

Jennifer Leeper Miller, M.S.
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Education

M.S. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 2009. Child Development

B.S. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education, 2003.
Nebraska Teaching Certificate: Early Childhood Education Primary-3 Elementary Education K-6

Professional Experience

Spring 2015-Present Faculty, Child Youth and Family Studies. Lecturer, Child Development.
Director Ruth Staples Child Development Lab School

Fall 2010-2015 Assistant Director Ruth Staples Child Development Lab University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Fall 2008-2015 Master Teacher, Ruth Staples Child Development Lab
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Fall 2004- 2008 Bachelor Level Teacher, Ruth Staples Child Development Lab Full Day
Program. University of Nebraska-Lincoln

June 2003-2004 Head Teacher, Educare of Omaha.

University Level Teaching

Fall 2025 CYAF 374/374 L Curriculum Planning in Early Childhood Education

Fall 2024 CYAF 210/210L Social Emotional Development of the Child

Spring 2023 CYAF 210/210L Social Emotional Development of the Child

Fall 2022 CYAF 210/210L Social Emotional Development of the Child

Fall 2019/Spring 2020 CYAF 374/374 L Curriculum and Instruction Co-Taught

Fall 2018/Spring 2020 CYAF 374/374 L Curriculum and Instruction

Spring 2016 ECEMS-CYAF 303 Curriculum 4-8 Course-Online

Fall 2015 ECEMS – CYAF 205 Child Guidance and Classroom Environments-Online

Fall 2009-2018 CYAF 497A- Student Teaching in Early Childhood-Preschool

University Service

2024 CYAF Chair Advisory Committee

2021 Sub-Curriculum Meeting Child Development

2018 Search Committee member- CEHS Dean

2017-2019 Peer Review Committee member-CYAF

Recruitment Committee member-CYAF

2016 Search Committee member-CYAF Faculty Position in Child Development

2015 Search Committee member-CYAF Faculty Position in Child Development

Research Experience

Aug. 2008 **Barkley Memorial Center Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) Project Project**
Exceed-Excellence in Collaborative Education & Early Development

Cooperative program funded by UNL and a gift from Autism Action Partnership of Omaha (formerly known as the GWR Sunshine Foundation) to the University of Nebraska Foundation

Aug. 2006 **"Parent Engagement and Child Learning Birth to Five: Getting Ready Project"**

Federally Funded Grant My responsibilities as research assistant with the Getting Ready Project included coding data as well as continue to meet reliability standards. Grants:

Grants

August 2024-Present

LEAF Initiative: Learning Environments for All to Flourish /Grand Challenges Catalyst Award from UNL
Co-PI Team Member (A five-year catalyst award funds the project)

August 2024-Present

Transforming Environments: Promoting Children's Health, Development and Learning Indoors, Outdoors and Beyond/ Grand Challenges Grant
CO-PI Team member (A five-year, \$2,667,222 catalyst award funds the project)

October 2024 extended through May 2026

Farm to Preschool Institute. Farm to Early Care and Education program supporting three core elements, procurement, school gardens, and education. (Awarded \$3000)

September 2023

CO-I Team member on **Grand Challenges Grant: "Inspiring Outcomes for Children through Equitable Early Childhood Education Experiences (E4)" Early Childhood Workforce Preparation and Communications** (Assessment & Documentation)

October 2022 Child Care Stabilization Grant—Awarded \$33,000
Funder Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act

December 2021 Child Care Stabilization Grant—Awarded \$63,000
Funder Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act

August 2020 COVID NE HHS CARES Grant —Awarded \$500
Funder Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Funded PPE, sanitizing materials for program to support COVID Response Procedures

August 2020 COVID NCFF Grant—Awarded \$3,00 Funder Nebraska Children
Funded Director Salary for portion of time to offset deficit of closing the program for 4 months due to COVID.

Fall 2016 **CEHS Innovation Technology Grant:**
Music and Movement: Including the Arts in Outdoor Classroom & Capturing Moments from Children's Perspective Aug.

2014-2020 **Math Early On: Implementation Phase**

Research Project aims to enhance the mathematical and pedagogical knowledge and skills of early childhood teachers and administrators in the Educare of Omaha, and Educare of Lincoln and to strengthen children and families' motivation for learning math.

Jan. 2013 **Advancing Environmental Literacy Grant** Funding Source: Nebraska Alliance Conservation and Environmental Education.

Professional Affiliations and Services

2019-Present National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers *Board Member 2023

Updated 1/15/2026

2019-Present Nebraska Association of Education of Young Child *Board Member 2015-2023
2008-present North American Association Environmental Education
2006-present Lincoln Association of Education of the Young Child
-Workshop/Resource Coordinator 2006-2007
2005-present North American Reggio Emilia Alliance
2003-present National Association of Education of the Young Child
2006-2009 Early Childhood Planning Region Team
-Representative of LAEYC Board

Publications

Edwards, C., Hamel, E., **Leeper Miller, J.**, Ren, L., (2019). Improving reflective practice: a documentation rubric for mentoring preservice and in-service teachers, *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, DOI: 10.1080/10901027.2018.1463321 To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10901027.2018.1463321>

Leeper Miller, J., “Identifying Patterns” Ed. Edwards, C., Boise, C. *Learning the Language of Nature: Young Children as Mathematical Thinkers*. UNL Center for Science, Mathematics and Computer Education in collaboration with Educare of Omaha. 2016. Pg 32. Print.

Leeper Miller, J., “Grace Grows a Pattern” Ed. Edwards, C., Boise, C. *Learning the Language of Nature: Young Children as Mathematical Thinkers*. UNL Center for Science, Mathematics and Computer Education in collaboration with Educare of Omaha. 2016. Pg 36. Print.

Hamel, E., **Leeper Miller, J.**, Rogers, L. “Teachers Partner with Experts To Build Strong Learning Environments” *Young Children*. March 2016-Vol. 71, No. 1

Leeper Miller, J. (2014). Featured Photograph in UNL Stem Booklet. Collaborations in Math & Science: Smart Start. University of Nebraska- Lincoln. Pg. 28.

Durden, T., Cruickshank, K., **Leeper Miller, J.**, (2013). Safe Sleep Practices for Caregivers: Reduce the Risk of SUID-On Demand. University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Penn State; USDA; DoD.

Torquati, J., Gabriel, M., Jones-Branch, J., **Leeper Miller, J.**, (2010). Environmental Education: A natural way to Nurture Children’s Development and Learning. 65, 6. November, 98-104.

Benson, J. & **Leeper Miller, J.** (2008). Experiences in Nature: A Pathway to Standards. *Young Children*. 63, 4. July, 26-28.

Leeper Miller, J. (2008). *Young Children*. Cover Photo. 63, 4. July.

Leeper Miller, J. (2011). The Nest Protectors. *Growing with Nature Supporting Whole-Child Learning in Outdoor Classrooms*. Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. pg. 70.

Leeper Miller, J. (2011). Investigation of Grasshoppers. *Growing with Nature Supporting Whole-Child Learning in Outdoor Classrooms*. Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. pg. 32.

Leeper Miller, J. (2011). 2 Cover and 1 Back Cover photographs *Spotlight on Young Children and Nature*. NAEYC.

Conference Presentations and Workshops

Leeper Miller, J. (October 2025) “Make a Circle” Workshop Debrief Session (3 hours) Sponsors- Lincoln Littles, NeAEYC, Southeast Community College, CEHS. Lincoln, Nebraska

Brisbin, C., **Leeper Miller, J.**, Ohles, A., Von Kampen, M., Williams, M. (April 2025) “*The Power of Place-based Curriculum in Early Childhood Education*” Presentation (1.5 hour) Omaha Association Education of the Young Child. Omaha, Nebraska

Brooks, M., Krause, K., **Leeper Miller, J.**, Schutte, A., Torquati, J., (April 2025) “*The Importance of Wild Areas for Healthy Early Childhood Development*”(1.5 hours) Panel for the Wild Great Plains Conference. Lincoln, Nebraska

Brisbin, C., **Leeper Miller, J.**, Williams, M. (April 2024) “*Toddlers and Teachers: Patterns of Play*” Presentation (1.5 hour) Omaha Association Education of the Young Child. Omaha, Nebraska

Leeper Miller, J., von Kampen, M. (February 2024) “*Making the Teaching and Learning Visible in the Play-Based Outdoor Learning Environment*. (1.5 hour in person) Nebraska Environmental Education Conference. Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environmental Education.

Leeper Miller, J., von Kampen, M. (June 2022) *Let’s Take Play Seriously: The Value of Early Childhood Education*. Conservation Education Lunch and Learn Series. (1 hour online) Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Lincoln, Ne

Leeper Miller, J., von Kampen, M. (July 2022) *Connecting Early Childhood Educators to the Rights of Children*. (1 hour presentation) Playful Spirit Conference. Ruth Staples CDL, Catholic Diocese of Lincoln.

Hamel, E. **Leeper Miller, J.**, Burton, A., Molfese, V., & Heaton, R. (2020, April 29). *Collaborative inquiry groups: Using the cycle of inquiry to improve early childhood math instruction* [Poster presentation]. Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families, and Schools Summit on Research in Early Childhood, Lincoln, NE, United States. (Submission accepted, conference canceled).

Hamel, E., **Leeper Miller, J.**, Molfese, V., Heaton, R., & Burton, A. (2020, June 22-24). *Improving early childhood math instruction using the cycle of inquiry* [Poster presentation virtually]. National Research Conference on Early Childhood, Arlington, VA, United States. (In person conference cancelled)

Hamel, E., **Leeper Miller, J.**, Molfese, V., Heaton, R., & Burton, A. (2020, November 30-December 3). *Improving early childhood math instruction using the Cycle of Inquiry* [Poster presentation]. National Research Conference on Early Childhood, Virtual Conference. nrcec2020.ipostersessions.com/Default.aspx?s=36-4C-9D-F6-63-0D-0A-0D-3C-52-89-A1-EC-7E-CA-B0

Chatterton, E., **Leeper Miller, J.**, von Kampen, M., (March 2020). Making a Culture of Math Visible and Alive throughout the Program. [50 min session]. National Coalition Campus Child Care. National Conference (Submission accepted, conference canceled).

Leeper Miller, J., Unrau, E. (July, 2019). “Capture, Reflect, and Take Action on Children’s Big Ideas” Symposium on Early Childhood Mathematics Professional Development sponsored by Teachers Development Group. Portland, OR.

Leeper Miller, J., Shi, G. (2018). “How to Encourage Families to Form Positive Habits towards Early Literacy.” Session Presentation at National Coalition Campus Child Cares Conference.

Leeper Miller, J. (2018) “Making Learning Visible in Place Based Education” Evergreen Institute Professional Development Series-Shanghai, China, Nanning, China. Invitation to lead three full day workshops.

Leeper Miller, J., (November 2018). “Effective Observation and Documentation in the Early Childhood Classroom.” International Invitation by Evergreen Early Childhood Institute. Presented in Shanghai, Nanning, and Hangzhou.

Leeper Miller, J., Shi, G., (March 2018). “How to Encourage Families to Form Positive Habits towards Early Literacy.” Presentation Accepted at National Level at the Annual National Coalition of Campus Children's Centers National Conference.

Leeper Miller, J., Jones-Branch, J. (November 2016). “Evaluating Technology in Early Childhood Education: Balancing Best Practices with Innovative Approaches.” Presentation Accepted at National Level at the Annual National NAEYC conference. Hosted by National Association of Education of the Young Child.

Leeper Miller, J. Rupiper, M., Unrau, E. (November 2016). "Run with it: Creating outdoor play opportunities for preschoolers" Presented by Unrau & Rupiper at National Level at the Annual National NAEYC conference. Hosted by National Association of Education of the Young Child.

Hamel, E., **Leeper Miller, J.,** von Kampen, M., Unrau, E., (August 2016). “Still Life- Drawing to Learn about Nature” Presented at Natural Start Alliance Nature Based Preschool National Conference. Hosted by Natural Start Alliance.

Leeper Miller, J., (June, 2016). “Making Learning Visible” and “Using Children’s Theories in the Early Childhood Classroom” Presented at a week-long workshop to teachers, kindergarten principals and early childhood faculty at Nanjing Second Normal University, Chin

