

Engineering and Thinking Skills Karen E. DeRusha

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Professional Interests

To advance the critical thinking, reflection, and practice of educators to improve student outcomes and to provide appropriate early intervention learning strategies for young children.

Areas of Specialization

- Creating and presenting dynamic learning experiences for adult learners
- Strong knowledge of early childhood curriculum, philosophy, and pedagogy
- Expertise in providing mentoring strategies for educators

University Teaching Experience

2009-2010 *Co-instructor*, Engineering Design and Thinking Skills, 3 credit graduate course, Framingham State College

2006-2009 *Instructor*, Mentoring for Mastery, 3 credit graduate course, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Created and taught the following courses:

2009-2010 *Instructor*, Social Studies in the Early Childhood Classroom, Center for University, School and Community Partnerships, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

2007-2008 *Instructor*, Inquiry Science for Young Children, Center for University, School and Community Partnerships, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

2007 *Instructor*, Improving Strategies for Literacy Instruction in the Primary Grades, 3 credit graduate course, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Leadership and Supervisory Experience

2007 *Supervisor of Student teachers*, Early Childhood Masters Degree Program, Boston University.

2001-2003 *Coordinator of Newton Public Schools New Teacher Induction and Mentoring Program*. Responsible for system-wide K-12 program, including professional development for new teachers and their mentors.

1986-1987 *Lucretia Crocker Fellow*, Awarded by Massachusetts Department of Education. Disseminated exemplary program, “*A Developmentally Appropriate K-1 Curriculum Model*” in school districts throughout Massachusetts.

1982-1984 *Primary Grade Specialist*, Newton Public Schools. Responsible for program and staff development for sixty primary grade teachers in seventeen elementary schools

Classroom Teaching Experience

1996-2001 *Teacher of Grades Kindergarten, One, and Two*, Newton Public Schools, Massachusetts.
2003-2006

1995-1996 *Teacher of Grade One*, American School of Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain.

1984-1986 *Teacher of Kindergarten and K-1 Class*, Newton Public Schools, Massachusetts.
1987-1995

1970-1982 *Teacher of Grade One, K-1 Combination Class, Bilingual Transition, and 1-2 Combination Class*, Newton Public Schools and Newton’s Sister School in Bogota, Colombia, South America.

1967-1969 *Teacher of 2-3 Combination Class*, Bugbee School, West Hartford, Connecticut.

Leadership Roles Held During Public School Teaching

- Led literacy study groups
- Supervised numerous student teachers
- Mentored several new teachers
- Wrote science and social studies curricula
- Led affinity groups for children of color
- Created and led after school activities
- Member of school councils, school-based and city-wide committees and pilot projects

Professional Development Provider (A Sampling)

2007-2009 Pre-school and Kindergarten workshop presenter and consultant, Newton Public Schools.

August 2006 Literacy workshop presenter, Wareham Public Schools.

July 2000/
July 2001 Coordinator of statewide induction/mentor program symposium, “Mentoring Beginning Teachers.”

Nov. 1995 Mediterranean Association of International Schools Annual Conference: “Involving Children in Self-Assessment Activities.”

1986-1996 Lesley University New England Kindergarten Conference (sample presentations)
1996: “Whole Language for English as a Second Language Learners”
1994: “Use of Portfolios in the K-1 Classroom”

- 1987-1994 Frequent presenter of early childhood and primary grade workshops in school systems throughout Massachusetts.
- Feb. 1992 Chapter 1 Early Childhood Conference: “Come and Have Fun...and Learn Too.”
- Jan. 1991 Second Annual Rhode Island Kindergarten Conference: Keynote Speaker
“Integrate, Collaborate and Celebrate!”
- April 1990 National ACEI Conference: “Young Children as Writers.”

Selected Professional Activities

- 1989-Present *Member of Teacher Leadership Academy*, Statewide organization of teacher leaders.
Board of Directors Co-chair, 2001-2006.
- 1996-1998 *Participated in setting benchmarks* for Early Childhood Generalist National Board Certification. Scorer and trainer of scorers.
- 1994-1995 *Member of Teacher Assessment Design Team*, EDC, Newton, Massachusetts:
Designed assessment tasks and portfolio entries for Early Childhood Generalist National Board Certification.

Publications/Media

Author of “*Dramatic Play*,” an integrated curriculum.
Co-author of “*Sand and Water*,” an integrated curriculum.
Co-editor of “*Primary Resource Handbook*,” Newton Public Schools.
Co-producer of “*Close-up on Kindergarten*,” a Newton Cable television production.
Co-author of “*A Handbook for Kindergarten Parents*,” Newton Public Schools.

Education

- 1970 Boston University, M.Ed., specializations in Early Childhood and Reading
- 1967 Ohio Wesleyan University, B.A., major in Elementary Education