



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COMMERCE

Curriculum Vita September 2024

Instructor: Melanie R. Loewenstein, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Early Childhood and Reading Education

Academic Department: Curriculum and Instruction Department

University Address: Sowers Education South Texas A&M University-Commerce
PO Box 3011 Commerce, TX 75429-3011

University Email Address: Melanie.Loewenstein@tamuc.edu
Faculty Web Page Address: <https://faculty.tamuc.edu/mloewenstein/>

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 AND CERTIFICATES

- Texas Reading Academy Cohort Leader Trained, 2024
- Texas Reading Academy Trained, 2024
- Reading Recovery Trained, 2010
- English As A Second Language Texas Certification, 2001
- Elementary Self-Contained Texas (Grades 1-8), 1996
- Elementary English Language Arts Texas Certification (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/ Reading Specialist K-2/Instructional Specialist

2009-2010 Reading Recovery/Reading Specialist K-5

2007-2009 Reading Specialist K-5 /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. (2024). Literacy coaching: Navigating a transitioning literacy terrain. *Texas Journal of Literacy Education*, 11(1), 7-14.

Slay, L. E., **Loewenstein, M.**, & Morton, T. (2024). Lessons learned from elementary school teachers during a pandemic: Maintaining joy and curiosity in the elementary writing workshop. *English in Texas*, 53(2).

Slay, L. E., **Loewenstein, M.**, & Morton, T. (2023). Exploring the role of cultural navigator to facilitate critical literacy discussion with preservice teachers. *ALER Yearbook* (Vol. 44). https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.aleronline.org/resource/resmgr/yearbooks/44th_yearbook.pdf

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, M.** (2022). 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.
<http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson/documents/Loewenstein.Sturdivant.Thompson.2022.LearningPlayTeacherEd.YC.pdf>

Childs, K. & **Loewenstein, M.** (2022). Staying Connected: Rooting Literacy Courses in Current Topics and Relevant Teaching Practices. J. Aruajo (Ed.). *Handbook of Research on Reconceptualizing Preservice Teacher Preparation in Literacy Education*. Hershey, Pennsylvania: IGI Global.

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

Submitted/Under Review

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

Manuscripts In Progress

Slay, L., Morton, T., Loewenstein, M. *Using Refraction to Represent Reflection in Preservice Teacher Literacy Education*

Loewenstein, M. *An examination of head start parents' perceptions of program services Impacting student growth and development (Greater Head Start Dallas Agency Study)*

Loewenstein, M., *Playful stories: Building a literate foundation through storytelling*

Loewenstein, M., *Building a playfully sound foundation: Authentic phonological awareness experiences that engage young children.*

<h2>PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS</h2>

Community and Professional Development Trainings

Loewenstein, M (2024). *Growing Young Authors: Using Playful Storytelling Experiences to Build a Literate Foundation.* Now4ForeverConference. July 16. Region 10 ESC.

Loewenstein, M. (2024). *Exploring Literature-Based Phonological Awareness Learning Activities that Develop Children's Phonological Awareness.* Now4ForeverConference. July 16. Region 10 ESC.

Loewenstein, M. (2024). *Tiny Talkers: Nurturing Oral Language and Literacy Development in Our Youngest Learners.* Now4ForeverConference. July 17. Region 10 ESC.

Loewenstein, M. (2024). *Infant Toddlers: Supporting Oral Language, and Social Growth and Development.* Head Start of Greater Dallas Professional Development Day (Early Head Start). May 29. Dallas, TX

Loewenstein, M. (2024). *Infant Toddlers: Activities, Interactions, and Routines That Promote Cognition, Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development.* Head Start of Greater Dallas Professional Development Day (Early Head Start). May 28. Dallas, TX

Loewenstein, M. (2023). *Infant Toddlers: Supporting Oral Language, and Social Growth and Development.* Head Start of Greater Dallas Professional Development Day (Early Head Start). April 7. Dallas, TX

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.

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

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

National Conferences

Morton, T, Slay, L. & **Loewenstein, M** (2023), *“Using Refraction to Represent Reflection in Preservice Teacher Literacy Education.”* Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Conference, November 10, Santa Fe, NM.

Loewenstein, M. & Brown, D. (2023), *“Growing Young Authors: Using Playful Storytelling Experiences to Build a Literate Foundation.”* National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), November 17, Nashville, TN.

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

Loewenstein, M. & Brown, D. (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, D., **Loewenstein, M.** (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 (Face-to-Face Conference Canceled).

Loewenstein, M. & 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.

State Conferences

Lee, C. & **Loewenstein, M.** (2023), *“Power of Purposeful Play in the Early Childhood Classroom.”* Texas Association for the Education for the Education of Young Children (TxAEYC) Conference. November 4. Round Rock, TX.

Loewenstein, M. & Brown, D. (2023), *“Stories Aplenty: Building Young Children’s Oral Language Through Authentic Storytelling Activities!”* Texas Association for the Education for the Education of Young Children (TxAEYC) Conference. November 2. Round Rock, TX.

Loewenstein, M. (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. & 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. & 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. (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. (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. (2016). *“Supporting Young Children’s Oral Storytelling.”* Texas Association For The Education of Young Children State Conference (TAEYC), Dallas, TX.

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

Local Conferences

Loewenstein, M. (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. (2016). *“Releasing The Power of Storytelling”.* Spicola Forum In Reading, Texas Woman’s University, Denton, TX.

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

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2023, PLAY DAY TX from ChangeX Foundation, \$5,000.00 [Play Day TX](#) submitted by Thompson, J., Persky, J., Casey, E., Lee, C., & Rose, R. **Loewenstein, M.** (*funded*)
- 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*).
- 2020, “Utilizing Diverse Digital Texts with Elementary Students in Rural Texas School Districts” (Morton, T. PI, Araujo, J. Co-PI, Childs, K. Co-PI, **Loewenstein, M.** Co-PI, Slay, L. Co-PI) Spencer Foundation Small Grant \$59, 991 6/01/21-5/01/24 (*not funded*)
- 2020, Dallas ISD Choice School Application Integrating the Reggio Emilia Approach with STEAM (PK-12). Mid-Town Dallas Neighborhood Campus. Texas A&M University-Commerce and North Dallas Chamber of Commerce Partnership. Application and Curriculum Writers: Miller, K., Foote, M., & **Loewenstein, M.**, Malcolmson, K., Gassner, C., McQuery, M., & Dyer (Sennette), J. (*application approved; initiative discontinued*)

AWARDS

- Spring 2024, Nominated for TAMUC Faculty Senate Award for Professional Excellence in Teaching Classroom (application essay submitted)
- Spring 2022, Nominated for TAMUC Faculty Senate Award Teaching Innovation (application essay submitted)

COURSES TAUGHT AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

Early Childhood (ECE):

- ECE 313 Child Development Early Years
- ECE 366 Learning Environments
- ECE 460 Early Childhood Curriculum/STEAM in ECE
- ECE 358 Language Acquisition & Development in Early Childhood

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Reading (RDG):

- RDG 350 Reading and Literacy I
- RDG 360 Word Analysis Skills
- RDG 562 Critical Issues in Literacy Education
- RDG 520 Literacy and Instruction I
- RDG 560 Literacy Assessment
- RDG 567 Practicum in Organizing for Effective Literacy Instruction in Elem., MD & HS

Curriculum and Instruction (ELED/EDCI):

- 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
- EDCI 566 Practicum (Instructional Coach)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- National Association for The Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
 - Consulting Editor, Young Children Journal, 2022-present
- Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC)
 - Conference Presenter
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
 - Conference Presenter
- Texas Association of Literacy Education (TALE)
 - Journal Peer Reviewer
- Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER)