of minority students.

Project Director: Art Garmon, Ph.D. & Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D.

1998 to
2000 **Western Michigan University** Kalamazoo, Michigan
School Readiness.

Analyzed school readiness data collected by the National Center for Education Statistics to determine how home, school and community factors interact and influence young children's achievement.

Project Director: Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D.

1997 **Western Michigan University** Kalamazoo, Michigan
Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Diverse Settings.

Examined 4 early childhood teachers implementation of developmentally appropriate practices in four distinct settings using qualitative methods.

Project Director: Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D.

1996 **Western Michigan University** Kalamazoo, Michigan
Teaching Student Teachers How to Promote Cultural Awareness in Urban and Suburban Schools.

Conducted study on student teachers in cluster sites as they developed curricula that affirm the cultural diversity of their students.

Project Director: Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D.

1996 **Western Michigan University** Kalamazoo, Michigan
Seasons of Change: Developmentally Appropriate Beliefs and Practices. Analyzed survey data and philosophy papers of 36 graduate students on their beliefs and practices.
Project Directors: Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D. and Andrea Smith Ph.D.

1996 **Western Michigan University** Kalamazoo, Michigan
Researchers Influence on Interview Data. Studied five African-American female professors' reflections on their educational and teaching experience using qualitative methods.
Project Directors: Gunilla Holm, Ph.D., Monica White and Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D.

1993 to **University of Michigan** Ann Arbor, Michigan
1996 **Dissertation Research.** Analyzed national data set on teachers' views, practices, and judgments regarding school readiness.
Project Director: Regena Fails Nelson, Ph.D

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Nelson, R.F. (2007, November). *The impact of playgroups on student - parents' child development knowledge* . Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago, IL.

Nelson, R.F. (2006, November). *The impact of low-income parents' college enrollment on their preschoolers' development*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Atlanta, GA.

- Nelson, R.F. (2005, November) *Developmentally appropriate practices and teacher training*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington, DC.
- Nelson, R.F. (2004, November). *A model for evaluating early childhood education programs for poor and minority children*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Anaheim, CA.
- Nelson, R.F. (2004, October). *The approval of the early childhood major*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, Lansing, MI.
- Nelson R.F. & Martin, L. (2004, October). *Ready or not, here I come*. Paper presented at the Annual Southwestern Michigan Early Childhood Conference, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Nelson, R.F. (2004, April). *Research on early childhood teacher certification*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children, Grand Rapids, MI.
- Nelson, R.F. (2003, November). *The kindergarten transition*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago, IL.
- Nelson, R.F. (2003, October). *A review of the early childhood teacher education standards*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, Lansing, MI.
- Nelson, R.F. (2002, November). *The impact of ready environments on at-risk kindergartners' school readiness*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, New York City, NY.

- Nelson, R.F. (2001, November). *Promoting school readiness through a home-school-community partnership*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Anaheim, CA.
- Nelson, R.F., & Rogers, P. (2000, November). *The Effects of Culturally Appropriate Practices on Preschooler's Readiness*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Atlanta GA.
- Nelson, R.F. (2000, November). *Supporting Preschool Teachers in Developing Developmentally and Culturally Appropriate Practices*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, Atlanta, GA.
- Garmon, M.A., Nelson, R.F., & Davis, S. (2000, June). *A Comprehensive Model for Recruiting and Retaining Culturally Diverse Students in Teacher Education*. Paper presented at the annual National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, Santa Fe, NM.
- Nelson, R.F., & Triplett, A. (2000, February). *School Readiness and Literacy*. Paper presented at Pre-Literacy to Reading Competence Workshop, Lawrence, MI.
- Nelson, R.F. (1999, November). *The Impact of Sociocultural Environments on Children's Readiness for School*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Council of Family Relations, Irvine, CA.
- Nelson, R. F. (1999, November). *Aligning Preschool and Elementary School Curricula in an Urban School District*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators, New Orleans, LA.
- Nelson, R.F.(1999, November). *The Effects of Professional Development on School Readiness in an Urban School District*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Association of the Education of Young Children, New Orleans, LA.
- Nelson, R.F. & Holm, G. (1999, June). *Mentoring as Empowerment*. Paper presented at the 5th Meeting of the Women's Worlds Conference, Tromso, Norway.
- Young, A. , Nelson, R.F., Holm, G., & Nations-Johnson, L. (1998, May). *Dementoring as a Social Network*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Conference on Social Networks, Stiges, Spain.

- Young, A. & Nelson, R. F. (1998, March). "*Dementoring: A Practical Solution to Mentoring Women in the Academy*." Paper presented at annual meeting of the National Association of Women in Education, Baltimore, MD.
- Nelson, R. F. (1997, August). *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Diverse Settings*. Paper presented at the National Multiage/Continuous Progress Conference, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Nelson, R.F. & Smith, A. B. (1997, April). *Seasons of Change: Developmentally Appropriate Beliefs and Practices*. Paper Presented at the Association for Childhood Education International Conference, Portland, OR.
- Nelson, R. F. (1997, February). *Teaching Student Teachers How to Promote Cultural Awareness in Urban and Suburban Schools*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Phoenix, AZ.
- Nelson, R. F. (1996, October). *How to Assess Children's Readiness for Kindergarten*. Paper presented at the Annual Southwestern Michigan Early Childhood Conference, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Holm, G., White, M., & Nelson, R. F. (1996, April). *Researcher Influence on Interview Data*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.
- Nelson, R. F. (1995, April). *Social Context of Readiness*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Fails, R. (1993, November). *Macrosystem and Microsystem Influences on Teachers' Expectations of Child Development and Learning*. Paper presented at 2nd National Head Start Conference, Washington, DC.
- Fails, R. & Sulzby, E. (1990, November). *Literacy in Overage Classrooms: Some Effects of Developmental Kindergarten*. Paper presented at the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the National Reading Conference, Miami, FL.

PUBLICATIONS

- Nelson, R.F. (under review). The impact of campus-based playgroups on Student - parents' development. *Journal of College Student Development*,
- Nelson, R.F. (2007). A model for developing a parent resource center on campus. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, (28)3, 243-250.

- Nelson, R.F. (2006). Should there be a stand alone early childhood certification in Michigan, *Beacon*, (29)1, 4.
- Nelson, R.F. (2005). The impact of ready environments on achievement in kindergarten, *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, (19)3, 215-22.
- Nelson, R.F. (2004). The effects of academic, financial and social support on preservice teachers' academic performance. *Journal of College Orientation and Transition*, (12)1, 46-51.
- Nelson, R.F. (2004). The transition to kindergarten. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, (32)3, 187-190.
- Nelson, R.F. & Smith, A. B. (2004). Changes in teachers' perceptions of developmentally appropriate practice. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, (25)1, 75-78.
- Cousins, L. H., Todman, L., Hyter, Y., Nelson, R.F., Bee, A., Cooper, R., & Peterson, C. (2004). Social and academic relationships in the lives of Black children: transdisciplinary research and practice. *Journal of Social Work in the Social Environment*, 9(3), 57-82.
- Nelson, R.F. & Rogers, P. (2003). Supporting preschool teachers in developing developmentally and culturally appropriate practices. *Multicultural Perspectives*, 5(3), 39-42.
- Nelson, R.F., Garmon, M.A., & Davis, S. (2001). The significance of race in becoming a teacher. *College Student Journal*, 35(2), 262-270.
- Nelson, R.F., & Triplett, A. (2001). Much more than ABCs: A balanced approach to teaching literacy. *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*, 17(1), 68-70.
- Young, A.J., Nelson, R.F., Johnson, L.N., & Holm, G. (2000). Dementoring: A Non-hierarchical model for mentoring women in the academy. *Initiatives*, 59(4), 1-4.
- Nelson, R. F. (2000). Aligning Preschool and Elementary School Curricula in an Urban School District. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Educators*, 21(1), 59-63.
- Nelson, R.F. (2000). A review of kindergarten interventions for low-income, urban school districts. *Principal*, 79(5), 38-41.
- Nelson, R. F. (2000). Personal and environmental factors that influence early childhood teachers' practices. *Journal of Instructional Psychology*, 27 (2), 95-103.

- Nettles, A., Browning, K. & Nelson, R. F. (1999). At risk and unready? In A. L. Nettles & M.T. Nettles (Eds.). *Measuring up: Challenges minorities face in educational assessment* (pp. 235-250). Norwell, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Smith, A. B. & Nelson, R. F. (1998). Professional development for early childhood educators. *Association of Childhood Education International Focus on PreK & K, 11*, 5-6.
- Nelson, R. F. (1998) The impact of urban and suburban field placements on teachers' cultural awareness. *College Student Journal, 32*(4), 566-571.
- Meisels, S. J., Liaw, F., Dorfman, A., & Nelson, R. F. (1995). The work sampling system: Reliability and validity of a performance assessment for young children. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 10*(3), 277-296.
- Nelson, R. F. (1995). Authentic assessment in the learner centered classroom: A work sampling process. *Focus, 17*(1), 32-34.

GRANT PROPOSALS

- Nelson, R.F. & Mohny, K. (2005). *College Assistance for Parenting and Education*. U.S. Department of Education, \$476,000
- Smith, A.B. & Nelson, R.F. (2001). *Increasing Access for Low-Income Student parents at the Children's Place Learning Center by the Addition of Toddler Child Care*. U.S. Department of Education, \$536,129
- Nelson, R.F., & Smith, A.B. (2001).). *Early Childhood Lab School*. WMU Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence, \$25,000.
- Nelson, R.F. (2001). *Course Development Award*, WMU College of Education, \$2,300
- Nelson, R.F. (2000). *All Students Achieve program – Parent Involvement and Education*, Michigan Department of Education, \$100,000- not funded
- Nelson, R.F. (1999). *Implementing the Curriculum Framework*. Michigan Department of Education Goals 2000 Grant Program, \$44,000
- Steinke, J. & Nelson, R.F. (1999). *An experimental study of the effects of televised images of women scientist role models on perceptions of science-related careers among preschool children from low-income families*. U.S. Department of Education, \$525,780- not funded
- Nelson, R. F. (1996, 1998). *Faculty Development Fund Grant*. Western Michigan University, \$250, \$200

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- Nelson, R.F. (Fall 2003). *Kamehameha Project Technical Report: A Multidimensional Model for Evaluating Early Childhood Programs.*
- Nelson, R.F. (Spring 2004). *Kamehameha Project Technical Report: Developmentally Appropriate Practices and Teacher Development.*
- Nelson, R.F. (Spring 2005). *Early Reading First: Field Review Report.*
- Nelson, R.F. (Fall 2005). *Early Reading First: Field Review Report.*
- Nelson, R.F. (Spring 2005). *Allegan County Intermediate School District Technical Report: Plan for Analyzing Preschool Achievement Data.*
- Nelson, R.F. (Fall 2005). *Northside Association for Community Development Technical Report: Curriculum Model for Low-Income Child Care Center.*
- Nelson, R.F. (Spring 2006). *Early Reading First: Field Review Report.*

MEDIA REPORTS

- WMU News*- “Parents can help alleviate fears of starting school” – August 11, 2000
- WMU News* – Fails-Nelson, Harris take top posts with education group” – November 12, 2002
- WMU News* – “Getting a handle on Head Start” – August 15, 2003
- WMU News* – “Toys can help children develop important skills” – December 17, 2003
- Kalamazoo Gazette*-“Meeting to focus on childhood”- December 14, 2003
- Kalamazoo Gazette* – “Helping nurture budding brains: Experts, parents find education early on helps kids succeed” –December 20, 2004
- Greater Lansing Parent* – “Laugh a little, learn a lot: Educational toys can offer children the best of both worlds” – December, 2005
- Family Talk* - “Pay attention to toddler attention spans” – May/June, 2006
- Kalamazoo Gazette* – “The school-ready home: Setting up household with learning in mind gives kids a boost” – August 17, 2006

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

COURSES AND RATINGS

Spring 2006	ED 608, ED 409/470	Mean Rating: 4.55
Fall 2005	ED 601	Mean Rating: 4.2
Spring 2005	ED 608, ED 409/470	Mean Rating: 4.87
Summer I 2004	ED 409/470, ED 409/470	Mean Rating: 4.65
Fall 2004	ED 601	Mean Rating: 4.9

Fall 2003	ED 601, ED 601	Mean Rating: 4.27
Winter 2003	ED 608, ED 608, ED 601	Mean Rating: 4.87
Fall 2002	ED 601, ED 601	Mean Rating: 4.7
Winter 2001	ED 601	Mean Rating: 4.9
Fall 1999	ED 607, ED 607	Mean Rating: 4.64
Winter 1999	ED 611, ED 608	Mean Rating: 4.60
Fall 1998	ED 607, ED 607, ED 410	Mean Rating: 4.52
Winter 1997	ED 611, ED 608, ED 410, ED 309	Mean Rating: 4.82
Fall 1997	ED 607, ED 410	Mean Rating: 4.66
Fall 1996	ED 607, ED 607, ED 410	Mean Rating: 4.61
Fall 1995	ED 607, ED 607, ED 410	Mean Rating: 4.75
Spring 1995	ED 609	Mean Rating: 4.51
Winter 1995	ED 410, ED 309, ED 309	Mean Rating: 4.61
Fall 1994	ED 410, ED 310, ED 310	Mean Rating: 4.51

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

November 1997 to present	National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators
November 1997 to present	Michigan Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators – Member President 2003-2005
September 1994 to present	National Association for the Education of Young Children
September 1994 to present	Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
September 1994 to present	Southwest Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children Vice-President 2005-2007
June 1993 to present	American Educational Research Association Early Care/ Child Development SIG Division G

REVIEWER

American Educational Research Association, Critical Perspectives in Early Childhood Education, SIG

American Educational Research Association, Division G: Social Context of Education

American Educational Research Journal

Prentice Hall Publishing

Early Childhood Education Research Quarterly

Michigan Test for Teacher Certification: Early Childhood.

CONSULTING

August 2005 **Consultant.** Northside Association for Community Development.

March 2005 **Consultant.** Allegan Intermediate School District.

June 2004 **Consulting Editor.** Early Childhood Research Quarterly

May 2004 **Advisor.** Standards of Quality for Michigan Preschools

November 2003 **Advisor.** Michigan Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Standards

August 2003 **Evaluator.** Kamehameha Preschools, Hawaii

June 2001 **Advisor.** NAEYC Professional Development Panel

January 2000 **Consultant.** Niles Community Schools

May 1999 **Consultant.** Martin Public School District.

December 1998 **Consultant.** Bloomingdale Public School District.

COMMUNITY BOARDS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

2006 to present **Member.** Institutions of Higher Education- Early Childhood Advisory Committee

2006 to present **Member.** Kalamazoo Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community, Education Task Force

2003 to present **Member.** Kalamazoo NAACP, Education Committee

2001 to present **Member.** Collaboration for Innovation and Teaching Excellence/

1997 to present **Advisor.** Kalamazoo County Michigan School Readiness Program

1997 **Advisor.** Edison's Excellent Beginnings Project.

1997 **Advisor.** Benton Harbor's Early Learning Environment Project.

1995 to 2001 **Board Member.** Michigan Young Educators Society

UNIVERSITY

2006 to present **Advisor.** Student Parents Organization
2005 to present **Interviewer.** Medallion Scholarship
2004 **Member.** First Year Experience Task Force
2002 to 2005 **Member.** FRACSAF Review Committee
1999 **Member.** Faculty Senate Focus group

COLLEGE

2002 to present **Member.** Professional Educators Board
2003 to 2005 **Member.** School University Partnership Team Advisory Comm.
1997 to 2001 **Member.** Scholarship Committee
1997 to 2001 **Co-Chair.** Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee
1996 to 2001 **Member.** Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee
1994 to 1998 **Member.** School University Partnership Team

DEPARTMENT

2004 to present **Chair.** Graduate Program Council
2004 to present **Member.** Graduate Program Council
2005 to present **Member.** Chair's Advisory Council
2000 to present **Member.** Promotion and Tenure Committee
2000 to 2001 **Member.** Committee on Race and Diversity
1998 to 2000 **Member.** Graduate Studies Committee
1998 to 1999 **Member (non-voting).** Promotions Committee
1997 to present **Member.** Elementary Unit
1995 to 1996 **Member.** Merit Committee
1995 to 1997 **Member.** Nominations Committee
1995 to 2001 **Faculty Advisor.** Minority Students for Teaching/SAME
1994 to 1995 **Member.** Leave Committee
1994 to 1995 **Member (non-voting).** Tenure Committee
1994 to present **Member.** Early Childhood Unit
2000 to present **Coordinator.** Early Childhood Unit