

## **Sonya S. Myers**

Center for Research on Rural Families & Communities

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### **Education and Training**

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Institution and Location	Degree	Year (s)	Field of Study
University of New Orleans New Orleans, LA	<b>Ph.D.</b>	May 2007	Applied Developmental Psychology
University of New Orleans New Orleans, LA	<b>M.S.</b>	August 2004	Applied Developmental Psychology
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS	<b>B.S.</b>	May 2002	Psychology Area: Child Development (Minor Sociology)

### **Professional Positions**

*Senior Research Associate*, Center for Research on Rural Families & Communities, Vanderbilt University: Peabody College, Nashville, TN (May 2009-Current)

*Research Scientist*, Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning, University of Virginia: Curry School of Education, Charlottesville, VA (June 2008-April 2009)

*Institute for Education Sciences Post-Doctoral Fellow*, Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning, University of Virginia: Curry School of Education, Charlottesville, VA (June 2007-June 2008)

### **Selected Awards and Honors**

2007-2009	Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Post-Doctoral Training Fellowship
2004 - 2006	Head Start Graduate Student Research Scholar (Administration for Children & Families)
2004-2006	Department Travel Award, Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans
2003	Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, graduate inductee
2002-2006	Ernest G. Chachere Graduate Fellowship, University of New Orleans
2002	National Head Start Association "Success Story"

- 2002 Selected to present at University of Southern Mississippi Dept. of Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium
- 2002 Outstanding Senior in Psychology Award, University of Southern Mississippi
- 2001 Zed Burns Outstanding Undergraduate in Psychology Scholarship, University of Southern MS
- 2001 Outstanding Undergraduate in Psychology Award, University of Southern Mississippi
- 2000 Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Fellowship recipient
- 1999 NAACP Committee of the Year (Political Action Committee)
- 1998-2002 University of Southern Mississippi Dept. of Psychology, Academic Achievement Award
- 1998-2002 African-American Student Organization Academic Achievement Award
- 1998 Alpha Lambda Delta Academic Honor Society

## RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

### Funded Research Grants

Role: Principal Investigator  
Source: Administration for Children and Families/DHHS  
Title: Contextual and Dispositional Influences on Low-Income Children's School Adjustment, Dissertation Grant  
Total Cost: \$40,000  
Dates: 10/01/04 to 09/31/06  
Summary: The overall aim of this longitudinal study involved investigating the influence of child temperament, parenting behaviors, and the teacher-child relationship on Head Start children's socio-emotional and academic adjustment during the Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten periods.

### Publications

#### Refereed Journal Articles

- Myers, S.S. & Morris, A.S. (in press). Examining the associations between effortful control and teacher-child relationships in relation to Head Start children's socioemotional adjustment. *Early Education and Development*.
- Mashburn, A.J. & Myers, S.S. (in press). Advancing Research on Children with Speech-Language Impairment: An Introduction to the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Cohort. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*.
- Myers, S.S. & Pianta, R.C. (2008). Developmental Commentary: Individual and contextual influences on student-teacher relationships and children's early problem behaviors. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 37(3), 600- 608.

Morris, A.S., Silk, J. S., Steinberg, L., **Myers, S. S.** & Robinson, L. R. (2007). The role of the family context in the development of emotion regulation. *Social Development, 16*(2), 361-388.

**Myers, S. S.**, & Range, L. M. (2002). No-suicide agreements: High school students' perspectives. *Death Studies, 26*, 851-857.

### **Book Chapters**

Downer, J.T. & **Myers, S.S.** (in press). Theoretical and empirical bases of partnerships: Understanding systems theory. In S.L. Christenson & A.L. Reschly (Eds.), *Handbook on School-Family Partnerships for Promoting Student Competence*.

### **Book Reviews**

**Myers, S.S.**, Robinson, L.R., & Morris, A.S. (2004). Book review of Haim G Ginott's *Between parent and child*. *Family Relations, 53* (4), 418.

### **Government Reports**

Myers, S.S., Hamre, B.K., & Pianta, R.C. (2009). Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Office of Head Start CLASS Implementation. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Head Start Internal Report.

### **Manuscripts Under Review**

Morris, A.S., Kithakye, M.S., Terranova, A., & **Myers, S.S.** (2009). Effects of the Kenyan Political Conflict on Children's Adjustment. *Child Development* (revise-resubmit)

Morris, A.S., Robinson, L.R., **Myers, S.S.**, Aucoin, K.J., Keyes, A.W., & Terranova, A. (2008). Explaining school success: The vital role of emotion regulatory processes. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*. (revise-resubmit)

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

**Myers, S.S.**, Downer, J. A., Hamre, B.K., Mashburn, A.J., & Pianta, R.C. (2008). The racial / ethnic landscape of pre-kindergarten classrooms as a contributor to children's early school adjustment.

**Myers, S.S.**, Morris, A.S., Robinson, L.R., Aucoin, K.J., Keyes, A.W., & Terranova, A. (2008). Examining the influence of parental reactions to negative emotions on kindergarten children's emotion regulation and socio-emotional adjustment.

Myers, S.S. & Morris, A. S., & Kithakye, M.S. (2008). Negative parenting in relation to low-income children's emotion regulation and school adjustment: The moderating influence of the teacher-child relationship.

### **Research Experience**

- 2007-2008     **Teacher Recruitment & Training, National Center for Research on Early Childhood Education (NCRECE), University of Virginia Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning - Institute for Education Sciences funded, Charlottesville, VA**
- Examines 2 forms of professional development (1. Course on promoting positive teacher-child interactions, 2. In-service consultancy) on preschool classroom climate and children's socioemotional and academic adjustment.
- 2004-2007     **Principal Investigator, Contextual Influences on Low-Income Children's School Adjustment (Dissertation Research) - ACF funded, University of New Orleans**
- Examined associations between child temperament / self-regulation, parent, and teacher factors and socioemotional, behavioral, and academic adjustment in a sample of children from rural low-income families.
- 2004-2007     **Project Coordinator, Family Development and Education Project (PHASE III & IV) - NICHD funded, University of New Orleans**
- Served as liaison between the Family Development Lab, 4 Mississippi public elementary schools, elementary administrative officials, Mississippi Action for Progress administration, and a Mississippi County Head Start Center.
- 2003-2004     **Project Coordinator, Family Development and Education Project (PHASE II) - NICHD funded, University of New Orleans**
- Examined associations between child temperament / self-regulation and parenting factors and socioemotional, behavioral, and academic adjustment in a sample of children from urban low-income families.
- 2002-2004     **Parent -Teacher Disagreement and Child Adjustment (Master' Thesis Research), University of New Orleans**
- Examined the relations of parent and teacher disagreement and child temperament in relation to children's socioemotional and behavioral adjustment.
- 2000-2002     **Principal Investigator, High School Students' Perspectives on No-Suicide Agreements (Undergraduate Thesis Research) - McNair Scholars Post Baccalaureate Program Funded, University of Southern Mississippi**
- Examined rural high-school students perspectives on using no-suicide agreements as a therapeutic tool for adolescents

### Applied Experience

- 2008-2009 **Office of Head Start / Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) Professional Development Trainer**, Washington, D.C.
- 2008-2009 **Project Manager**, Office for Head Start CLASS National Professional Development & Monitoring Pilot, Washington, DC
- 2007-2008 **Consultant**, Culpeper Head Start Research Coordination and Analyses, Culpeper, VA
- 2007-2008 **Consultant**, Monticello Area Community Action Agency Head Start Community Assessment / Research Consultant, Charlottesville, VA
- 2005-2006 **Consultant**, Data Entry and Analyses, Picayune Early Head Start / UCLA & Johnson & Johnson Health Care Institute, Picayune Public School System, Picayune, MS
- 2004-2005 **Consultant**, Behavioral Interventions, Mississippi Action For Progress: Picayune Head Start, Picayune, MS
- 2004-2005 **Clinic Assistant**, University of New Orleans Psychology Clinic / Parent Education Program, New Orleans, LA
- 2002 -2004 **Project Coordinator / University Liaison / Lead Mentor**, Gentilly Terrace Mentoring Program, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- 2002-2004 **Undergraduate Coordinator Assistant**, Department of Psychology, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- 2000-2001 **Clinical Assistant**, Forrest General Hospital (Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Unit), Pine Grove Behavioral Health, Hattiesburg, MS
- 1999-2001 **Kindergarten Readiness Instructor**, McCarty Learning Center, Picayune, MS
- 1999-2000 **Pre-K Instructor**, Over the Rainbow Childcare Center, Hattiesburg, MS

### Conference Presentations

- Myers, S.S., Downer, J.T., Booren, L., & Pianta, R.C.** (April 2009). Examining the Relations of Child Temperament and Teacher-Child Interactions to Preschoolers' Language / Literacy Outcomes. Paper symposium accepted for presentation at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Kithakye, M.S., Morris, A.S., Terranova, A. M., Myers, S.S., & Peoples, B.** (April 2009). Impact of the Kenya Post-Election Conflict on Preschool Child Adjustment. Poster accepted for presentation at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Kithakye, M.S., Morris, A.S., Cui, L., Houlberg, B., & Myers, S.S.** (April 2009). Impact of Parental Psychological Control on Preschool Child Functioning in Light of Child Emotion Regulation

- Abilities Poster accepted for presentation at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Myers, S. S. & Morris, A.S.** (June 2008). Examining Emotional Reactivity and Regulation in Relation to Head Start Children's School Adjustment. Poster accepted for presentation at the Head Start Ninth National Research Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Kithakye, M.S., Morris, A.S., Myers, S. S., & Terranova, A.** (June 2008). Socioemotional Adjustment in Pre-school Children Following a Natural Disaster: Going Beyond "Main Effects". Poster accepted for presentation at the Head Start Ninth National Research Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Morris, A.S., Kithakye, M.S., Myers, S. S., et al.** (June 2008). The Role of Emotional Regulation and Reactivity in Head Start Children's Academic and Social Development. Poster accepted for presentation at the Head Start Ninth National Research Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Pianta, R.C., Mashburn, A.J., Luckner, A.E., Myers, S. S., & Kilday, C.R.** (February 2008). Web-Mediated Teacher Professional Development and Children's Language and Literacy Development. Poster accepted for presentation at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness conference, Washington, D.C.
- Kithakye, M.S., Myers, S. S., & Morris, A.S.** (March 2007). *Examining Negative Teacher-Child Relationships and Ego-Resiliency as Predictors of Low-Income Children's School Adjustment.* Poster accepted for presentation at the 2007 SRCD Biennial Meeting, Boston, MA.
- Age, T., Morris, A.S., & Myers, S.S.** (March 2007). *Coping with Stress in Military Family Children.* Poster accepted for presentation at the 2007 SRCD Biennial Meeting, Boston, MA.
- Myers, S.S. & Morris, A.S.** (July 2006). *The Influence of the Parent-Child and Teacher-Child Relationships on Head Start Children's School Adjustment.* Poster accepted for presentation at the 2006 Head Start Research Symposium, Washington, D.C.
- Myers, S.S., Sanders, R., Thomas, P., Wale, D., & Morris, A.S.** (July 2006). *Testing the Effectiveness of a Teacher Education Program Aimed at the Promotion of Socio-Emotional and Language Development in Early Head Start Children.* Poster accepted for presentation at the 2006 Head Start Research Symposium, Washington, D.C.
- Myers, S.S. & Morris, A.S.** (November 2005). *Contextual and Dispositional Influences on Head Start Children's School Adjustment.* Poster accepted for presentation at the 2005 Head Start Graduate Student Research Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Myers, S.S., Aucoin, K.J., Robinson, L.R., Keyes, A. W., & Terranova, A., & Morris, A.S.,** (April 2005). *Social-Contextual Influences on Children's Emotion Regulation and Adjustment.* Poster accepted for presentation at the 2005 Society for Research on Child Development conference, Atlanta, GA.

- Myers, S.S. & Morris, A.S.** (April 2005). *The Perfect Angel Hypothesis: The Effect of Parents' Perceptions on Children's Adjustment*. Poster accepted for presentation at the 2005 Society for Research on Child Development conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Morris, A.S., Myers, S.S., Robinson, L.R., Aucoin, K.J., Keyes, A. W., & Terranova, A.** (April 2005). *The Role of Emotion Regulation in Children's Social and Academic Success*. Paper symposium accepted for presentation at the 2005 Society for Research on Child Development conference, Atlanta, GA
- Myers, S.S., Morris, A.S., Aucoin, K.J., Keyes, A.W., & Terranova, A.** (November 2004) *Contextual Influences on Children's Social Competence and Problems Behaviors*. Poster was accepted for presentation at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy, New Orleans, LA.
- Myers, S.S., Morris, A.S., Aucoin, K.J., Keyes, A.W., & Terranova, A.** (November 2004) *Emotion Regulation and Its Effects on Children's Social and Academic Adjustment*. Poster was accepted for presentation at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy, New Orleans, LA.
- Myers, S.S., Morris, A.S., Aucoin, K.J., Keyes, A.W., & Terranova, A.** (April 2004) *The Influence of Parenting Style and Neighborhood Disadvantage on Children's Emotion Regulation*. Poster presented at the Conference on Human Development, Washington D.C.
- Myers, S.S., & Range, L.** *No-suicide agreements: High school students' perspectives*. (April 2002). Poster presented at the National McNair Scholars Symposium, Wisconsin.

### **Invited Presentations**

- Myers, S. S.** (November 2005). *Parent-Child & Teacher-Child Relationships: Relations to Head Start Children's Adjustment*. Presented at Picayune Head Start Complex a part of Mississippi Action for Progress, Picayune, MS. Invited by Picayune Head Start Director, Mrs. Pearl Magee.
- Myers, S.S.** (November 2005). *Responsive Parenting and Child Health*. Presented as a part of the UCLA / Johnson & Johnson Health Care Institute's partnership with Picayune Early Head Start, Picayune, MS. Invited by Picayune Early Head Start Director, Pamela Thomas, M.S Ed.

## **TEACHING**

### **Instructor**

**Introductory Psychology** (Undergraduate: Part Lecture / Part Internet Course) – Fall 2005 University of New Orleans Department of Psychology, New Orleans, LA

**Teaching Assistant**

**Introductory Psychology**  
**Honors Introductory Psychology**  
**Research Methods**  
**Child Psychology**  
**Developmental Psychology**  
**Personal Adjustment**

(Undergraduate Lecture Courses) Fall 2004 –  
Fall 2006, University of New Orleans  
Department of Psychology

**Assessment of Psychopathology**  
**(Clinical Supervisor)**

(Graduate Lecture & Clinical Supervision)  
Lecture Courses) Spring 2007, University of  
New Orleans Department of Psychology

**SERVICE**

**Service to the University of Virginia**

**Co-Instructor**, Journal Club: Children's Effortful Control and Teacher-Child Relationships, Center for  
Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning's Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)  
Lecture Series, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, June 2008.

**Committee Member**, Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning Hiring / Interview  
Committee, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (Jan 2008 – Present)

**Co-Presenter**, Reviewing Research Articles: The How, What, and When to Stop, Curry School of  
Education, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, October, 2007..

**Service to the University of New Orleans**

University of New Orleans Psychology Graduate Student Council

- Library Committee (2002-2006)
- Clinic Committee (2003-2004)
- Social Events Committee (2005-2006)

**Service to Profession: Reviewer**

**Journal Reviewer**

Early Education and Development (2007-present)

NHSA Dialog: A Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field (2007-present)

**Conference Reviewer**

National Head Start Research Conference (2007-present)

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) (2008-present)



**Service to Community**

- 2008-Pres      **Coordinator / Advisory Member**, Lonie Norman Music Scholarship Committee  
(Graduating Minority High School Seniors)
- 2005-2007      **Volunteer / Adult Member**, Girl Scouts of America (Ages 5-17)
- 2003-2007      **Volunteer**, Picayune Early Head Start (Ages Birth - 3)
- 1997-2002      **Volunteer**, Picayune Head Start Complex (Ages 3-5)

**Professional Association Memberships**

- Society for Research in Child Development
- American Psychological Association
- Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology