**Melissa Stoffers, M.S.**

University of Delaware Phone: (732)453-4043

Department of Human Development & Family Sciences Email: stoffers@udel.edu

111 Alison Hall West [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=eqxz0vUAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao)

Newark, DE 19716 [Website](https://www.hdfs.udel.edu/grad-student/melissa-stoffers/)

**EDUCATION**

Newark, DE University of Delaware

Sept. 2019 – Present Ph.D. (expected completion: May 2024)

Dissertation: *Examining Social Inclusion for Students with Disabilities in the Inclusive Classroom: A Mixed Methods Study*

Committee: Dr. Tia Navelene Barnes (advisor), Steven Eidelman, Dr. Roderick Carey, Dr. Elizabeth Farley-Ripple

Glassboro, NJ Rowan University

May 2010 – Aug. 2011 M.S. Collaborative Teaching

Thesis: *Using a Multi-Sensory Approach to Impact Learning and Community in a Second Grade Classroom*

Advisor: Dr. Susan Browne

Glassboro, NJ Rowan University

Sept. 2006 – May 2010 B.A. Collaborative Education

*Summa Cum Laude* B.A. American Studies

Honors Studies Concentration

Women’s Studies Concentration

Reading – Endorsement Concentration

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

University of Delaware *SEL PLUS Lab Researcher*

Newark, DE Graduate Research Assistant

Sept. 2022-Present Supervisor: Dr. Tia Navelene Barnes

* Conceptualizes and conducts research about social-emotional learning for underserved populations in a collaborative lab environment with faculty, graduate student, and undergraduate student researchers.
* Develops manuscripts based on conducted research.
* Writes grant proposals to support research agenda of the lab.

Nemours Children’s Health *Consultant*

Wilmington, DE Center for Healthcare Delivery Science

Sept. 2023 – Feb. 2024 Supervisor: Dr. Danielle Hatchimonji

* Provides consultation on qualitative data analysis and interpretation for the “Enhancing Implementation of School-Based Antiracism Initiatives” project. Engages in qualitative data analysis of open-ended survey responses and interviews with a research team.

University of Delaware *Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood Researcher*

Newark, DE Graduate Research Assistant

Sept. 2020 – Aug. 2022 Supervisors: Dr. Jason T. Hustedt & Dr. Jessica Francis

* Project manager for “Examining Provider Participation in the Child Care Subsidy System: A Mixed Methods Study” (a grant-funded dissertation via the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation). Cleaned questionnaire data in SPSS, conducted interviews with early childhood providers in Arkansas, and engaged in grounded theory methods to qualitatively code interview data via NVivo.
* Utilized institute data for a self-initiated project to study demographic trends of attendees at early childhood education professional development trainings before and during the Covid-19 pandemic.
* Supported in the review of early childhood center Covid relief grant applications to approve funds for centers.
* Coded qualitative interviews with parents of young children with disabilities for, “Understanding Child Care Decision-Making for Families who have Young Children with Disabilities: An Explanatory Mixed Methods Study” (a grant-funded dissertation via the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation).

University of Delaware *Summer Research Apprenticeship*

Newark, DE College of Education

Summers 2020, 2021, & 2022 Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Curtiss

* Coordinated the randomization of schools for a randomized control trial examining the implementation of universally designed instruction in puberty education. Conducted fidelity observations and supported data cleaning and analysis.
* Participant and researcher of a participatory-action research project examining the experiences of a college student organization composed of students with and without disabilities that develops accessible and inclusive sex education to post on Instagram.
* Project manager of a research project studying the teaching experiences of sex educators of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Supported in IRB and interview protocol development, recruitment of participants, conducted interviews, managed participant incentives, sent interviews for transcription, and engaged in thematic analysis of interviews.

University of Delaware *Graduate Research Assistant*

Newark, DE National Leadership Consortium for Developmental Disabilities

Oct. 2019 – June 2020 Supervisor: Dr. Caitlin Bailey

* Conducted interviews and qualitative coding for the “Hoosier Leadership Institute Evaluation Project” which examined the experiences of leaders in Indiana’s Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities service sector who underwent a week-long leadership training to enhance their organization’s capacity to provide services and advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

**TEACHING & ADVISING**

University of Delaware *Student Teaching Field Instructor*

Newark, DE Department: Human Development and Family Sciences

Sept. 2022-Dec. 2022 Supervisor: Aimee Neff

* Supervised a senior-level teacher candidate’s kindergarten field placement through evaluation of weekly lesson plans and assignments, classroom observation, and collaboration with the student’s clinical educator. Provided clear and specific constructive feedback to support student’s development as a future educator.
* Observed junior-level teacher candidates conducting lessons and activities in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classroom placements. Conferenced with candidates to discuss classroom placement, provide feedback, and encourage self-reflection.

University of Delaware *Instructor* (online)

Newark, DE Department: Human Development and Family Sciences

Summer 2021 Course: HDFS 270, Families and Developmental Disabilities

* As instructor of record, provided asynchronous instruction about individuals with developmental disabilities in the context of their families and culture via Canvas.
* Designed educational assignments and activities to support students to critically think about the impact of disability on individuals and their families throughout the lifespan in the context of social and cultural environments. Evaluated student learning and understanding via these assignments.

University of Delaware *Teaching Assistant*

Newark, DE Department: Human Development and Family Sciences

Sept. 2019 – May 2020 Courses:
HDFS 435: Programs for Children with Exceptionalities

 HDFS 414: Guidance and Behavior Support: Birth to Grade 2

 HDFS 328: Introduction to the Research Process

 HDFS 332: Counseling Theories

 HDFS 339: Adult Development and Aging

 HDFS 270: Families and Developmental Disabilities

 HDFS 201: Life Span Development

* Assisted with undergraduate coursework grading and coursework material development for Dr. Michael Ferrari, Dr. Mellissa Gordon, and Dr. Tia Navelene Barnes.
* Guest lectured on an as-needed basis.

University of Delaware *Student Academic Advisor*

Newark, DEDepartment: Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS)

Sept. 2019 – May 2020 Supervisor: Dr. Lynn Worden

* Met with undergraduate students enrolled in the HDFS program to review completed coursework, discuss remaining required coursework, and offer recommendations for classes to take each semester.
* Facilitated conversations about students’ academic progress.

Cherry Hill Public Schools

Cherry Hill, NJ

Sept. 2012 – June 2019

Central Bucks School District

Warrington, PA

April 2012 – June 2012

Centennial School District

Warminster, PA

Jan. 2012 – March 2012

The Goddard School

Chadds Ford, PA

Aug. 2011 – Dec. 2012

*Special Education Teacher (Grades 3-8)*

Schools: Joyce Kilmer Elementary & Henry C. Beck Middle School

* Provided inclusion and resource room instruction as a special education teacher. Wrote and implemented IEPs.

*Special Education Teacher, Long-Term Substitute (Grades 1-3)*

School: Mill Creek Elementary School

* Instructed students in an emotional and behavioral disorder self-contained classroom and facilitated inclusive experiences for students.

*Special Education Teacher, Long-Term Substitute (Grade 6)*

School: Klinger Middle School

* Collaborated with a team of 6th grade general education teachers to provide inclusive instruction to students with disabilities in all general education academic areas.

*Lead Preschool Teacher*

* Developed lesson plans and activities for students in a pre-kindergarten classroom.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS**

1. Curtiss, S., Myers, K., D’Avella, M., Garner, S., Kelly, C., **Stoffers, M.**, & Durante, S. (2023). Sex.Ed.Agram: Co-created inclusive sex education on Instagram. *Sexuality and Disability, 41*, 483-502*.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11195-023-09794-y>
2. Curtiss, S., & **Stoffers, M.** (2023). Service models for providing sex education to individuals with intellectual disabilities in the United States. *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17446295231164662>
3. Naples, L. H., Cipriano, C., Eveleigh, A., **Stoffers, M.**, & Barnes, T. N. (2023). Unpacking the social emotional health of education support professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Psychology in the Schools, 60*(5), 1415-1441. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pits.22842>
4. Slicker, G., Hustedt, J. T., & **Stoffers, M.** (2023). Participation of early care and education centers in the child care subsidy system: A statewide mixed methods investigation. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 65*, 317-331*.* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2023.07.009>
5. **Stoffers, M.**, Barnes, T. N., Xia, Y., & Jackson, J. (2023). A scoping review of school-based sexuality education interventions for children with disabilities. *Journal of Special Education, 57*(2), 94-105*.* <https://doi.org/10.1177/00224669221134532>
6. Curtiss, S., & **Stoffers, M.** (2021). Disseminating online resources for teaching sex education to people with developmental disabilities. *Sexuality and Disability,* *39*(4), 751-760. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11195-021-09703-1>

**MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

1. **Stoffers, M.**, & Curtiss, S. (Revise & resubmit). Understanding appropriate and applicable sex education instruction for students with intellectual disability. *Remedial and Special Education.*
2. **Stoffers, M.**, Kelly, C. L., Whitaker, A., & Barnes, T. N. (Revise & resubmit). Long-term association between parental warmth and social-emotional well-being for children with disabilities. *Merrill Palmer Quarterly.*
3. Curtiss, S., & **Stoffers, M.** (Under review). Theorizing the role of sex educators in the resistance and reification of epistemic injustices related to the sexual expression of people with developmental disabilities.
4. Slicker, G., Hustedt, J. T., **Stoffers, M.**, & Kelly, C. L. (Under review). Enrollment practices in early education centers: Examining implementation in the Arkansas state pre-k program.
5. **Stoffers, M.**,Slicker, G., & Ain, J. (Under review). Early childhood providers’ decision-making for serving children with disabilities: A mixed methods study.

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

1. Curtiss, S., Brown, A., **Stoffers, M.**, & Mindler, P. (In preparation). The effects of universal design for learning on fifth-grade puberty instruction.
2. Kelly, C. L., **Stoffers, M.**, Whitaker, A., & Barnes, T. N. (In preparation). Examining classroom quality and academic and behavioral outcomes for children with and without disabilities.
3. **Stoffers, M.**, Barnes, T., Mykyta-Chomsky, R., Jackson, J., Xia, Y., Wood, M., Sehgal, K., Funaro, M., & Cipriano, C. (In preparation). Teacher-paraeducator classroom relationships: A scoping review.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

1. Barnes, T. N., Brown, J. E., **Stoffers, M.**, Jackson, J., Xia, Y., Wells, A. G., & Bryant, A. (2023). Increasing equity in SEL for students from marginalized populations. In S. Rimm-Kaufman, M. J. Strambler, & K. Schonert-Reichl (Eds.), *Social and emotional learning in action: Creating systemic change in schools* (pp. 35-52). Guildford Press.

**TECHNICAL REPORTS**

1. Slicker, G., **Stoffers, M.**, Hustedt, J. T. (2023). *Arkansas center-based provider participation in the child care voucher system: Results from a statewide mixed methods study.* Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood. <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Arkansas-Dissemination-Brief_6.26.23.pdf>
2. **Stoffers, M.**, Kelly, C., Hustedt, J. T., & Francis, J. (2021). *Demographic trends on access to professional development during the COVID-19 pandemic.* Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood. <https://www.dieec.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Research-Snapshots-Demographic-Trends-on-Access-to-PD-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic-11-21.pdf>

**PRESENTATIONS**

**PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Stoffers, M.,** Hatchimonji, D., Jung, J., Branch, K., & Barnes, T. (2023, May 30-June 2). *Examining the association between educators’ racial identity and multicultural efficacy.* [Paper presentation]. Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, Washington DC.
2. Curtiss, S., & **Stoffers, M.** (2023, May 17-20). *Integrating reflexive thematic analysis and composite narratives to identify and describe service models for providing sex education to individuals with intellectual disabilities.* [Paper presentation]. 19th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL.
3. Barnes, T. N., Easley Brown, J., **Stoffers, M.**, Jackson, J., Xia, Y., Wells, A. G., & Bryant, A. (2023, April 13-17). *Increasing equity in SEL for students from marginalized populations* [Symposium]. American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
4. Curtiss, S., & **Stoffers, M.** (2023, April 13-17). *The effects of universal design for learning on puberty sex education* [Roundtable presentation]. American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
5. **Stoffers, M.,** & Slicker, G. (2023, April 13-17). *Early childhood providers’ decision-making for serving children with disabilities: A mixed methods study* [Roundtable presentation]. American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
6. **Stoffers, M.**, Kelly, C. L., Whitaker, A., & Barnes, T. N. (2023, April 13-17). *Examining classroom quality and academic and behavioral outcomes for children with and without disabilities* [Paper presentation]. American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
7. Hustedt, J. T., Slicker, G., **Stoffers, M.**, & Kelly, C. L. (2023, March 23-25). *Enrollment practices and child diversity in state pre-k, Head Start, and other early childhood centers.* [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2023 Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
8. Kelly, C. L., **Stoffers, M.**, Whitaker, A., Barnes, T., & Rutherford, T. (2023, March 23-25). *Relationship between classroom quality and children with and without disabilities’ academic and behavioral outcomes.* [Flash talk paper presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2023 Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
9. **Stoffers, M.**, & Slicker, G. (2023, March 23-25). *Association between characteristics of Arkansas’ early childhood programs and serving children with disabilities.* [Flash talk paper presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) 2023 Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
10. Whitaker, A., Watts, T., Bailey, D., Duncan, G., Jenkins, J., Lipsey, M., Amaya, J. C., Botvin, C., Cordero, T., Kelly, C. L., & **Stoffers, M.** (2022, September 21-24). *A systematic review of research methods used to evaluate state and local pre-kindergarten programs* [Paper presentation].Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA.
11. Slicker, G., Hustedt, J. T., & **Stoffers, M.** (2022, June 22-24). *A statewide mixed methods study of provider subsidy system participation* [Poster presentation]. The Administration for Children and Families’ National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), Arlington, VA.
12. **Stoffers, M.**, Kelly, C. L., Hustedt, J. T., & Francis, J. (2022, June 22-24). *Demographic trends on access to professional development during the COVID-19 pandemic* [Poster presentation]. The Administration for Children and Families’ National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), Arlington, VA.
13. Kelly, C. L., **Stoffers, M.**, Whittaker, A., & Barnes, T. N. (2022, April 22-25). *Understanding the relationship between parental warmth and social-emotional well-being for children with and without disabilities* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
14. Naples, L. H., Cipriano, C., Eveleigh, A., **Stoffers, M**., & Barnes, T. N. (2022, April 22-25). The social emotional health of paraeducators early in the COVID-19 pandemic. In Cipriano, C. (Chair), *How did SEL support educators of students with learning differences during the 2020-21 school year?* [Symposium]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
15. Slicker, G., Hustedt, J. T., & **Stoffers, M.** (2022, April 22-25). *A national portrait of ECE center and community characteristics that predict subsidy density* [Paper presentation]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
16. Brown, A., Curtiss, S., Mindler, P., Congo, K., & **Stoffers, M.** (2022, March 31-April 1). *Universally designed puberty instruction* [Asynchronous presentation]. UDL-IRN International Summit, asynchronous conference.
17. Naples, L. H., Cipriano, C., Eveleigh, A., **Stoffers, M.**,& Barnes, T. (2022, January 16–19). *Unpacking the social emotional health of education support professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic* [Paper presentation]. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Convention, Orlando, FL.
18. **Stoffers, M.** (2022, January 16-19). *Educators’ practices: Teaching sex education to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities* [1-hour Concurrent Session]. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Convention, Orlando, FL.
19. **Stoffers, M.**, Barnes, T. N., & Xia, Y. (2022, January 16-19). *Systematic review of school-based sex education for students with disabilities* [Poster presentation]. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Convention, Orlando, FL.
20. Curtiss, S., & **Stoffers, M.** (2021, May 3-7). *Board Certified Behavior Analysts’ experiences teaching sex education* [Poster presentation]. International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting.
21. Curtiss, S., & **Stoffers, M.** (2021, April 8-12). *Teaching sex education to individuals with intellectual disabilities: Understanding instructional practices* [Poster presentation]. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting.
22. Xia, Y., Barnes, T. N., & **Stoffers, M.** (2021, April 7-9). *Relationship between pre-service teachers’ emotional and cultural intelligence and self-efficacy and outcome expectancy* [Poster presentation]. Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting.

 **STATE AND LOCAL CONFERENCES**

1. **Stoffers, M.** (2021, April 23). *Board Certified Behavior Analysts’ experiences teaching sex education* [Paper presentation]. Steele Research Symposium, Newark, DE.

**WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS**

1. **Stoffers, M.**, Foltz, J., & Gibson-Park, L. (2017-2018). *I have a Chromebook: What now? Professional development series* [Professional Development Workshop]. Cherry Hill Public Schools.
2. Foltz, J., Gibson-Park, L., & **Stoffers, M.** (2017-2018). *Regularly using Google Classroom – No matter the device* [Professional Development Workshop]. Cherry Hill Public Schools.
3. Gibson-Park, L., Foltz, J., & **Stoffers, M.** (2017-2018). *Looking past expectations: I have a Google Classroom, now what? Differentiation with apps* [Professional Development Workshop]. Cherry Hill Public Schools.

**GRANT WRITING EXPERIENCE**

**GRANTS FUNDED**

2023 Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children, Candace S. Bos Innovative Project Grant, $993

 Role: Principal Investigator

2022 University of Delaware, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, Dissertation Grant, $500

 Role: Principal Investigator

2014 Cherry Hill Education Foundation, $3,995

 *Chromebook Computers to Increase Student Engagement*

**HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

2023 Strattner-Gregory Child Advocacy Award ($2,500)

2023 Graduate Student Travel Award, University of Delaware ($1,000)

2022 Division for Research Doctoral Student - Outstanding Scholar, Council for Exceptional Children

2021 Graduate Student Travel Award, University of Delaware ($1,000)

2021 Kappa Omicron Nu National Honor Society

2011 New Jersey Distinguished Student Teacher

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Grad Student Rep AERA Division E Graduate Student Representative
 Senior Representative (April 2022 – April 2023)

 Junior Representative (April 2021 – April 2022)

Reviewer American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo

Co-Chair Graduate Student Discovery Series Co-Chair, Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Delaware (2021-2022)

Ambassador Delaware Days, College of Education and Human Development (March 2022)

Presenter Delaware Days Poster Presenter, College of Education and Human Development

 Graduate Programs Accepted Student Day (March 2021)

Panelist Graduate Student Panel, College of Education and Human Development Graduate Programs Accepted Student Day (March 2020)

Committee Member Teacher Shortage Task Force, University of Delaware (2019-2020)

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Council for Exceptional Children (Nov. 2019 – Present)

 Division for Learning Disabilities

 Division for Research

American Educational Research Association (Nov. 2019 – Present)

 SIG: Social and Emotional Learning

 SIG: Special and Inclusive Education Research

**CERTIFICATIONS**

New Jersey Elementary Education, K-5

 Special Education, N-12

 Teacher of Reading, K-12

 Middle School Language Arts, 6-8

 Middle School Math, 6-8

 Middle School Social Studies, 6-8

Pennsylvania Elementary, K-6

 Special Education, PK-12

 Grades 4-8 (All subjects, 4-6, Mathematics 7-8)

 Middle Level English, 6-9

 Middle Level Citizenship Education, 6-9

**ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

Learning Analytics in STEM Education Research (LASER) Institute. (2023, August). *An introduction to social network analysis and education research: Core concepts and applications with R.* American Education Research Association Virtual Research Learning Series.

DeJonckheere, M., & Chandanabhumma, P. (2021, June). *Designing and conducting a mixed methods dissertation or thesis.* University of Michigan Mixed Methods Program.

University of Delaware, Faculty Commons. (2020, June). *Summer institute on teaching.*