



Curriculum Vita
September 2024

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

Academic Department: Curriculum and Instruction Department

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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 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.*

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

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 Worksop”*. 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, **Lowenstein, 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

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)