

ANITA. R. KUMAR

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dedicated and resourceful professional with over 30 years of experience as early education teacher, researcher, program-planner, leader and teacher-educator. Expertise in instructional design, assessment of student learning, and learner-centered teaching strategies, especially for teaching culturally and linguistically diverse adult-students. Demonstrated success in program evaluation, and projects requiring collaboration across people, groups and sectors.

EDUCATION

- 2019 Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Teacher Leadership, Rutgers Graduate School of Education, NJ.GPA 4.0. *Dr. Angelo L. Tomaso Excellence in Dissertation Award.*
- 2006 Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Elementary Education with concentration in Early Childhood Education, William Paterson University, NJ. GPA 4.0. *Graduate Excellence Award for Scholarship and Leadership*
- 1990 Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Child Development, Delhi University, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, India
- 1988 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Home Sciences – Major – Child Development, Delhi University, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, India.

TEACHING

In higher education settings

- Assistant Professor and Program Director, Early Childhood (P-3) Alternate Route Certificate program, and M.Ed.-Curriculum and Learning – ECE concentration, Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education, College of Education, William Paterson University, Wayne NJ (2019 - present). Responsibilities include teaching graduate level courses, and providing oversight for curriculum development and program assessment, recruitment, student advisement and satisfactory progress.
- Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, Department of Early Childhood Teacher Education, Passaic County Community College (PCCC), Paterson, NJ (2007- 2019). Responsibilities included: teaching ECE courses in associates degree programs, and providing leadership for department’s activities to meet the college mission.

In early childhood & elementary education settings

- Early Childhood Teacher Volunteer, William Paterson University Child Development Center, Wayne, NJ (2004 – 2005).
- Curriculum Supervisor and Elementary teacher, Pristine Private School, Dubai, UAE (1996 – 2001). Responsibilities included:
- Assistant Head Mistress & Elementary teacher, Apple Int. School, Dubai UAE (1995 – 1996).
- Preschool Teacher, Oxford School, Dubai, UAE (1994-1995).
- Early Childhood and Elementary Teacher, Sri Ram School, New Delhi, India (1991 – 1994).

RESEARCH

- Master’s thesis, a qualitative study “*Traditional Infant Care Practices among the Nair community of Kerala– Implications for Early Stimulation (1990)*”, toward requirements for M.S in Child Development degree
- Research Associate- program evaluation studies, Prerana, New Delhi (1990 – 1991), an NGO affiliated with CEDPA (Center for Development and Population activities, Washington, DC.

- Graduate Research Assistant, William Paterson University of NJ, Project VITAL of CCNMTL, Columbia University, NY (2004 – 2006).
- M.Ed thesis, mixed-methods study titled, *Parents' Perceptions of Play for Learning in Early Childhood* (2006) toward requirements for M. Ed degree.
- Per Diem Data Collector, Early Learning Improvement Consortium, William Paterson University, NJ (2006 to 2008) Data collector for NJDOE research studies on quality ratings of preschool.
- EdD Dissertation: Action research study, *Learning to Enact Effective Interactions in a Practice-based course* (2019)
- Self-study: Using a practice-based approach to support ECE teachers in engaging in critical conversations with children around Anti-bias education (ABE) texts. (2021 – in progress)
- Self-study: *Studying Anti-bias Education Practice: ECE Teacher Educators Working in the Third Space of a Community of Practice* (2022 – in progress)

PRESENTATIONS

- *Using photographs to document and extend learning in Early Childhood*, presented at NERA's (North Eastern Educational Research Association) 36th Annual Conference, Hudson Valley, NY on Oct, 2005 and as a panel presentation at NJAEYC's annual conference on Oct. 2005.
- *Parents' Perceptions of Play for Learning in Early Childhood*, at NERA's (North Eastern Educational Research Association) 37th Annual Conference, Hudson Valley, NY (2006)
- *Family Literacy Book Bags* at Kenyon AEYC annual meeting (2011)
- *Family Literacy Workshops: Thousands of Possibilities- Incredible Results. Get Yours!* at the NJAEYC State Conference (2014)
- Panelist, Discussion on *No Small Matter* film at member, *Essex-Hudson chapter of the New Jersey Association of Education for Young children*, (2020)
- *Learning to Enact Effective interactions in a practice-based course*. Poster at the 2020 Summer conference of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education (June 2020)
- *Engaging with the core practice of Critical conversations: Learning to teach for Social Justice*. Poster at the Fall 2020 conference of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education (November 2020)
- *Changing from Within: Self-awareness to grow and sustain equitable anti-bias programs, presentation* at the 2021 Annual Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) conference. (May 2021)
- *Little things with Big Meanings: Artifacts in support of Identity, Culture and Community*, presented at the 12th Annual NJ professional Development Schools Conference (May 2021)
- *Ties that bind: Renewing the promise of Connections in Turbulent times*, Poster at the summer conference of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education. (June 2021)
- *Persona dolls as Mirrors and Windows: Reflections on supporting teachers for Anti Bias Education*, Fall conference, NAECTE, (November 2021)
- *A Conversation with the Graduate School of Education Alumni Association's Dissertation Award Recipients*, Rutgers Graduate School of Education Alumni Association, Virtual. (April 2022).
- *Changing from within: Nurturing self-awareness as fuel for your Equity journey*, ERS, Virtual. (May 2022).
- *Supporting ECE teachers to See, Think & Wonder about inequities using Data Equity walk*, Summer conference (June 2022).
- *Using Equity data-walks to prepare ECE teachers for advancing equity*. WPU COE Research Explorations (April, 2023)
- *Tensions, tussles and uncertainties in nurturing Anti-bias early childhood educators*, NAEYC Professional Learning Institute, Portland, (June 2023)
- *Learning together: Reflections from a Community of Practice on Anti Bias Education*, Summer conference, NAECTE, (June 2023)

PUBLICATIONS

- Kumar, A. R. (2020). Facilitating engagement with practice: using a practice-based course model for pre-service early childhood teachers. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education (online edition)*, (July, 2020).
- Elsamra, N., Wright, B., Mancila, L., Blanco, P., Kumar, A., Iruka, I., Bambrick, H., (2020). Supporting Teachers through Change. *Young Children*, Washington DC: NAEYC
- Kumar (2022). 9 Ways to grow in confidence as an early math teacher. *Teaching Young Children*, Washington DC: NAEYC
- Kumar, A. R. (2022). Facilitating engagement with practice: using a practice-based course model for pre-service early childhood teachers. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, 43(3), 327-346

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Member, *Higher Education Committee, New Jersey Council for Young Children* (2023 -present), a state-wide committee working on identifying collective higher education capacity to educate early childhood education teachers (P-3) in support of NJ preschool expansion and plan for universal preschool.
- Member, Antibias Education Praxis Professional Learning Community, under *NAECTE Research Committee* (Fall 2021- present)
- Member, *Building Capacity to Serve New Jersey's Expanding Needs in Early Childhood Education*, WPU-Taub grant team (Summer 2022- June 2023)
- President, *NJ Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (2021-2023)*, Previously served as *VP Membership* (2011 – 2014), and Vice-President elect/Program Chair, and designing and managing the website of the *NJ Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (2020-2023)*
- Member, *Professional Impact NJ Policy Advisory board*, and worked in the professional standards and articulation committee (2009 -2014)
- Member, Early Childhood Workforce subcommittee of the *New Jersey Council for Young Children* (2011-2014)
- Lead content revision writer for the *Core Knowledge and Competencies for Early Childhood professionals: NJ's Unified Professional Development System* (2014) <https://www.nj.gov/education/ece/njcyc/ECSACReport.pdf>
- Member of the NJCYC's *National Governor's Association Workgroup* to support the development of a coordinated ECE professional development system in NJ (2017 – 2018).
- Developed and delivered PD workshops for Paterson NJ preschool teachers on topics including creative arts, book reading experiences, and literacy rich environments (2011- 2015).
- Developed the *Paterson Reads Home School literacy link* program, a series of grant-funded interactive parent-child workshops, implemented in the PCCC Child Development Center, and Paterson Public school PreK, (2014, 2015 and 2016)
- Developed and implemented training for *ECE Navigators* as a part of Paterson Alliance's *Think PreK* (2017) and *Think Success* (2018) campaigns to raise awareness of child and family-support resources in Paterson.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- National Association of the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC)
- National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE)
- Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)- Self Study SIG

OTHER SKILLS

- **Technology:** digital video, WebCT/Blackboard, website-design, and social media tools, and digital and web-based tools like wikis, blogs, podcasts,
- **Additional:** Using and adapting OER resources for courses, developing newsletters, flyers, creating visually enhanced content, and writing grants, reports and technical documents.
- **Assessment tools:** High level of familiarity with ECERS III, ITES, CLASS (preschool), ELLCO, SELA and PCMI.