

Curriculum Vita

Lydia Criss Mays

Children's Book Author
Website: www.lydiacrissmays.com

CEO & President of See Beautiful™
Website: www.seebeautiful.com

Academic Preparation

Ph.D., Early Childhood Education, August 2009
Cognate: Literacy
Dissertation: *Linking Theory to Practice: How Two Reading Recovery Teachers' Reflections Inform Their Teaching Practices*
Georgia State University

M.S., Early Childhood Education, 2001
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

B.S., Human Ecology, 2000
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Professional Credentials

Georgia Educator Certificate, T-Early Childhood Education, Certificate Level 7
Georgia Professional Standards Commission, Atlanta, GA, 2009.

Georgia Educator Certificate, T-Early Childhood Education, Certificate Level 6
Georgia Professional Standards Commission, Atlanta, GA, 2008.

Georgia Educator Certificate, T-Early Childhood Education, Certificate Level 5
Georgia Professional Standards Commission, Atlanta, GA, 2004.

Tennessee Educator Certificate, Master's Degree, Certificate Type 3-Professional
State of Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville, TN, 2004.

Tennessee Educator Certificate, Master's Degree, Certificate Type 2-Apprentice
State of Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville, TN, 2001.

Certification Eligibility

Early Childhood Education (PreK-5) in TN & GA

Professional Experience

Clinical Assistant Professor, Georgia State University, Department of Early Childhood Education, Fall 2009-2013.

President & CEO, See Beautiful™, May 2011-Present.

Director of Education, Life Vest Inside (non-profit organization), November 2012-Present.

Ferst Foundation Children's Book Selection Committee, May 2011-Present.

B.S.E. Literacy Program Coordinator, Department of Early Childhood Education, Summer 2011-2012.

Critical Thinking through Writing Ambassador, Georgia State University, Fall 2010-Present.

Coach In Residence, Anderson Elementary School, Clayton County (PDS), Fall 2010-2012.

School Consultant, Paideia School, Independent School, Summer 2010-Spring 2011.

Podcast Designer for Best Practices, Georgia State University, Summer 2010.

Literacy Instructor, Georgia State University, Department of Early Childhood Education, Fall 2008.

Supervisor, Georgia State University, Department of Early Childhood Education, Fall 2008, Fall 2007.

Writing Consultant, Georgia State University, Department of Early Childhood Education, Spring 2008-Fall 2009.

Urban Graduate Research Assistant (UGRA), Georgia State University, Department of Early Childhood Education, 2005-2008.

Teacher Assistant, Georgia State University, Department of Early Childhood Education, Fall 2007.

Teacher Development, Georgia State University, Department of Early Childhood Education, Fall 2006.

Elementary Grade Teacher, Third grade, Parklane Elementary School, GA 2004-2005.

Building Level Technology Coach (BLTC), Knox County Schools, TN, 2003-2004.

Member of District Level Technology Plan Developmental Team, Knox County Schools, TN, 2003-2004.

Elementary Grade Teacher, PreK, Sam E. Hill School, TN, 2001-2004.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles & Conference Proceedings

Mays, L.C. (2013). *The Life Vest Inside kindness curriculum: Understanding, refining, implementing and growing in kindness from kindergarten through fifth grade*. Global Education Magazine. ***invited***

Mays, L.C., Hory, C., Smith-Dupriest, S., Brookshire, A. (2011). What the children taught us. Using the project approach to teach a Native American unit. *Georgia Social Studies Journal* 1(2), 1-13.

Mays, L.C. (2011). Using the “app” in application {text box}. *Language Arts Journal*.

Swars, S., Meyers, B., Mays, L. & Lack, B. (2009). Examining Teacher Retention and Mobility in a Professional Development School through Collaborative Inquiry. *Journal of Teacher Education*, 60(2), 168-183.

Mays, L. (2008). The cultural divide of discourse: Understanding how ELLs' primary discourse influences acquisition of literacy. *The Reading Teacher*, 61(5) 415-418. (pp. 377-392). Information Age Publishers.

Truscott, D., Wells, B. & Mays, L. (2006). Exploring what matters to professional development school partners. *Journal of the Georgia Association of Teacher Education*, 17(1), 32-42.

Book Chapters

Mays, L. (In Press) (*invited*). Kindness. O. Wahba (Ed.) *Kindness 101*.

Mays, L. (In Press) (*invited*). Watch her. In K.Riggins (Ed.) *Watch her thrive*.

Truscott, D., Mays, L., & Wells, B. (2008). Using National Standards to Examine Professional Development School Participants' Beliefs and Values Regarding Their PDS Partnerships. In I.N. Guadarrama, J. Ramsey, J. Nath (Eds.) *University and School Connections: Research Studies in Professional Development Schools*.

Children's Books

Mays, L.C. (In Press). *The giving me*. Atlanta, GA: Our Rainbow Press.
 Mays, L.C. (Accepted). *The sharing me*. Atlanta, GA: Our Rainbow Press.

Mays, L.C. (Accepted). *The loving me*. Atlanta, GA: Our Rainbow Press.

Mays, L.C. (Accepted). *The patient me*. Atlanta, GA: Our Rainbow Press.

Mays, L.C. (August, 2013). *The listening me*. Atlanta, GA: Our Rainbow Press.

Meyers, B., & Mays, L.C. (2011). *The long and the short of it: A tale about hair*. Atlanta, GA: American Cancer Society. ***Award Winning***

Curriculum

Mays, L.C. (2012). *Life Vest Inside kindness curriculum*.

Refereed National & International Convention Presentations

Mays, L.C. (2013). *Exploring Good Reads through goodreads with pre- and inservice teachers & teacher educators*. Paper presentation at the 2012 Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Atlanta, GA, February, 2013.

Kurumada, K., Mays, L.C., Dangel, J.R., Meyers, B. (2012). *What book are you reading?: Experiences of a department-wide book study on English language learners*. Paper Presentation at the 2012 Association of Teacher Educator Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2012.

Mays, L.C. & Dooley, C.M. (2011). *Teacher education as community involvement*. Roundtable Presentation at the 2011 Literacy Research Association Conference, Jacksonville, FL, 2011.

Mays, L.C. (2011). *Linking theory to practice: Understanding how two Reading Recovery teachers' reflections inform their teaching practices*. Outstanding Dissertation award winning paper presented at the 2011 Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Orlando, FL, February, 2011. ***Invited***

Mays, L.C. (2010). *Electronic fieldtrips*. Part of the *Digital learning tools in elementary Grades symposium*. Symposium presented at 2010 Literacy Research Association, Fort Worth, TX, December 2010.

Mays, L.C. & Truscott, D.M. (2010). *Reflection as a roadmap for teachers*. Paper Presented at 2010 Literacy Research Association, Fort Worth, TX, December 2010.

Mays, L.C. (2008). *An investigation of transformational influences on preservice teachers' self reflections of their teaching*. Paper presented at 2008

American Educational Research Association, New York, NY, March 2008.

Swars, S., Mays, L., Lack, B., & Meyers, B. (2007). *Examining Teacher Retention and Mobility in a Professional Development School through Collaborative Inquiry*. Paper presented at 2007 American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL, April 2007.

Truscott, D., Mays, L., & Wells, B. (2006). *Using National standards to examine PDS Participants' beliefs and values regarding their PDS partnerships*. Research Paper presented at 2006 Professional Development Schools National Conference, Orlando, FL, March 2006.

Jordan, L. & Mays, L. (2006). *Partnership work in high-needs schools: Reflection on Practice (Teacher Induction)*. Research presented at Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), Atlanta, GA, February 2006.

Truscott, D., Wells, B., & Mays, L. (2005). *What matters most: An exploratory study of Professional Development Schools*. Research paper presented at Georgia Association of Teacher Educators, Jekyll Island, GA, October 2005.

Other Presentations (Regional, State, Local)

Dangel, J., Mays, L.C., Cain, A., Matthews, S. (2010). *Supporting Doctoral Students*. Georgia Association of Teacher Educators, Atlanta, GA, October 2010.

Mays, L.C., Durden, T., Meyers, B. (2008). *We Teach Who We Are*. Presented at 2008 Georgia Association of Teacher Educators, Atlanta, GA, October 2008.

Mays, L.C. (2008). *Understanding the reflective practices of literacy teachers*. Poster Presented at 2008 Conference on Literacy, Urban Issues, and Social Studies Education, Atlanta, GA, February 2008.

Dangel, J., Durden, T., Mays, L., Matthews, L. (2007). *A constructivist approach to teaching scholarly writing to graduate students*. Presented at 2007 Georgia Association of Teacher Educators, Savannah, GA, October 2007.

Mays, L. (2007). *The cultural divide of discourse: Understanding how ELLs' primary discourse influences acquisition of literacy*. Paper presented at 2007 Georgia Read Write Now Conference, Atlanta, GA, January 2007.

Mays, L., Lack, B. Swars, S. & Meyers, B. (2006). *A collaborative inquiry: University and PDS partnership study on Teacher retention and mobility*. Research Paper presented at 2006 Georgia Educational Research Association, Savannah, GA, October 2006.

Lack, B., Mays, L., Swars, S. & Meyers, B. (2006). *The many faces of mobility: A school-University partnership study of school climate and culture*. Research Paper presented at 2006 South East Regional Association of Teacher Educators, Baltimore, MD, November 2006.

Collins, A. & Mays, L. (2006). *Uniquely Urban: Understanding the behavior patterns of preschool children in urban classrooms*. Research paper presented at Sources Of Urban Educational Excellence, Atlanta, GA, April 2006.

Criss, L. (Maiden Name) (2002). *Operation Enduring Innocence: What kindergarten Students understand about September 11th*. Action research Presented at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, April 2002.

International, National & State Professional Service

Director of Education, Life Vest Inside Non-Profit Organization, 2012. ***Invited***

Advisory Board Member, Life Vest Inside Non-Profit Organization, 2012. ***Invited***

Kindezi Charter School Professional Development Consultant (May, 2012). ***Invited***

Member of the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Leadership Academy, 2012. ***Invited***

Ferst Foundation Children's Book Selection Committee, 2011-Present. ***Invited***

Editorial Review Board Member, *Language Arts Journal*, 2011-2012. ***Invited***

Editorial Review Board, Literacy Research Association (LRA) Conference, 2008, 2010, 2011.

Editorial Review Board, *Journal of Languages and Cultures*, 2010.

Conference Facilitator and Discussant. Georgia Association of Education Conference, Atlanta, GA, September, 2009. ***Invited***

Editorial Review Board, *The BRIDGE*, 2005-2008.

Editorial Review Board, American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, 2006, 2007, 2008.

University Professional Service

Critical Thinking Through Writing Consultant for Writing Across the Curriculum (W.A.C.), Fall 2007-Current.

Editorial Committee, Georgia State University, Teacher Education Yearbook, 2005.

Graduate Assistant at Knoxville Childcare Referral Center, University of Tennessee, 2001.

Assistant in the Teacher Research Center, University of Tennessee, 2002.

College of Education Professional Service

ECE Faculty representative to the Academic Affairs Committee, Georgia State University, 2009-2012.

Hosted Urban Graduate Research Institutes for the College of Education, 2006-2009.

ECE student representative to the Graduate Admissions Appeals & Exceptions Committee, Georgia State University, 2005-2007.

Founding Member of the Urban Graduate Research Collaborative Writing Club, Georgia State University, 2006.

Teacher Induction Committee, Georgia State University, 2005-2006.

Department Professional Service

Critical Thinking Through Writing Ambassador, Fall 2010-Spring 2013.

Co-editor of Faculty Newsletter, Spring, 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013.

Search Committee Member for the ESOL/Literacy Assistant Professor Position. Spring 2013.

Search Committee Member for ESOL/Literacy Clinical Assistant Professor Position. Spring 2011.

Search Committee Member for ESOL/Literacy Clinical Assistant Professor Position. Fall 2010.

Co-designer of the Doctoral Student and Faculty Mentoring Guide, Fall 2010.

Co-Founder of Writing Support Project, 2010.

Member of Writing Support Project Committee (Co-PI), 2010-2012.

Member of Ph.D. Committee, 2010.

Founding Member of Early Childhood Education Student Support Group, Georgia State University, 2006.

Interviewer for admissions to Undergraduate and Graduate programs in ECE, 2005-2012.

Community Professional Service

Life Vest Inside, Advisory Board Member, 2012-Current.

The Ferst Foundation Volunteer/Partner, 2010-Current.

Make-A-Wish Volunteer, 2005-present.

Crohn's and Colitis Volunteer, 2007-present.

The Luke Project Volunteer, 2006-2007.

Courses Implemented

Undergraduate

ECE 3601 Literacy and Language Arts in Early Childhood Education (6 credit hours) (Fall, 2007; Fall, 2009 (two cohorts); Spring, 2010 (two cohorts); Fall 2010 (two cohorts); Spring 2011 (two cohorts); Fall 2011 (two cohorts); Spring 2012 (two cohorts); Fall 2012 (two cohorts); Spring 2013 (two cohorts).

BRFV 4370 Literacy, Language, and Cognition in Early Childhood (Summer, 2010)

ECE 3602 Reading and Language Arts in Early Childhood Education (Fall, 2008)

Graduate

ECE 8401 Curriculum, Theory, Design and Application 3.0 (Education Specialist Course) (Summer 2011)

ECE 7975 Seminar for Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants (Summer, 2010)

Honors and Awards

2013 The Listening Me selected as a Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy book

2012 Georgia State University Instructional Effectiveness Award Nominee

- 2012 Lady Godiva Woman of the Year Nominee (May, 2012).
- 2012 Apex Awards: Award of Publishing Excellence in the One-of-a Kind Health and Medical Publications category for *The long and the short of it: A tale about hair*.
- 2012 National Indie Excellence Awards: Finalist in the Children-Picture Book category for *The long and the short of it: A tale about hair*
- 2012 Gold Award Association of TRENDS All Media Contest Gold Award for *The long and the short of it: A tale about hair* (January, 2012).
- USA Book News 2011 Best Picture Book Finalist for *The long and the short of it: A tale about hair* (November, 2011).
- GOLD Mom's Choice Awards for *The long and the short of it: A tale about hair* (September, 2011).
- The National Health Information Bronze Award for *The long and the short of it: A tale about hair* (September, 2011).
- See Beautiful Children's Book of the Month Honor for *The long and the short of it: A tale about hair* (September, 2011).
- Recipient of the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Distinguished Dissertation Award, 2010.
- Recipient of the Lorene Pilcher Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award in Early Childhood Education at Georgia State University, 2010.
- Kappa Delta Pi, Omicron Gamma Chapter, 2008.
- Golden Key International Honor Society, Georgia State University, 2007-present.
- National Scholars Honor Society, Georgia State University, 2007-present.
- Urban Graduate Research Assistant, Georgia State University, 2005-present.
- Doctoral Student Conference Travel Award, Georgia State University, 2005-2006, 2006-2007.
- Featured in Nationally Broadcasted commercial as graduate from The University of Tennessee during NCAA sporting events, 2000-2001.
- C. J. Reynolds Scholarship, University of Tennessee, 2001-2002.

Human Ecology Scholarship, University of Tennessee, 2001-2002.

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Tennessee, 1999-2002.

Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society, University of Tennessee, 1999-2002.

Grants

Awarded Grants:

“Student Technology Fee” (2012)

Requested to support preservice teachers’ development in the use of digital media in P-5th grade teaching and teacher development.

Georgia State University.

Amount: \$47,042

Role: **Co-PI**

“Service Learning Support” (2011)

Requested to support preservice teachers’ implementation of service learning experiences in the community.

Georgia State University.

Amount: \$510

Role: **Co-PI**

Invited Guest Speaking Presentations

International Conferences:

Mays, L.C. (2011). *Linking theory to practice: Understanding how two Reading Recovery teachers’ reflections inform their teaching practices*. Outstanding Dissertation award winning paper presented at the 2011 Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Orlando, FL, February, 2011. ***Invited***

International Radio Show:

Mays, L.C. (2012). *Fostering compassionate care with children in foster care*. Radio Show, System Kidz, Manitoba, CA. ***Invited***

Mays, L.C. (2012). *See Beautiful and Everyday Service*. Radio Show, Everyday Service, Mongolia. ***Invited***

Community Proceedings:

Mays, L.C., Holbrook, T., Bridges-Rhoads, S., Pourchier, N. (2012). *The five pillars of Reading*. Professional Development session for the Alliance Theatre.

Mays, L.C. (2012). *Interactive Read Alouds*. Professional Development session for Buice School teachers, Atlanta, GA.

Mays, L.C. (2011). *Unpacking critical literacy*. Guest Presenter for the Alliance Theatre Teaching Artists. Atlanta, GA.

Georgia State University:

Mays, L.C. (2011). *See Beautiful in Teaching in Today's Society*. Guest Speaker for the PERS 2001 Course: Teaching In Today's Society.

Mays, L.C. (2011). *Multimodal composition and theory embedded in critical thinking through writing and emerging media studies*. Guest Speaker for the Critical Thinking through Writing (CTW) and Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) University Initiative.

Early Childhood Education Department:

Mays, L.C. (2011). *Understanding, Implementing, and Reflecting Upon Read Alouds*. Guest Speaker for ECE 3600: Introduction to Literacy Learning in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

Mays, L.C. (2011). *Understanding literacy across the B.S.E. Program*. Guest Speaker for the B.S.E. Program Supervisors.

Mays, L.C. & Meyers, B. (2011). *Sharing reflections of writing children's literature*. Guest Speaker for the Undergraduate ECE 3601 students.

Mays, L.C. (2009, 2007, 2008). *What can we learn from reflection?* Guest speaker for the Educational Specialist Students.

Mays, L.C. (2009, 2007, 2006, 2005). *Critically thinking through writing*. Guest speaker in Undergraduate ECE Literacy course.

Websites

*See Beautiful*TM: www.seebeautiful.com

*See Beautiful*TM blog: <http://seeabeautifulworld.blogspot.com/>

Author website: www.lydiacrissmays.com

Professional Memberships

Association of Teacher Educators, 2009-Present

Atlanta Women's Agenda, 2007-2009

American Education Research Association, 2005-2009

International Reading Association, 2006-2010

National Reading Council/Literacy Research Association, 2006-present

National Education Association, 1999-present
Tennessee Education Association, 1999-2005
National Association of Young Children, 1999-2001