

Experienced professional with breadth and depth of knowledge and experience in the preparation and professional development of practitioners serving young emergent bilinguals birth to age eight and their families. Expertise also includes support for programs in the implementation of elements that promote the learning and development of young emergent bilinguals; and the use of action research as a tool for learning and reflection in early childhood practitioners.

### Education

**Ph.D. in Child Development**-Erikson Institute/Loyola University-Chicago, IL  
May 2008

**M.Ed. in Child Development**-Erikson Institute/Loyola University-Chicago, IL  
January 1996

**BA in psychology**, Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Ureña, Dominican Republic  
April 1981

### Select Professional Experiences

#### Director-Bilingual ESL Certificate Program -Erikson Institute

Responsible for setting and updating program goals in accordance to current knowledge and empirical research from the field; providing ongoing support and professional development to program faculty. September 2007 to present

#### Assistant Clinical Professor-Erikson Institute

September 2007 to August 2014

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#### Associate Clinical Professor- Erikson Institute

September 2014 to present

Responsibilities include:

- Developing and teaching courses across several of the graduate programs at the Institute.
- Advising students during year-long practicum.
- Generating and/or participating in institute initiatives pertaining to the development and education of young emergent bilinguals.

#### Co-Leader CPS DLL PK Project

Design and delivery of pilot that includes professional development, on-site consultations and coaching to administrators and teachers in three early childhood programs serving young emergent bilinguals aged three-to-five within a large urban school system. Pilot is meant to serve as model for future expansions to other preschools classrooms within the district. January 2017 to present

### Select Publications/Presentations

- **Meléndez, L.** Using Children's Books as a Social Studies Curriculum Strategy. *Young Children*, 70, 48- 55 Spring 2015
- **Ray, A. & Meléndez, L.** (2012). More than the Sum of Its Parts: Creating Multicultural and Linguistically Responsive Early Childhood Classrooms. In J. P. Roopnarine & J. Johnson (Eds.) *Approaches to Early Childhood Education* Summer 2012

- **Supporting dual language learners birth-to-three: What do we know?** Presentation at the 2016 annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children October, 2016
- **Responding to Linguistic Diversity: Bilingualism Administrators' Seminar** Buffet Early Childhood Institute-Omaha, NE January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- **El Lenguaje Oral como Base del Pensamiento y Aprendizaje: Estrategias y Estrategas;** Buffet Early Childhood Institute *Professional Development for All* 2016-17 Series-Omaha, NE. January 19th 2017
- **Oral language birth to age eight: Implications of the multiple contexts of development: Home, community, and school.** Buffet Early Childhood Institute *Professional Development for All* 2016-17 Series-Omaha, NE. January 19th and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

### Research Experience

- **Co-Investigator:** Inquiry into practice guidelines for birth-to-three programs regarding work with dual language infants, toddler and families. Fall of 2013 to present
- **Principal Investigator.** Every Child Ready for Kindergarten. A project in collaboration with the Evanston Community Foundation and District 65, Evanston, IL. Spring 2011 to Spring 2012.

### Select Courses Taught

- T-408: Foundations of American Schooling and Bilingual Education Fall 2009 to present
- Family and Culture January 2008 to present

### Select Courses Created

- T-481 Integrative Seminar: Action Research in Diverse Early Education Settings I and II Fall 2011 to present
- Methods and Materials for Teaching Language Young Language Learners II: Reflective Practice Fall 2003 to present

### Communication

Strong oral and written communication skills in English and Spanish.

### Other Professional Experiences

- Member-Chicago Consortium of School Research Steering Committee- September 2014 to present
- Member- Early Childhood Committee Illinois Bilingual Advisory Council- Fall 2012 to present
- Member of the Advisory Board for ExceleRate Illinois Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness Award of Excellence. September 2014 to present
- Member of Latino Advisory Board to Chicago Public Schools- January 2015 to present