

Sarah Neessen

140. E. Glenwood Ave. Unit 302
Knoxville TN 37917

Pre-k Teacher Knoxville Head Start
sneessen@vols.utk.edu

Education

University of Tennessee Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Sciences	2017
East Tennessee State University Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education	2020

Certificates and Licensure

Endorsement in

- Pre-k
- Kindergarten
- Special Education in Pre-k and kindergarten

Additional endorsement in:

- Certificate in developing Emergent Inquiry Curriculum

Key Skills / Knowledge

- Lead teacher
- 2nd in command of the center
- Coursework design and implementation
- Individual instruction developed and put into practice
- Classroom management
- Classroom administration (assistants and student teachers)
- Assessments and evaluation, lesson plans
- Differentiated instruction developed and put into practice
- Mentor to rising assistants to teachers, new teachers, and student teachers
- Coach for GOLD documentation assessment to teachers, assistants, and student teachers
- Special needs instruction and evaluation
- Interactive learning/creating developmentally appropriate environments.
- Family engagement through home visit's, conferences, and parent meetings
- Trauma informed professional development
- Professional Learning Teams
- CPR/First Aid certified
- CDL driver's license

Professional Development

- Presenter at ETSU Center of Excellence Early Childhood Conference Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning & Development. Topic: Pretend Play Growing from Shared Experiences and Project Work: A Deep Study into Supporting Children's Thinking 2018
- Presenter at Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) Conference. Topic: Building Classroom Community, Building Children's Competencies, Building Curriculum 2018

- Presenter Head Start Early Childhood Conference. Topic: *Teaching in the Gap: Seeking Spaces within Prescribed Curricula to Individualize Instruction* 2018
- Guest Lecturer of Melody Hobbs at University of Tennessee summer kindergarten 445 course 2018
- Guest Lecturer of Melody Hobbs at the University of Tennessee literacy 350 fall course 2018
- Presenter at ETSU Center of Excellence Early Childhood Conference Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning & Development. Topic: Building oral language through shared reading and flexible curriculum 2019
- Presenter at the University of Tennessee’s Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Topic: Seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary: The day in the life of a Knoxville Head Start Teacher 2019
- Presenter at the University of Tennessee’s Early Learning Institute. Topic: Seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary: A reflection on the many roles of the teacher 2019
- Guest Lecturer of Melody Hobbs at the University of Tennessee in both the summer and fall kindergarten course 2019
- Guest Lecturer of Dr. Fitzgerald at the University of Tennessee science and math 351 2019
- Guest Lecturer East of Dr. Atlies at Tennessee State University Early Childhood course 2019
- Guest Lecture of Dr. Fitzgerald at University of Tennessee science and math 351 course 2020
- Adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee fall 485 2021
- Adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee spring 351 2022

Publications

- “Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary: A Day in the Life of a Head Start Teacher in Knoxville, Tennessee,” *Childhood Explorer*, Fall 2019.
- “Staying with discomfort: Early childhood teachers’ emotional themes to children’s peer culture aggression.” *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, Sage Publications.

Teaching Experience

Associate Director of Academics and Curriculum/Demonstration teacher. 2022- present
 Provides direct training, mentoring, and supervision of undergraduate and graduate students, in collaboration with Directors; required outcomes are defined, but specific methods and procedures should vary based on judgment, expertise, assessment data, or precedent.
 Designs, implements, and demonstrates specific early childhood education lesson planning models, teaching methods, and assessment techniques. Provides high quality care, supervision, and education for children as well as overall management of assigned classroom(s). Uses innovative approaches to solving problems; Makes independent decisions within scope of responsibility. Demonstrates to students how to implement multi-faceted approaches to building engaged relationships with children, families, and colleagues. Oversees the work of all educators in the classroom at any given time, including assistant teachers, student teachers, practicum students, and volunteers. Develops and implements

meaningful, relevant curriculum for children, informed by ongoing authentic assessment information, including integrated approaches to serving children with diverse learning needs. Provides consultation services and training to staff, students, and outreach recipients related to documentation practices. Participates with Directors and other program leaders in the strategic and long-range planning processes for both on-campus programs and off-campus community partnerships. Develops, assesses, evaluates, and improves training, modules, and workshops for a wide range of audiences, including personnel and students as well as community partnership educators and staff.

Knoxville-Knox County Head Start

2006 – 2022

Developed and implemented child-centered curriculum (Creative Curriculum) in all subject areas, in conjunction with emergent curriculum based on children's interest. Classrooms include a diverse group of twenty preschool children, 2 assistants and student teachers. Adapted lessons to meet individual needs by including children's backgrounds and learning needs through IEPs and pre-assessments. Incorporated cross-curricular components based on this information and GOLD assessment. Designed, planned, and provided opportunities for project work based on children's interests. Investigation and small group collaboration provided opportunities to children that encompassed a wide range of interests and abilities all while implementing positive classroom management strategies. Participation in program wide professional development and team meetings, parent conferences, IEP meetings, and field trips. Communicated with parents on a regular basis with home visits and conferences, building a home, school connection. CDL driver's license for transportation of children to and from school

Professional Memberships

- NAEYC 2017 – present

Related Experience

- Creating and building nature-based playgrounds at 6 Head Start Centers
- Weekly mentor/caregiver of young adult diagnosed with Autism