

Jessica Marie Branch

Murray State University Lecturer
Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education
3239 Alexander Hall
Murray, KY 42071
(270) 809-4158
jbranch1@murraystate.edu

LICENSURE:

Ohio 5 Year Professional License
Early Childhood (P-3)
Early Childhood Intervention Specialist (P-3)
Administrative Specialist Educational Staff Personnel Administration
Valid from: 07/01/2012 – 06/03/2017

EDUCATION / TRAINING:

Doctoral Study, Present
Curriculum and Instruction: Special Education
University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio

Master of Education, May 2007
Special Education
University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio
Thesis: "The Effect of Parent Training in Managing the Challenging Behaviors of Young Children with Disabilities"
Cumulative GPA 3.86

Bachelor of Arts, May 2003
Early Childhood Education
Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio
Cumulative GPA 3.65

AWARDS:

University Fellowship Scholarship, University of Toledo
Fall 2012-present
Highest award given by the College of Graduate Studies to first year Ph.D. students with exceptional academic records.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS:

Online Teaching Certificate, University of Toledo Learning Ventures,
December 2015
OCALI Autism Team Training, August 2010
Least Restrictive Environment Summer Study Group, June-August 2010

Evidence Based Practices for ASD, March 2010
Communicable Disease Training, December 2009
Boardmaker V.6 New Features, December 2009
Child Abuse Training, November 2009
Compass Learning, October 2009
Supporting Children's Social and Emotional Development & Addressing
Challenging Behavior, February 2009
Inspired Teachers' Institute, October 2008
Preschool Special Education Institute: Early Childhood Outcomes and Data
Quality Assurance, September 2008
Special Education Leadership Conference, September 2008
Classroom Organizational & Management Program (COMP), January 2006
Beyond Joy: Learning to See Competence without Testing Project, March 2005
SIRI—Bridging Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten, July 2004

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Full Time Lecturer, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education
Murray State University
August 2016-present

- Teach undergraduate and graduate courses in the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education field
- Serve on university committees

College Instructor, SPED 8070: Curriculum Models and Intervention Strategies in Early Childhood Special Education: Current Practices and Emerging Models
University of Toledo, Toledo, OH
Spring 2014-present

- The course was designed for Project LEA, a federally-funded grant by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).
- Aligned course objectives to CEC/DEC Advanced Standards
- Prepare and plan online learning activities for post-graduate students
- Develop assignments and provide students with feedback on assignments

College Instructor, CIEC 3200: Philosophy and Practice in Early Childhood Education
University of Toledo, Toledo, OH
Spring 2012

- Prepare and plan lectures and activities for undergraduate students
- Develop assessments and grade students' work

Early Childhood Coordinator

Hardin County Educational Service Center, Kenton, OH
August 2007-July 2012

- Coordinated and supervised four integrated early childhood classrooms (two Early Childhood Entitlement Grant Funded Preschools and two special education preschool classrooms)
- Coordinated and supervised preschool itinerant services
- Assisted in the establishment and implementation of school policies and procedures
- Provided assistance to early childhood personnel in the provision of developmentally appropriate practices for young children
- Recommended instructional revisions, interventions, and other modifications to enhance student learning through classroom observations and staff professional development
- Facilitated local interagency agreement between local school districts, Early Intervention, Help Me Grow, Head Start, and the local County Collaborative Group
- Assisted in selection of staff and conduct evaluations
- Coordinated all preschool disability referrals with school psychologist, related service personnel, and intervention specialists
- Chaired Play Based Assessment teams
- Assisted in parent conferences, Evaluation Team Report planning meetings, development of the Individual Education Programs, and periodic reviews to assure that appropriate education is being provided for all preschool children
- Served as a resource for administrators and staff concerning curriculum in early childhood education
- Maintained relevant staff development programs through the review of lesson plans, individual conferences, in-service training, and staff meetings
- Developed a pacing guide and assessment map of current curriculum to the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards

Intervention Specialist

Hardin County Educational Service Center, Kenton, OH

August 2003 to July 2007

- Instructed preschool children with disabilities in an integrated setting by providing developmentally appropriate activities
- Coordinated with speech/language pathologist, early childhood teacher, school nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, and family
- Served as an Evaluation Team member in evaluating preschool children
- Wrote and implemented students' Individualized Educational Programs (IEP's)
- Evaluated student's progress in meeting objectives of the IEP and curriculum
- Communicated with parents and administrators on a regular basis concerning the status of each child
- Planned activities for family involvement

- Conducted parent teacher conferences and home visits

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Workgroup member

Division for Early Childhood Oral History Project

Spring 2014-present

- Conduct interviews with DEC members
- Analyze past board notes and print materials for content related to interview themes

Conference Proposal Reviewer

Division for Early Childhood

February 2014-present

- Reviewed and rated conference proposals according to a rubric

Young Exceptional Children (YEC) Student Editorial Board

Division for Early Childhood

January 2014-present

- Assist in reviewing manuscripts submitted to YEC
- Provide input on various topics, issues regarding the submission and review process, and other initiatives to facilitate the continued growth and improvement of YEC
- Promote the YEC journal to the public

Advisory Board

Project LEA: Leading Educators in Advancing Inclusive Early Education

Toledo, Ohio

Fall 2013-present

- Provide oversight, advice, and guidance to the project
- Review and offer insight regarding course syllabi
- The project is a federally-funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

Reggio Study Group

Toledo, Ohio

Spring 2013-present

- Meet with other scholars, early childhood directors, and early childhood educators to discuss the implementation of Reggio-Inspired principles

Classroom Observer

The Partner Project

- Conducted Inclusive Classroom Profile (ICP) observations of several Head Start classrooms
- Observation data was used to identify inclusive community-based early childhood programs that could serve as model practicum sites

- The project is federally-funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

Workgroup Member

Project DIRECT Connections: Defining Itinerant Roles for Early Childhood Teachers
Toledo, Ohio
January 2013

- Collaborated with preschool supervisors and early childhood special education itinerant teachers to review teacher preparation programs for itinerant consultation
- The project was federally-funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

Early Childhood Representative

Hardin County Autism Support Team
September 2009-July 2012

- Assisted in meeting the individualized needs of students on the Autism Spectrum
- Observed students with ASD in classroom environments in order to identify instructional needs and make recommendations to meet communication, behavioral, sensory, academic, social, and adaptive needs
- Supported teachers in the development of accommodations and modifications for students with ASD which may include developing a behavior plan
- Assisted in the development and monitoring of an action plan

Chair of Early Childhood and Intervention Specialist Local Professional Development Committee

Hardin County Schools Consortium Local Professional Development Committee,
Kenton, OH
August 2009-July 2012

- Reviewed Individual Professional Development Plans, contact hours and CEU's, and license applications

Internship

Wood County Board of DD, Bowling Green, OH
June 2005-August 2005

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

October 18, 2016

- (scheduled) *Effects of Teacher Facilitation and Child-Interest Materials on Engagement Levels*
Poster will be presented at the DEC Conference, Louisville, Kentucky. This session will examine how the duration and level of engagement is affected when teachers pair interest materials with teacher facilitation.
- October 8, 2014 *Defining Coaching and Consultation in Early Childhood Intervention*
Poster presented at the DEC Conference, St. Louis, Missouri. Collaborated with doctoral students from three universities to present the definitions and applications of coaching and consultation. Highlighted the similarities and differences between popular coaching and consultation models.
- March 29, 2014 *University-Community Partnerships and Participatory Action Research*
Presented at the EcoJustice and Activism Conference in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Collaborated with peers and community members to present the documentation and findings from a qualitative study of the community, including fieldnotes, interviews, reciprocal interviews, and document analyses.
- December 12, 2013 *The Civil Rights Movement in Toledo: What does it mean for us in 2013? The March on Washington 50 years later*
Paper presented at the Padua Center, Toledo, Ohio. Collaborated with colleagues to present the documentation and findings from a qualitative study of the community, including fieldnotes, interviews, and document analyses.
- April 27, 2013 *Once Upon a Reggio Classroom: Narrative Development*
Poster presentation at Ohio Early Care & Education Conference.
Discussed Reggio-Inspired classrooms' ability to offer opportunities for children to practice and develop their narrative skills. Explored case examples that showcased how teachers facilitate narrative development through socio-dramatic play, art and creation, and storytelling experiences.
- November 15, 2012 *Effectively Embedding IEP Objectives into the Project Approach*
Presented at OCALICON 2012. Focused on applying the project approach in inclusive early childhood classrooms to

improve student engagement. Discussed opportunities for embedding IEP objectives into the three phases of a project using visual accommodations.

November 17, 2011

The Importance of Data Collection and Documentation
Continuing education program presented to local district elementary teachers. Provided information and resources to better equip the teachers to collect data and document behavior. Discussed how documentation is used with a Functional Behavioral Assessment and how to develop a student action plan.

January 2011

Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder
Continuing education program presented to local school districts' principals and special education officers. Outlined common characteristics and research-based interventions for children on the spectrum.

February 2010

Introduction to Boardmaker Version 6
Continuing education program presented to preschool staff on the use of Boardmaker v. 6 software. Discussed ways to implement assistive technology devices and visual supports in the classroom.

August 2009

Using the New ETR and IEP Forms
Continuing education program presented to local school districts' intervention specialists and special education officers.

June 2005

Including Children and Families in Documentation: A Journey from a Child's Mind to a Community's Understanding
Presented at ODE Office of Early Learning and School Readiness 2005 Summer Institute, Documentation: Where Ideas Learn to Fly. Discussed the use of documentation to bridge our project-approach learning to our community.

December 2004

Literacy at Home
Early language skills training for the families of the children at Little River Preschool. Supplied materials for families to create literacy kits and discussed ways to foster language and literacy skills in the routines held at home.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Council for Exceptional Children, Division of Early Childhood member
2013-present

National Association for the Education of Young Children member
2012-present