

Tracy Johnson, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

Early reading development and learning; the interactions between instructional practices, teacher/student talk and reading development; the word-solving processing in which children engage when they read, how it changes over time, and how teacher/student interactions play a role in that change; classroom-based literacy practices and how they are associated with children's literacy achievement

Education

Doctor of Philosophy
2021

The Ohio State University
Reading and Literacy in Early and Middle Childhood
Advisor: Dr. Emily Rodgers
Dissertation: Change in the Word-Solving Behaviors of Early Readers
Dissertation Co-Advisors: Dr. Emily Rodgers, Dr. Jerome V. D'Agostino

Master of Education
2005

Xavier University
Reading Specialist

Bachelor of Science
1999

University of Dayton
Elementary Education/Special Education

Experience

Assistant Professor

August 2026 - present

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Undergraduate Courses Taught: Phonics and Reading Foundations

Assistant Professor of K-6 Literacy

August 2021 – July 2026

University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

Undergraduate Courses Taught: Children's Literature, Design and Teach Primary Literacy, Literacy Assessment and Intervention, Introduction to Education

Graduate Courses Taught: Systemic Intervention for Students with Reading Difficulty

Graduate Research Associate

Autumn 2019 – Spring 2021

The Ohio State University

Refining and Expanding HEROES

Principal Investigator: Jerome V. D’Agostino, Ph.D.

Graduate Teaching Associate

Summer and Autumn 2019

The Ohio State University

Courses Taught: Clinical Practice in Treating Reading Disabilities, Reading Foundations

**Literacy Specialist,
Literacy and Math Specialist,
Intervention Specialist K-4**

2012– 2018

West Carrollton City Schools, West Carrollton, OH

Classroom Teacher Gr.1, Gr. 2

1999 – 2012

West Carrollton City Schools, Westerville City Schools

Carlisle City Schools, Red Cloud Indian School

Awards and Honors

**University of Indianapolis Teacher of the Year
2025**

University of Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

**Emerging Scholar Award
2023**

University of Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

**Distinguished Dissertation Award
College of Education and Human Ecology
Department of Teaching and Learning
2022**

The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

**University Fellowship
2018/2019**

The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Johnson, T.** (in press). Diagnostic literacy assessments: The driving force for instruction. In Orellana Garcia, P. (Ed). *Handbook of Literacy*. Bloomsbury
- Johnson, T.,** Hoch, M., Waller, R., Gallagher, T., Rogers, R., Orellana, P., Susin, C., Vokatis, B., Flores, B., Cavendish, L. & Huggins, S. (2026). High-impact tutoring in literacy clinics: Evidence of reading gains in K-8 students. *Literacy Research and Instruction*.
- Johnson, T.,** Cavendish, L. M., Waller, R., Hoch, M., Huggins, S., Gallagher, T., Orellana, P. Vokatis, B. & Flores, B. (2024). Re-centering students and teachers: Voices from literacy clinics. *The Reading Teacher*. 78(2), 98-105. <https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.2350>
- Gallagher, T. L. , Orellana Garcia, P., Vokatis, B., **Johnson, T.,** Cavendish, L., Hoch, M. L., Waller, R. & Huggins, S. S. (2024) Preparing tutors for assessment, data-based instruction, and reflective practice. *Literacy Practice and Research*. 49(1).
- Laster, B., Rogers, R., Gallagher, T., Scott, D. B., Vasinda, S., Orellana, P., Rhodes, J., Deeney, T., Waller, R., Hoch, M., Cavendish, L., Milby, T., Butler, M., **Johnson, T.,** Msengi, S., Dozier, C., Huggins, & Gurvitz, D. (2024). Literacy clinics during COVID-19: Pivoting and imagining the future. *Contemporary Issues in Teacher Education*. 24(1), 69-94 <https://doi.org/10.1080/19388071.2022.2134064>
- Johnson, T.,** Rodgers, E., & D’Agostino, J.V. (2023). Learning to read: Variability, continuous change and adaptability in children’s use of word-solving strategies. *Reading Psychology*. 45(2), 105-142. DOI: 10.1080/02702711.2023.2253252
- Rodgers, E.M., D’Agostino, J.V., & Berenbon, R., **Johnson, T.** & Winkler, C. (2023). Scoring Running Records: Complexities and affordances. *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy*, 23(4), 665-694. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14687984211027198>
- Laster, B. Butler, M., Waller, R., Vasinda, S., Hoch, M., Orellana, P., Rhodes, J., Deeney, T., Scott, D. B., Gallagher, T., Cavendish, L., Milby, T., Rogers, R., Johnson, T., Msengi, S., Dozier, C., Huggins, S. & Gurvitz, D. (2022). Literacy clinics during COVID-19: Voices that envision the Future. *Literacy Research and Instruction*, 62(2), 155-179. DOI: [10.1080/19388071.2022.2134064](https://doi.org/10.1080/19388071.2022.2134064)
- D’Agostino, J. V., Rodgers, E., Winkler, C., **Johnson, T.,** & Berenbon, R. (2021). The generalizability of Running Record accuracy and self-correction scores. *Reading Psychology*, 42(2), 111-130. DOI: 10.1080/02702711.2021.1880177

Johnson, T., Mikita, C., Rodgers, E. & D’Agostino, J. V. (2020). Scaffolding self-correction during oral reading. *The Reading Teacher*, 73(6), 796-799.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.1896>

Peer-Reviewed Publications (Under Review)

Johnson, T., Rodgers, E., & D’Agostino, J.V. (under review). I Don't Know That Word! Teaching Beginning Readers What to Do When They Encounter an Unknown Word. *Young Children*.

Grants Awarded [\$828,200]

Faculty Development Grant \$2700, Principal Investigator Funded by the University of Indianapolis	2026
Advancing the Science of Reading in Indiana Implementation Grant, \$750,000, Co-Investigator Funded by the Lilly Endowment, Co-Investigator: Dr. Libby Turner	2023 - 2026
Advancing the Science of Reading in Indiana Planning Grant, \$75,000, Co-Investigator Funded by the Lilly Endowment, Co-Investigator: Dr. Libby Turner	2022
Department of Teaching and Learning Travel Grant, \$250	2020
College of Education and Human Ecology, Office of Research Graduate Student Travel Grant, \$250	2020

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

Johnson, T. & Abreu-Leon, M. (2026, Apr. 8). Examining differences in word-solving actions when reading decodable and leveled text. Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association’s International Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

Abreu-Leon, M. & **Johnson, T. (2025, Dec. 3).** *Bridging the Divide: Word-Solving Actions in a Phonics-Focused Classroom*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association’s International Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Hoch, M. **et al. (accepted, 2025, Dec. 3).** *Beyond the Words: Bridging Assessment, Instruction, and Equity to Support Comprehension*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association’s International Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Vasinda, S. E. **et al. (2025, Dec. 3).** *Bridging Divides: University Literacy Clinics as*

- Spaces for Learning, Engagement, and Advocacy*. [Symposium]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association's International Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Johnson, T.**, Reinhardt, K., Turner, E. & Wareham, S. (2024, April 11). *Enacting Change in Literacy Instruction*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association's International Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Johnson, T.**, Reinhardt, K., Turner, E. & Wareham, S. (2024, February 23). *Navigating Shifting Expectations in Literacy Education*. [Conference presentation]. Annual conference of the National Council for Teachers of English Assembly for Research's Conference, Austin, TX.
- Laster, B., Gallagher, T., Rogers, R., **Johnson, T.**, Rhodes, J. A., Milby, T., Deeney, T. A., Dozier, C., Msengi, S., Butler, M., Orellana, P., Waller, R., Vasinda, S. E., Huggins, S., Hoch, M., Cavendish, L., Vokatis, B., Chibamba, A. C., Bravo, N., Elias, M. R., Ferris, A., Jorge, M. (2023, November 29). *Examining Hierarchies and Harvesting Change in Literacy Clinics*. [Symposium]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association's International Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Johnson, T.** (2023, October 28). *Navigating Trends in Literacy Education: What Does the Research Really Say?* [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Indiana State Literacy Association's State Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
- Itczak, M. & **Johnson, T.** (2023, November 16). *Leveraging the Body for Learning*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Original Lilly Conference on College Teaching, Oxford, OH.
- Johnson, T.** (2022, October 8). *Agentive Decision-Making in Reading Development*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Indiana State Literacy Association's State Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
- Johnson, T.**, Rodgers, E. & D'Agostino, J.V. (2022, April 21). *Understanding Word-Solving Development Using a Microgenetic Approach*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association's International Conference, Virtual Conference.
- Johnson, T.**, Rodgers, E. & D'Agostino, J.V. (2022, November 29). *From Staircase to Overlapping Waves: Adjusting our View of Early Reading Development*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association's International Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- Deeney, T., Dozier, C., Cavendish, L., Flores, B., Gallagher, T., Gurvitz, D., Hoch, M. L., Huggins, S., **Johnson, T.**, Orellana, P., Rhodes, J. A., Vokatis, B., Waller, R., Vasinda, S., Milby, T., Laster, B., Butler, M., Cooper, S., Rogers, R., Msengi, S., Ferris, A., Chibamba, A. C., Dos Santos Jorge, L., Elias, M. & Melo, S., (2022, November 29).

Examining Complexities: Enacting Layered Learning in Clinical Teacher Preparation. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association's International Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Johnson, T., Rodgers, E. & D'Agostino, J. V. (2021, Dec. 1). *Change over Time in Beginning Reader's Word-Solving Decisions.* [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association's International Conference, Atlanta, GA.

D'Agostino, J. V. & **Johnson, T.** (2021, Dec. 1). *A Critical Review of Recent Meta-analyses on Effective Reading Programs and Interventions.* [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association's International Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Laster, B., Cavendish, L., Gallagher, T. L., Huggins, S., Vasinda, S. E., Dozier, C., Deeney, T., Scott, D. B., Orellana, P., Hoch, M., Msengi, S., Milby, T. M., Waller, R., Rhodes, J. A., Rogers, R. L., Gurvitz, D., **Johnson, T.** & Butler, M. S. (2021). *Contrapuntal Voices from Literacy Clinics during COVID-19: What do We Harvest to Use in the Future?* [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association's International Conference, Atlanta, GA.

D'Agostino, J. V., Rodgers, E., Berenbon, R., Winkler, C. & **Johnson, T.** (2020, December 2). *The Accuracy of 114 Teachers Quantifying and Interpreting a Running Record.* [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association's International Conference, Virtual Conference.

Mikita, C., **Johnson, T.**, D'Agostino, J. V. & Rodgers, E. (2020, Accepted). *Maximizing the impact of running records: Using your analysis to inform your instruction.* [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the International Literacy Association's International Conference, Columbus, OH.

Rodgers, E., **Johnson, T.**, Mikita, C. & D'Agostino, J.V. (2020, Accepted). *Running record reliability and accuracy with preservice teachers.* Annual meeting of the International Literacy Association's International Conference, Columbus, OH.

D'Agostino, J. V. & **Johnson, T.** (2020, Accepted). *The impact of beginning reading interventions: A meta-analysis of WWC intervention reviews.* [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association's International Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Hikida, M., & **Johnson, T.** (2020, Accepted). *Languageing the joys of literacy.* [Conference presentation]. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association's International Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Johnson, T., Park, S., & Rodgers, E. (2020, Accepted). *Effects of teacher professional development on young students' literacy outcomes.* [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association's International

Conference, San Francisco, CA.

D'Agostino, J. V., Rodgers, E., **Johnson, T.** & Berenbon, R. (2020, February). *Precision and reliability of preservice teachers' running record analyses*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of The Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology's Research Forum, Columbus, OH.

Johnson, T., Park, S. & Rodgers, E. (2020, February). *A literature review of effects of teacher professional development on young students' literacy outcomes*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of The Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology's Research Forum, Columbus, OH.

Rodgers, E., D'Agostino, J. V., Berenbon, R., Winkler, C. & **Johnson, T.** (2020, February). *The accuracy of 114 teachers quantifying and interpreting a running record*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of The Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology's Research Forum, Columbus, OH.

Hikida, M., & **Johnson, T.** (2020, February). *Languageing the joys of literacy*. [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English Assembly for Research's Conference, Nashville, TN.

Other Publications

Johnson, T., & Park, S. (2026). Contemplating trends in reading instruction in the global context. *Literacy Today*.

D'Agostino, J. V., Rodgers, E. & **Johnson T.** (Eds.). (2025) *Advances in Evidence-Based Literacy Instructional Practices (Special Issue)*. *Education Sciences*.

Invited Talks

Guest Lecturer

2023, 2026

Research in Early Literacy
Doctoral-Level Class
Clemson University
Clemson, SC

Invited Panelist

2023 – 2024

ProSeminar – Job Search Experience
College of Education and Human Ecology
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

Invited Speaker

2023

Learning to Read: Variability, Continuous Change and Adaptiveness in Word-Solving Strategies

College of Education and Behavioral Science
University of Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

Invited Speaker 2023

An Introduction to Orton-Gillingham
Kappa Delta Pi
University of Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

Guest Lecturer 2022

Creative Literacy Instruction
Universitas Negeri Medan
Indonesia

Invited Speaker 2020

Northern Alberta Reading Specialist Council
Alberta, Canada

Service – External

Secretary/Treasurer 2025

Research in Reading and Literacy Special Interest Group
American Educational Research Association

President/Chair 2025

Indiana State Literacy Association

Reviewer 2025

Literacy Research and Instruction

Chair 2

Teacher of the Year Committee (

Brownsburg Community Schools 2

Conference Session Chair 2

American Educational Research Association (

Member-At-Large 2023 - 2025

Indiana State Literacy Association Board

Praxis Teaching Reading (5205) Indiana Test Review Panel 2023

Educational Testing Services

Conference Proposal Reviewer American Educational Research Association	2022 - present
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Conference Session Chair Literacy Research Association	2023
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Member Teacher of the Year Committee Brownsburg Community Schools	2022-2024
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Conference Proposal Reviewer Literacy Research Association	2019 – 2023
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Editorial Review Board Literacy Research and Instruction	2020 - 2024
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Graduate Student Conference Proposal Reviewer American Educational Research Association	2020
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Graduate Student Editorial Assistant Journal of Education for Students Placed At-Risk, Dr. Jerome V. D’Agostino, Editor	2020 – 2021
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Guest Reviewer Literacy Research and Instruction Journal of Education for Students Placed At-Risk	2019 & 2020
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Service to the University

Co-Chair - Teacher of the Year Committee University of Indianapolis	2025
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Writing Mentor – Faculty Academy Writing Retreat University of Indianapolis	2024
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Facilitator – UDL Professional Learning Community University of Indianapolis	2024
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Facilitator – Faculty Burnout Book Club University of Indianapolis	2024
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Sabbaticals and Grants Committee University of Indianapolis	2023-present
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Faculty Academy Fellow University of Indianapolis	2023-present
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New Faculty Mentor University of Indianapolis	2023-present
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Faculty Development Committee University of Indianapolis	2022-2023
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Service to the Department/College

Chair - Stevens Scholarship Committee University of Indianapolis	2025
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Chair – Practicum Supervisor Search Committee University of Indianapolis	2024
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Recruitment and Retention Committee University of Indianapolis	2021-2023, 2025
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Service to Students

Advisor – Undergraduate Honors Student Research University of Indianapolis	2023-2025
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Supervisor – Graduate Student Research Practicum Experience University of Indianapolis	2024 - present
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Professional Organizations

International Dyslexia Association member	2024
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Indiana State Literacy Association member	2022 - present
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American Educational Research Association member Special Interest Group: Research in Reading and Literacy	2019 - present
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Literacy Research Association member	2018 – present
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International Literacy Association member Special Interest Groups: Foundational Reading Skills Literacy Development in Young Children	2017 – present
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Professional Learning

Developing Theory through Qualitative Inquiry. <i>AERA Virtual Research Learning Series</i>	2026
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Cognitive Science for Educators: Micro-Credential in the Science of Learning	2025
IMSE Orton-Gillingham Certified Educator	
Institute for Multisensory Education. Orton-Gillingham Comprehensive Certificate	2023-2024
Empowering Student Mental Health and Wellness Across Campus. <i>University of Indianapolis Faculty Training</i>	2023-2024
Cultivating Skilled Readers: Unlocking Success and Leveraging Neuroscience to Build Strong Foundations for Students. <i>Center for Excellence in Leadership of Learning Presentation</i>	2023
Learning to Learn. <i>University of Indianapolis Faculty Training</i>	2023
Phonics Instruction in a Leveled Book Classroom. <i>International Literacy Association Webinar.</i>	2023
Leveraging the Body for Learning. <i>Faculty Academy Workshop.</i>	2023
Teaching Squares Participant	2022
Connected Teaching: Relationship, Power and Mattering in Higher Education Book Club	2022
Using Podcasts in the College Classroom. <i>Faculty Academy Workshop.</i>	2021
Meeting Students Where They Are. <i>Counseling Center Faculty Workshop.</i>	2021
Bannon, W. (2020). <i>The Ideal Qualitative Study with a Quantitative Component</i> [webinar]. Retrieved from http://www.statswhisperer.com/	