

Jennifer Park, Ph.D.

Washington, DC | [LinkedIn](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jennifer has worked in the intersection of product, research, programs (nonprofit and commercial), external affairs, and policy for more than 25 years. Her work has centered around the priorities common among learning communities: early investments in children, families, and communities – across the domains of cognition, health, and workforce. She has worked to improve and reform systems that have consistently excluded people based on race, status, and religious views. She has championed efforts to increase access to information for both young and adult learners at low to no cost to the learner.

Jennifer has extensive field experience beginning as a front line worker in the child care industry and now in higher education. Jennifer believes in the power of communities and the role of government to develop fair systems through which all have the opportunity to thrive. Her expertise is in system development; engaging with federal program communities and responding to federal policy priorities and funding by building scalable, sustainable solutions, in partnership with communities. As such, she has acquired expertise in product development, strategic marketing campaigns, and working with cross functional teams of experts to achieve clearly articulated growth goals. She is a certified trainer by Michigan State University's National Charrette Institute's NCI Complete Charette System™, transforming the way people work together by building capacity for collaboration by design.

A strategic leader, Jennifer has been successful in developing internal management systems including project workplans and long-term strategic plans. These systems have been built to focus on strategic goals developed in alignment to the anticipated direction of the field and funding sources. With sharp business skills including human resources, technology, marketing and membership engagement; strong quantitative skills and experience managing large budgets and contracts with strict government accountability systems, Jennifer supports innovation while managing risk and maintaining compliance.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director, Professional Development and Continuing Education, Erikson Institute

Chicago, Illinois (remote work from Washington, DC), Oct-present

Oversee the expansion of professional development and continuing education offerings and scale to maximize reach. Responsible for strategy and day to day project and staff management.

Founder & President

Early Childhood Solutions

Ormond Beach, FL Jan 2006-2009; Washington, DC, 2011-2015, Jul 2021-present

Provide consultation in: research and evaluation, early childhood practice, programs, policy, and outreach. Clients: US Early Childhood Division, US Office of Child Care, US Office of Policy, Research and Evaluation, ICF International, Build Initiative, Policy Equity Group, Teachstone Training, LLC, The University of Florida, Teaching Strategies, Florida Office of Early Learning; Association of American Medical Colleges; Florida State University; the Early Learning Coalitions of Southwest Florida, the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, and St. James Episcopal School.

Chief Operating Officer, Early Learning Principal, Research Scientist

Lastinger Center for Learning, University of Florida

Washington DC office, May 2019-Jul 2021 (Early Learning Officer May 2019-September 2019)

A member of the executive leadership team, works in collaboration with the Lastinger Center Director, provides management oversight for the Center, insight into serving Public Administrators within education systems, and vision for the early learning portfolio. Introduced and implemented center wide use of project charters, metric tracking (OKRs), prioritization, and client management protocols. Provides financial, contractual and client oversight, fundraises, develops strategic partnerships, and serves as an executive sponsor for early learning projects within the Lastinger Center for Learning. Manages client management and business services aspects of the Center and work closely with product management, content developers, implementation, marketing and communications, and research and evaluation across the Center. Serves as the executive sponsor on early learning contracts, providing substantive contributions and project oversight. Lead early learning projects including technology enabled, blended professional development for early childhood educators, community support and systems development, and federal opportunities. Partner with key leaders in early childhood education to improve the quality of teacher practices through scalable, research-based and validated strategies. Serve as fundraising lead for early learning strategic growth and investments. Collaborate with officers and their teams to develop interdisciplinary projects to improve education systems broadly.

Chief of Business Development and Strategy Officer

Child Care Aware of America

Arlington, VA, Aug 2016-Dec 2018

Served as the executive lead on various board committees; Strategic Oversight Committee, Fund Development Committee, and Membership Committee and governance committees; State Network Council and Membership Council. Developed business plans and provided internal support to the policy, program and research departments. Managed marketing, communications, external affairs, partner success, membership, product development departments.

Director of Applied Research and Public Policy

Teachstone Training, LLC

Washington, DC office, May 2015-Aug 2016 (consulting engagement began Dec 2014) Developed strategic plans and conducted early childhood research, program evaluation, and policy studies.

Provided internal and external consultation in the following areas: research and evaluation, early childhood practice, programs, policy, and outreach. Represented Teachstone Training, LLC at national convenings of early childhood and community development experts. Was a key driver in developing scalable professional development supports for dual language learners. Oversaw the development and ongoing management of a research database for client support.

Early Learning Partners Initiative Manager, Quality Rating Improvement System Administrator

Florida Office of Early Learning

Tallahassee, FL, March 2009- October 2011

Senior manager accountable for daily operation of the state's child care quality system including professional development, child assessment, and program evaluation. Developed and managed the Early Learning Partners Initiative, funded through Child Care Development Block Grant and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, exceeding \$16 million dollars over the three year grant period. Worked with statewide Early Learning Coalition Executive Directors, agency representatives,

statewide stakeholders and national experts and federal appointees. Managed contracts with the Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida, the Institute for Early Care and Afterschool Programs at Palm Beach State College, Teachstone Training (developers of the CLASS), and Frank Porter Graham at the University of North Carolina. Managed staff headquartered in Tallahassee office and in regional offices across the state.

Administrator (preK-Kindergarten)

UCP of Central Florida, Public Charter School

Orlando, FL, Jul 2008-Mar 2009

Served as the chief operating officer, responsible for day-to-day school operations: faculty leadership and development, curriculum and instruction, admissions, administration, marketing and development, budgeting and financial oversight, public relations and communications. Developed new partnerships with the University of Central Florida (UCF), grand opening of a new school facility to support research with UCF faculty and students. Supported the future expansion of the school to grow to serve children through grade three.

Interim Assistant Head of School (preK-grade 8),

St. James Episcopal School

Ormond Beach, FL, Feb 2007-Jul 2008

Served as the chief operating officer, oversaw all day-to-day school operations: faculty leadership and development, curriculum and instruction, admissions, administration, marketing and development, budgeting and financial oversight, public relations and communication.

Principal Investigator & Director of Research

Teaching Strategies Inc.

Washington, DC, Feb 2003-Jan 2006 (full time consulted through Feb 2007)

Directed and oversaw all research activities related to The Creative Curriculum[®]. Served as a liaison for investigators interested in efficacy research. Developed and executed an internal research program including validation of assessment materials. Provide research technical support and training to programs and other early childhood stakeholders.

Research Associate

Institute for Women's Policy Research

Washington, DC, Research Associate, Aug 2001-Jan 2003

Led social policy research projects on early care and education and adolescent development including: research and technical assistance to advocates and policymakers. Projects: Public Compensation Initiatives in Child Care; Child Care Safety in Idaho; Virginia's Child Care Workforce; Illinois State PreKindergarten Financing; and Adolescent School-Based Health Programs.

Research Analyst

American Institutes for Research

Washington, DC, Research Analyst, Jan 2000-Jul 2001

Conducted research and evaluation on a range of educational programs. Responsibilities: meeting with clients, supervising staff, monitoring and participating in data collection, conducting literature reviews, analyzing data, and writing proposals and reports. Projects: Head Start Family Child Care Standards; Head Start Planning Review Instrument for Systems Monitoring (PRISM); Head Start Training and

Technical Assistance Evaluation; National Longitudinal Evaluation of Comprehensive School Reform; National Assessment of Adult Literacy; and “What Works” Evaluation of Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs.

RECENT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Founding Executive Board Member, Early Learning Access, (2022-present)
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta peer reviewer (2021-2022)
Policy Equity Group peer reviewer (2020-2022)
Association for Resilient Campus design and Innovation (ARCdI) Board Member, 2020-present.
Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholar Candidate Reviewer 2019-present.
National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families Mentor, 2016-2018.
North Portal Estates Homeowners Association, Secretary, 2017
St. Barnabas Episcopal School, Deland, FL, Board of Trustees, (Vice President 2014) 2011-2014
St. James Episcopal School, Ormond Beach, FL Board of Trustees, 2006-2007. Florida
Universal Pre-kindergarten Executive Committee, 2006.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Park, J (Jan 27, 2021). *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities: An opportunity to unite.* [LinkedIn Article.](#)

Park, J (Jun 24, 2020). *Virtual Listening Tour Examines COVID-19 Impact on Florida Schools.* [LinkedIn Article.](#)

Park, J. (May, 2020). *Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign: Progress Report, Year 2 (May 2019-April 2020).* University of Florida Lastinger Center. Gainesville, FL.

Fraga, L., et al., (2018). *The US and the High Cost of Child Care: A Review of Prices and Proposed Solutions for a Broken System.* Ed. Rackas, L., Young, A., Pickett, P, Park, J., Doody, J., Bonbright, E., McCready, M. Child Care Aware of America, Arlington, VA.

Park, J (May 5, 2016). *Did You Know the CLASS Isn't Reliable? Why You Need Professional Development for Observers and Coaches.* A [Teachstone Blog.](#)

Park, J (Feb 24, 2016). *Prioritizing Quality in Early Learning: Does High Quality Come with Too-High A Price Tag?* A [Teachstone Blog.](#)

Park, J (Oct 12, 2015). *Quality: When You Measure, Measure the Right Things.* [A Teachstone Blog.](#)

Park, J (Oct 6, 2015). *Does Pre-K Work? Why Measuring Quality Across Years Matters.* [A Teachstone Blog.](#)

Park, J (Aug 26, 2015). *A Tale of Two Coaches.* [A Teachstone Blog.](#)

Park, J (July 16, 2015). *Using Mandates to Drive Change on the Soccer Field and in the Classroom.* A [Teachstone Blog.](#)

Park, J (June 29, 2015). *Why Early Childhood Research and Policy Matters (and My Next Steps).* A [Teachstone Blog.](#)

Park, J. *The CLASS® System: Birth through Secondary* (2015). Teachstone. Charlottesville, VA.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Deavere Smith, A. & Park, J. (July 2021). *Closing Keynote*, Build Initiative Conference 2021. Virtual.

Park, J., Curenton, S.M., Sanchez-Fuentes (July 2021). *Integrating Anti-Racist Approaches in Statewide Quality Improvement Systems*, Build Initiative Conference 2021. Virtual.

- Park, J., Soukakou, E., Curenton, S.M., Figueras-Daniel, A. & Rucker, L. (July 2021). *Creating High Quality, Equitable Experiences for Young Children*, Build Initiative Conference 2021. Virtual.
- Kim, N.Y & Park, J (April 29, 2021). *Understanding the Roots of Anti-Asian Racism to Build Asian Allyship in Early Learning Programs*. Early Childhood Investigations Webinars. Virtual.
- Park, J., Diaz, Sanchez-Fuentes, Y. (Summer 2020). *Planning for Technology Use in Your Programs*. University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning Webinar. Virtual.
- Park, J. (2018). *Child Care Resource and Referral's Role in Child Care*. Invited Keynote Speaker. Indiana Early Learning Conference. Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Luceno, L. & Park, J. (2016). *Briya Charter School's Professional Development Approach: Building a Video Library for Coaching in a DLL Preschool*. Interact: A CLASS Summit. Chicago, IL.
- Fernandez, V., Lopez, M. & Park, J. (2016). *Using the CLASS with DLLs: What the CLASS Measures and What It Does Not*. Interact: A CLASS Summit. Chicago, IL.
- Mosley, J. & Park, J. (2016). *Curriculum, Child Assessment, and Classroom Observation: How Do They All Work Together?* Interact: A CLASS Summit. Chicago, IL.
- Fernandez, V. & Park, J. (2016). *DLL Research, Discovery and Development: CLASS supports for teacher and coaches*. QRIS National Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- Park, J & Bowie, C. (2016). *Dual Language Learners and the CLASS*. National Head Start Association, Winter Leadership Conference. Crystal City, VA.
- Park, J., Greenfield, D. & Birken, B. (2010). *Florida's Early Learning System Improvement*. Administration for Children and Families, State Administrators Meeting (STAM). Washington, DC.
- Park J. (2009). *Florida's Child Assessment Initiatives*. Child Care Policy Research Conference. Washington DC.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Child Development, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.
Southern Regional Education Board & Florida Board of Regents Minority Doctoral Scholar
- M.S., Family and Child Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.
Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society
- B.S., Health Education, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA.