



Instructor: Melanie R. Loewenstein

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood and Reading Education

Academic Department: Curriculum and Instruction

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EDUCATION

Texas Woman's University (Denton, TX),

Doctor of Education, 2018

Reading Education (Major)

Early Childhood Education (Minor)

Texas A&M University (Commerce, TX)

Masters of Education, 2000

All Level Reading Education (Major)

Linguistics -ESL (Minor)

University of North Texas (Denton, TX)

Bachelors of Science, 1996

Elementary Education-English/Language Arts,

CERTIFICATIONS

Reading Recovery Trained, 2010

English As A Second Language, 2001

Elementary Self-Contained (Grades 1-8), 1996

Elementary English (Grades 1-8), 1996

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University-Commerce

2019-Present Early Childhood Education/Reading Education Professor

Denton Independent School District

2010-2018 Reading Recovery/K-2 Reading Specialist/Instructional Specialist

2009-2010 Reading Recovery/Reading Specialist K-5

2007-2009 Reading Specialist/Math Specialist, Grades 3-5

2001-2007 Second Grade Teacher

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Summer 2017 Teaching Intern Early Childhood Education

Dallas Independent School District

1996-2001 First Grade Teacher/Third Grade Teacher ESL

PUBLICATIONS

Published Manuscripts

Loewenstein, M (2023). Spotlight on Dr. David L. Brown: Lessons from a 40-year legacy in early childhood. *Early Years*, 44 (1), 23-24.

Morton, T., Slay, L., & Loewenstein (2022). M. Exploring How Preservice Teachers Use Digital Tools to Read Multicultural Literature. *Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Yearbook*, 175-192.

Loewenstein, M, Sturdivant, T.D., & Thompson, J. (2022). Learning through play in teacher education. *Young Children*, 77(2), 44-50.

Childs, K, & Loewenstein, M. . Staying Connected: Rooting literacy courses in current topics and relevant teaching practices. (2022). In Araujo, J. (Ed.), *Handbook of Research on Reconceptualizing Preservice Teacher Preparation in Literacy Education*.

Loewenstein, M., Slay, L., Morton, T. (2021) Reimagining writing Instruction during pandemic times: A first-grade teacher's journey creating a digital writing workshop. *TALE Yearbook*, 8, 13-25.
http://www.texasreaders.org/uploads/4/4/9/0/44902393/2021_tale_yearbook_final.pdf

Loewenstein, M. L., & Brown, D. L., (2020). Exploring an intersection between language, literacy, and identity. *Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Yearbook*, 42, 229-247. <https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.aleronline.org/resource/resmgr/yearbooks/9781883604097.pdf>

Loewenstein, M. L. (2018). *Exploring how third-grade African American children leverage academic discourse to engage in literate behaviors*. Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX.

Brown, D. L., & Loewenstein, M. R. (2016). Introduction: Pathways to Leaving a Legacy. *Early Years: Journal of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children*, 37(2), 68- 69.

Manuscripts In Press

Slay, L.E., Loewenstein, M., & Morton, T. (In Press). Exploring the role of cultural navigator to facilitate critical literacy discussion with preservice teachers. *ALER Yearbook*, Vol 44.

Manuscripts In Progress

Loewenstein, M., Morton, T., Childs, K. Identity matters: Learning from African American Students' Developing Reading Identities. *Journal*. (Resubmit)

Loewenstein, M., *Playful stories: Building a literate foundation through storytelling* (Manuscript In Progress)

Loewenstein, M., *Building a playfully sound foundation: Authentic phonological awareness experiences that engage young children*. (Manuscript In Progress)

<h2>PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS</h2>
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Community and Professional Development Trainings

Loewenstein, M. (2023) "*Stories Galore! Building Young Children's Oral Language Through Storytelling Experiences!*" Texas Health and Human Services: Pathway to Quality Care Conference, April 1, Arlington, TX.

Loewenstein, M. (2022) "*Reflecting on Coaching Cycle Implementation.*" Head Start of Greater Dallas Professional Development Day. November 9, Dallas, TX

Loewenstein, M. (2022) "*Unpacking Practice-Based Coaching Cycle Strategies.*" Head Start of Greater Dallas Professional Development Day. September 21, Dallas, TX.

Slay, L., Loewenstein, M. & Morton, T. (2022) *Moving Forward: Remediating "Unfinished learning" through joy and curiosity in the elementary writing workshop*. Presented at the Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, March 5, Plano, TX.

Loewenstein, M.R. (2022). "*Tell Me More..*": *Incorporating Instructional Techniques That Build Early Language Development*. Pathway to Quality Care 10th Annual Child Care Conference. April 2. Arlington, TX.

Loewenstein, M.R (2022). "*Exploring Literature-Based Phonological Awareness Learning Activities that Develop Children's Phonological Awareness*". Head Start of Greater Dallas Professional Development Day. October 7, Dallas, TX.

Loewenstein, M. R. (2020) "*Using Literature-Based-Phonological Awareness Experiences to Develop Children's Phonological Awareness and Supporting Parents.*" Dallas ISD Head Start Professional Development Virtual Training Days.

Loewenstein, M. R. (2020) *“Using Literature-Based-Phonological Awareness Experiences to Develop Children’s Phonological Awareness.”* Dallas ISD Head Start Professional Development Day.

Loewenstein, M. R. (2019). *“Using Literature-Based Learning Experiences to Develop Children’s Phonological Awareness.”* Dallas ISD Head Start Professional Development Day.

National Conferences

Slay, L., Loewenstein, M. & Morton T. (2022), *“Moving Forward Rediating “Unfinished Learning” through Joy and Curiosity in the Elementary Writing Workop”*. Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Conference, March 5, Plano, TX.

Morton, T., Slay, L. & Loewenstein, M. (2021), *“Virtual Multicultural Literature Circles”*. Paper presented at the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Annual Conference, March 28, Hilton Head, SC.

Thompson, J., Loewenstein, M., Pearce, N., & Sturdivant, T. (2021, June). *Games Teachers Play*. Presented at the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators Conference, Virtual.

Loewenstein, M.R. (2021). *“Integrating Literature-Based Learning Experiences To Support Students’ Phonological Awareness Development (K-1).”* National Literacy Institute. Virtual Conference.

Loewenstein, Melanie & Brown, David (2020), *“An Exploration Into How Select African American Children’s Academic Discourse Influences Their Literate Behaviors.”* American Educational Research Association’s Annual Meeting (AERA), San Francisco, CA (Virtual i-Presentation).

Brown, David L., Loewenstein, Melanie (2020), *“Effects of a Pre-Kindergarten Math/Science Curricula on Low-Income Children’s Knowledge of Mathematics.”* Paper presented at National Association for the Education of Young Children’s Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA (Conference Canceled).

State Conferences

Loewenstein, M.R. (2022). *“Tell Me More..”* Using Dialogic Reading to Support Young Children’s Oral Language Development. TxAEYC Conference, September 15. San Antonio, TX.

Slay, L., Loewenstein, M., Morton. (2022) *“Moving Forward: Remediating “Unfinished Learning” through Joy and Curiosity in the Elementary Writing Workshop”*. Paper presented at the Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Conference. March 5, 2022, Plano, TX .

Loewenstein, M.R. & Brown, D.L., (2019), *“A Qualitative Study Exploring an Intersection Between Language, Literacy, and Identity in Select African American Third Graders.”* Paper presented at Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) Annual Conference, November 8, 2019, Corpus Christi, TX.

Loewenstein, M. R & Brown, D.L. (2019), "*Tell Me More*": *What Teachers of Young Children Should Know About Increasing Children's Oral Language Proficiencies Through Classroom Storytelling Experiences.*" Paper presented at Texas Association for the Education of Young Children's (TAEYC) Annual Conference, September 28, 2019, Frisco, TX.

Loewenstein, M. R & Brown, D.L. (2019), "*Building Children's Early Literacy Knowledge Through Engaging Literature.*" Paper presented at Texas Association for the Education of Young Children's (TAEYC) Annual Conference, September 28, 2019, Frisco, TX.

Loewenstein, M.R. (2018). "*Advancing the Literacy Development of Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Students Through Culturally Responsive Instruction.*" Billy J. Askew Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Institute, Hurst TX.

Loewenstein, M. R. (2016). "*Building On The Known: Extending Students' Learning Through Culturally Responsive Literacy Instruction.*" Billy J. Askew Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Institute, Hurst, TX.

Loewenstein, M. R. (2016). "*Supporting Young Children's Oral Storytelling.*" Texas Association For The Education of Young Children State Conference (TAEYC), Dallas, TX.

Loewenstein, M. R. (2014). "*Connecting Talking, Drawing and Writing In K-2 Language Arts Classroom.*" Billy J. Askew Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Institute, Dallas, TX.

Loewenstein, M. R., & Urquidez, A. (2013). "*Connecting Talking, Drawing and Writing: Using Storyboards To Retell and Construct Stories.*" Billy J. Askew Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Institute, Dallas, TX.

Loewenstein, M.R., & Brown, D. L. (2011). "*Literature Links To Language And Literacy Practices.*" Texas Association For The Education of Young Children, State Conference (TAEYC), Austin TX.

Loewenstein, M. R., & Brown, D. L. (2010). "*Using Literature To Teach Early Literacy Components.*" Southwest Regional International Reading Association (IRA,) Oklahoma City, OK.

Local Conferences

Loewenstein, M.R. (2019). "*Bringing Back the Familiar: Using wordless picture books and storybooks to promote language and literacy in young children,*" Bill Martin Jr. Memorial Symposium, Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Loewenstein, M. R. (2016). "*Releasing The Power of Storytelling*". Spicola Forum In Reading, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX.

Loewenstein, M. R. (2014). "*Connecting Talking Drawing and Writing: Using Storyboards To Retell and Construct Stories.*" Spicola Forum In Reading, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX.

Loewenstein, M.R., & Brown, D. L. (2009). *“Literature Links To Language And Literacy Practices.”* Little Dixie Head Start Program Early Childhood Institute, Hugo, Oklahoma.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2021, Using CUBs (Culturally Unique Books) Workshop. (brief proposal) submitted by Sturdivant, T., Childs, K., & Loewenstein, M. on October 27, 2021. A&M University-Commerce Research and Economic Development (not funded).
- 2021, Building Teaching Capacity Through Authentic Play and STEAM learning experiences in A Teacher Preparation Program (brief proposal submitted by Loewenstein, M. on October 31, 2021. A&M University-Commerce Research and Economic Development (not funded).
- 2021, Opening Eyes to Early Learning (O-EEL) in Prekindergarten (brief proposal submitted by Sturdivant, T, Loewenstein, M., Pearce, K.N., & Thompson, J. on Feb 16, 2021. Equity-Focused Policy Research program by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation requested \$200,000, (not funded).

COURSES TAUGHT AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

ECE 313 Child Development Early Years
ECE 460 Early Childhood Curriculum
ECE 358 Language Acquisition & Development in Early Childhood
RDG 350 Reading and Literacy I
RDG 360 Word Analysis Skills
RDG 567 Practicum in Organizing for Effective Literacy Instruction in Elem., Middle & HS
RDG 562 Critical Issues in Literacy Education
RDG 520 Literacy and Instruction I
ELED 437 Internship Integrating Learning: Math, Science, & Technology (Field Based)
ELED 452 Student Teaching (Field Based)
EDCI 538 Classroom Management for Teachers
EDCI 517 Reading & Learning K-12 Content Area
EDCI 501 Foundations of Instructional Coaching

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Association for The Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC)
International Literacy Association (ILA)
American Educational Research Association (AERA)
Texas Association of Literacy Education (TALE)
Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER)