

Marigrace Walker

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Education

- 2025 **Doctor of Education in Instructional Leadership**
Western Connecticut State University
- Concentration:
Early Childhood Education
- Dissertation:
Implementing Play-based Curriculums in Early Childhood
- Classrooms: A Comprehensive Program Evaluation
- 1998 **Master of Science in Early Childhood Special Education**
Bank Street College of Education
- 1989 **Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education**
Mount Ida College

Presentations

Spring 2026 Walker, Marigrace. (2026). *Implementing Play Based Learning in Early Childhood Classrooms: A Program Implementation Evaluation*. Invited poster presentation at the Presidential Inauguration, Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT.

Fall 2024 Stewart, T., Walker, M., & Kaitlyn Kakadeles. (May, 2024 Accepted). *The Rise of Book Banning in Connecticut: A Critical Analysis of Community Conflict and Policy Responses*. Paper presented at the New England Educational Research Organization 2024 Conference, Portsmouth, NH.

Spring 2024 Stewart, T. J., Walker, M., & Lever, K. (2023). *The COVID-19 Pandemic: Change, Equity, and Technology Highlight Policy Changes*. Paper presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Educational Research Association, Trumbull, CT.

Fall 2023 Walker, Marigrace. (2023). *Supporting Muslim Students in Public Schools* Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT.

Fall 1996 Walker, Marigrace "Outside These Walls: The Discoveries that Children Make in Exploring their Everyday World" Hunter College, NY

Professional Experience

Fall 2025–Present

Instructor, Education Department SUNY Orange, Middletown, New York

- Taught foundational and applied courses in the Early Childhood Education program, including:
 - EDU 208 Home, School, and Community
 - EDU 109 Literacy Development in the Young Child
 - EDU 111 Health, Safety, and Nutrition
 - EDU 201 Observation and Assessment of Young Children
- Designed and implemented developmentally appropriate, standards aligned coursework for preservice educators, with emphasis on reflective practice, assessment, and family engagement.
- Served as Field Placement Coordinator, supporting student placements, liaising with partner schools and districts, and ensuring compliance with observation and fieldwork requirements.
- Served as Faculty Advisor for the Future Teachers Association, providing mentorship, academic support, and program guidance.

2016- 2025

First Grade Teacher

Immanuel Lutheran School

- Facilitated students' academic and social growth
- Implemented varied activities and teaching strategies
- Encouraged curiosity and a deeper understanding of interdisciplinary subjects
- Utilized thematic study and project-based learning
- Collaborated to encourage open communication and program growth
- Developed age-appropriate lesson plans and directed classroom instruction
- Led Elementary Level Teachers on current best instructional practices
- Researched child studies and Connecticut Legislation to stay abreast of the field

2009- 2016

Principal

Hudson Valley Christian Academy

- Planned and directed as the head administrator
- Evaluated curriculum to maintain consistent course quality
- Supervised staff recruitment, training, and evaluation
- Managed finances including budgeting and fundraising
- Implemented student development and behavior management
- Maintained positive relationships with families
- Developed new program initiatives and community outreach

1999-2000

Early Childhood Teacher

Rye Country Day School

- Implemented age-appropriate early childhood curricula
- Planned and conducted parent meetings
- Served as a committee member overseeing school fundraisers
- Participated in screening of incoming kindergarteners and preschoolers

1998-1999

Kindergarten Teacher

Rye Country Day School

- Responsible for implementing curriculum in a prep school setting.
- Served as a committee member for Fundraising/Scholarships.

1993-1998

Preschool Teacher

Bank Street Family Center

- Developed curriculums for typical and developmental delays ages 3-5.
- I worked with a multi-disciplinary team of specialists.
- Trained and supervised graduate students and high school interns.

Consultation Experience

2019- 2023

Board Chairperson

Chair of the Board of Trustees at Hudson Valley Christian Academy

Board Member

Teacher representative Board of Christian Day School at Immanuel Lutheran School

1997- 2002

Educational Consultant

Nickelodeon

Aided in the development of piloted Television Program “Dora the Explorer”.
Developed show ideas and themes for 36 television episodes. Primary consultant responsible for working with writers and producers to ensure that scripts were educationally appropriate.

1997- 1996

Educational Consultant

Disney Network

Aided in the development of piloted Television program “Out of the Box”.
Primary consultant responsible for working with writers and producers to ensure that scripts were educationally appropriate.

1994- 1996

Bank Street Graduate Course Assistant

Helped execute graduate level course on Developmental Delays in Early Years

Productions

Executive Producer

“Circle Time for Everyone”

Created and produced video funded with a grant.

Panelist

Presidential Caucus on Childcare Reform in The United States

Highlighted speaker on the need for childcare reform and change for a video shown at the White House

Consultant

Nickelodeon

Created curriculum guide for teachers that appeared weekly on Nickelodeon

“Cable in the Classroom”.

Awards/Recognitions

Child Magazine Finalist Preschool Teacher of the Year Award

New York State Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching

Western Connecticut State University Success Story feature for doctoral study in the Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership program