

## KATHLEEN M. WHITBREAD

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### EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. Educational Leadership, 1999  
Union Institute and University, Cincinnati, OH.
- M.S. Special Education, 1996  
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT.
- B.S. Special Education and Psychology, 1980  
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT.

### *Licenses/Certification*

- 2012 Associate level certification, Academy of Orton Gillingham Practitioners and Educators; Board of Regents of State University of New York, NY.
- 2010 Connecticut Foundations of Reading exam
- 1980 Connecticut Comprehensive Special Education License, Pre-K–12 (active).

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2020-present Adjunct Professor of Special Education, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT.
- 2007–2018 Associate Professor of Education, University of Saint Joseph School of Education, West Hartford, CT.
- 2003–2007 Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut School Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Farmington, CT.
- 2003–2007 Assistant Professor of Special Education, University of Connecticut Neag School of Education, Storrs, CT.
- 2000–2003 Instructor of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut School Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Farmington, CT.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2018–present **Research and Training Coordinator, Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut (DS ACT), Meriden, CT.** Coordinate research and teacher training for the DS ACT Literacy and Education Center, an after-school tutoring center providing literacy instruction for students with Down syndrome. Responsibilities include curriculum development and coordination of instruction with local school districts and families.
- 2000–present **Independent Educational Consultant, Whitbread Educational Consulting, LLC.** Provide educational consulting services for school districts, families and organizations including teacher training/mentoring and independent education evaluations. Primary areas of expertise include literacy instruction for students with intellectual disabilities and instruction for students with disabilities in general education settings.
- 2008–2012 **Program Director, University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT.** Coordinated the special education team within the Education Department. Collaborated across departments on program development, service, and scholarship. Wrote grants, directed research projects. Core faculty in the Autism Spectrum Disorder program.
- 2001–2007 **Associate Director, University of Connecticut Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Farmington, CT.** Directed grant-funded projects, conducted research, supervised research staff, advised students, and taught coursework. Collaborated with other state agencies, including the Connecticut State Departments of Education, Developmental Services, and Children and Families to conduct research and disseminate findings.
- 2000–2001 **Project Coordinator, Child and Family Studies, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT.** Coordinated grant-funded research and training projects focused on early intervention and school-age populations. Managed quantitative and qualitative studies. Supervised research assistants and graduate students.
- 1993–2000 **Director of School Age Division, SARAH Tuxis Services, Guilford, CT.** Provided training and technical assistance to schools, families and community agencies on educational and behavioral supports for children with developmental disabilities. Wrote grants, coordinated agency-wide training, supervised staff, and managed department budgets.
- 1995–1999 **Researcher/Writer, Pennycorner Press, Gilman, CT.** Published four volumes of The Inclusion Notebook, an award-winning newsletter of educational research and practice. Traveled to 35 states plus Russia and Italy to research the education of children with disabilities in general education classes. Completed a three-year study of middle school students in inclusive classrooms.

- 1989–1998 **Educational Consultant, Private Contractor.** Designed educational programs for children with significant disabilities in general education classrooms. Traveled to Russia to evaluate young children with developmental disabilities as part of an interdisciplinary team. Provided training and technical assistance to parent-teacher groups from the Netherlands to improve educational practices for children with disabilities in school and community settings.
- 1989–1993 **Special Education Teacher/Case Manager, Community Consultation Team, Department of Developmental Services, Bridgeport, CT.** Provided training and technical assistance to families and educators to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities in general education. Participated as a member of Individual Education Program teams, collected and analyzed data and provided special education instruction in school and home settings.
- 1987–1989 **Special Education Teacher, The Curtis School, Meriden, CT.** Provided instruction and support services to public school students with significant social/emotional disabilities living in a residential treatment facility. Facilitated transition plans for students moving from the on-site school to local public schools. Designed and monitored behavioral support plans for children.
- 1981–1987 **Instructor/Case Manager, SARAH, Inc., Guilford, CT.** Taught vocational skills to young adults with developmental disabilities in a community-based job training program. Completed assessments, provided direct instruction, and designed and implemented positive behavior support plans.

#### **RESEARCH, GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

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- 2020 **Co-principal investigator, Project MARC: Effects of a Multi-Component Reading Intervention on the Reading Comprehension of Students with Intellectual Disabilities.** Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Grant. A partnership between Central Connecticut State University, Department of Special Education and Interventions and Down Syndrome Association of CT.
- 2017–present **Project Director, Open Books Open Doors.** Funded by the Global Down Syndrome Foundation and Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut. The project established an after-school tutoring program to advance the literacy skills of Connecticut students with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities.
- 2012–2015 **Project Director, Open Books Open Doors: Improving Literacy Outcomes for Children with Down Syndrome.** Funded by the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress and a University of Saint Joseph faculty research grant. The project is to disseminated research-based information on effective literacy instruction for children with Down syndrome to parents and professionals through articles, an online blog and free literacy screenings for young children with Down syndrome.

- 2011–2013 **Co-investigator, Assessing Bullying and School Climate in an Urban Elementary School.** Survey data were collected from multiple stakeholders in order to develop interventions to reduce bullying and improve school climate. Principal Investigator: Kathleen Barrett, Ed.D., University of Saint Joseph, Counseling and Family Therapy.
- 2010–2012 **Project Director, Youth with Developmental Disabilities in Transition.** Funded by Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities. Training provided to families and professionals of youth with developmental disabilities to facilitate person-centered transition.
- 2009–2010 **Project Director, Fluency Instruction for Students with Down Syndrome: An Exploratory Study.** Funded by the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress and University of Saint Joseph. A study to test a fluency intervention designed for children with dyslexia with children with Down syndrome.
- 2005–2007 **Project Director, Student Technical Assistance Response (STAR) Teams.** Funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. Provided training and technical assistance to schools and families to increase access to general education for students with significant disabilities.
- 2005–2007 **Project Director, Instructional Coaches Academy.** Funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. Provided training to teachers and administrators in educating students with significant disabilities in general education classrooms.
- 2006–2007 **Project Director, Forty-Day Coaches Principal Training Project.** Funded by Stamford Public Schools. Provided training and technical assistance to principals and assistant principals in twelve urban elementary schools to increase compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 2004–2007 **Project Director, Families as Partners: School-Family Collaboration in the Education of Students with Disabilities.** State Improvement Grant funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. Provided training to family members and school district personnel to develop effective partnerships in the Individual Education Program planning process.
- 2005–2007 **Principal Investigator, The Relationship between the Juvenile Justice System and Local Education Agencies: A Survey of Juvenile Probation Officers.** Funded by the University of Connecticut. Investigated the experiences of students with disabilities in the Juvenile Justice System.
- 2003 **Principal Investigator, Teaching Reading to Children with Intellectual Disabilities: A Study of Programs and Practices in Connecticut Schools.** Funded by the University of Connecticut. Conducted a study of early literacy instruction for students with intellectual disabilities in Connecticut Public Schools.

- 2002–2003 **Project Director, Individual Support Planning: Case Manager Training Curriculum.** Funded by Connecticut State Department of Developmental Service (DDS). Created a curriculum to train case managers of the Department of Developmental Services in person-centered planning strategies.
- 2001–2005 **Project Director, Understanding Special Education; Parent/professional training.** Funded by the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities.
- 2001–2003 **Principal Investigator, Special Services in Bristol Public Schools.** Funded by Bristol Public Schools. Conducted a study of parent satisfaction with special education services provided by Bristol Public Schools.
- 2000–2003 **Project Coordinator, Research and Training Center in Service Coordination.** Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Coordinated a national, multi-site research and training center on outcomes and practices of early intervention service coordination.
- 1998–2000 **Principal Investigator, Inclusive Education in Connecticut: A Study of Teacher Attitude Toward Educating Children with Developmental Disabilities in Regular Education Settings.** Funded by Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### *Refereed Publications:*

- Whitbread, K. M., Knapp, S. L., & Bengtson, M. (2021). Teaching Foundational Reading Skills to Students With Intellectual Disabilities. *TEACHING Exceptional Children*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0040059920976674>.
- Nocera, E. J., **Whitbread, K. M.**, & Nocera, G. P. (2014). Impact of School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports on Student Behavior in the Middle Grades. *RMLE Online: Research in Middle Level Education*, 37(8),1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19404476.2014.11462111>
- Teffs, E. & **Whitbread, K.** (2009). Level of preparation of general education teachers to include students with autism spectrum disorders. *Current Issues in Education*, 11(10).
- Nicoll-Senft, J. & **Whitbread, K.** (2007). The STAR protocol process: Facilitating collaboration between families and school district personnel. *The Electronic Journal of Inclusive Education*, 2 (2).
- Whitbread, K., Bruder, M., Fleming, G., and Park, H. (2007). Collaboration in special education: Parent professional training. *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, 39 (4), 6-14. <https://doi.org/10.1177/004005990703900401>

Whitbread, K., Nicoll-Senft, J. & Pace, L. (2006). Literacy instruction and students with intellectual disabilities in Connecticut. *The Journal of the Connecticut Association of Reading Research* 3, 15-22.

Bruder, M., Harbin, G., **Whitbread, K.** Conn-Powers, M., Roberts, R., Dunst, C., Van Buren, M., Mazzarella, C., & Gabbard, G. (2005). Establishing outcomes for service coordination: a step toward evidence-based practice. *Topics in Early Childhood Education*, 25 (3), 177-188. <https://doi.10.1177/02711214040240020401>

Harbin, G., Bruder, M., Adams, C., Mazzarella, C., **Whitbread, K.**, Gabbard, G. & Staff, I. (2004). Early intervention service coordination policies: National policy and infrastructure. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, 24 (2), 89-97. <https://doi.10.1177/02711214050250030501>

Whitbread, K. (2004). The physician's role in educational planning for students with developmental disabilities. *Connecticut Medicine*, 68 (7), 515-519.

Whitbread, K. (1999). Inclusion: Making it work. *Middle Ground: The Magazine of Middle Level Education*, 2 (4), 10-16.

#### ***Non-Refereed Publications:***

Knapp, S. & Whitbread, K. (2012). Creating fluent readers. *Connecticut Down Syndrome Quarterly*, 23 (1), 8-9.

Whitbread, K., Feinstein, A., & Kechijian, L. (2007). The relationship between the juvenile justice system and public schools in serving children with disabilities. Data Report. Farmington: UCONN Center on Developmental Disabilities.

Kardos, M. & Whitbread, K. (2007). Educating children with autism in inclusive classrooms. *The Inclusion Notebook*, 6 (1), 2-17.

Eason, A. & Whitbread, K. (2006). *IEP and Inclusion Tips for Parents and Teachers*. WI: Attainment Company.

Whitbread, K. (2000). Policy effects on teachers' attitudes about inclusion: A multi-school system study. Gilman, CT: Pennycorner Press.

Whitbread, K. (2000). Language arts for lifelong learners. *The Inclusion Notebook*, 4 (3),1-5.

#### ***Selected Presentations:***

Whitbread, K. & Bengtson, M. (2020, January). Reading instruction for students with Down syndrome: Tools for the journey. Club 21 Learning and Resource Center, Pasadena, CA.

- Whitbread, K. (2019, March). Literacy instruction for students with intellectual disabilities. Council of Parent Advocates and Attorneys Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Whitbread, K. (2017, November). What we know about the literacy development of children with Down syndrome. Invited presentation, Connecticut Down Syndrome Association Annual Convention, CT.
- Whitbread, K. & Treimanis, A. (2017, March). Improved literacy outcomes for children with Intellectual Disabilities. Council of Parent Advocates and Attorneys Annual Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Whitbread, K. (2016, March). Teaching reading to children with Down syndrome. Professional development for teachers, sponsored by Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte, Charlotte, NC.
- Whitbread, K. (2014, September). Post-Secondary Transition: Planning Positive Futures. Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis, Fall Workshop Series. Hartford, CT.
- Whitbread, K. (2014, July). Teaching reading to children with Down syndrome. Keynote address and pre-conference session. National Down Syndrome Congress Annual Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Whitbread, K. (2013, November). The literate lives of children with Down syndrome. Invited presentation. Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress Regional Educators Forum. Worcester, MA.
- Whitbread, K. (2013, March). Open Books Open Doors: Improving literacy outcomes for children with Down syndrome. Featured presentation at the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress Annual Conference, Boston, MA.
- Whitbread, K. & Pollard, Mallury P. (2013, March). Envisioning possibility: The literate lives of children with Down syndrome. Presentation at the University of Saint Joseph Research Symposium, West Hartford, CT.
- Whitbread, K. (2013, February). Great Expectations. Keynote presentation at the Down Syndrome Foundation of Southeastern New Mexico Educator Conference, Roswell, NM.
- Whitbread, K. (2012, November). Open Books Open Doors: Literacy instruction for children with intellectual disabilities. Poster presentation at the Annual TASH conference, Long Beach, CA
- Whitbread, K. (2012, August). Legal issues in the education of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Keynote presentation, Annual Autism Institute, West Hartford, CT.
- Whitbread, K. (2012, July). Teaching Reading to Children with Significant Disabilities [Radio Interview]. The Inclusive Class at Blog Talk Radio.

- Barrett, K. & Whitbread, K. (2012, April). Collaboration and research: Assessing and fostering healthy school climate in an urban charter school. Presentation at the annual Faculty Symposium Day, University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT.
- Whitbread, K. (2011, December). Reading instruction for students with significant disabilities. Invited lecture, Pace University, New York City, NY.
- Whitbread, K. (2011, January). Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders. Seminar for parents and professionals of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Sponsored by African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP), Hartford, CT.
- Eason, A. & Whitbread, K. (2009, November). Reading instruction for students with significant disabilities: Let's raise the bar. Poster Presentation at the Annual Conference and Convention of TASH, Pittsburgh, PA
- Whitbread, K. & Eason, A. (2009, January). Inclusive education: From law to implementation. Opening seminar in series on educating children with Down syndrome. Sponsored by the Dallas Down Syndrome Guild, Dallas, TX.
- Whitbread, K. (2008, April). Friendship development in elementary school-aged children with disabilities. Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, Boston, MA.
- Whitbread, K. & Eason, A. (2008, March). Reading for students with significant disabilities: Let's raise the bar. Annual conference of the Council on Parent Advocates and Attorneys, Orange County, CA.
- Whitbread, K. & Eason, A. (2007, December). Reading instruction for students with significant disabilities: Let's raise the bar. Annual Convention of TASH, Seattle, WA.
- Whitbread, K. & Fleming, G. (2007, November). Together we're better: Forging new partnerships to increase access to the general education curriculum. Presentation at the Annual Conference of Association of University Centers on Disability, Washington, DC.
- Whitbread, K. & Nicoll-Senft, J. (2006, November). Using the collaborative consultation process to resolve disputes in special education. Presentation at the TASH Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Whitbread, K. (2006, October). Forging new partnerships to increase access to general education for students with disabilities. Poster presentation, annual conference of the Association for University Centers on Disabilities, Washington, DC.
- Whitbread, K. & Nicoll-Senft, J. (2006, May). Reducing conflict through collaborative consultation. Presentation at the annual conference on dispute resolution in education, Quinnipiac University School of Law, Hamden, CT.



Whitbread, K. and Eason, A. (2006, May). One- hundred-twenty-seven tips on building an inclusive education program. Presentation and book signing at the annual Mamapalooza Festival, Valhalla New York.

Whitbread, K. (2006, April). Building an inclusive education program: Tips for families and advocates. Presentation at the COPAA (Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) Annual Conference, Phoenix, Arizona.

Whitbread, K. & Eason, A. (2006, March). Advocating for your child with a disability: What parents need to know. Moms Gone Mad [Television broadcast]. Danbury, CT: Comcast Cable Network.

Whitbread, K. (2005, November). High school inclusion: From law to implementation. Presentation at the National TASH conference, Milwaukee, WI.

Whitbread, K. (2005, November). Understanding special education: Parent professional training. sponsored by African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, CT.

Whitbread, K. (2005, April). High school inclusion: From law to implementation. COPAA (Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA

Harbin, G. & Whitbread, K. (2005, February). Service coordination: National policies and infrastructure. Presentation at the National Office of Special Education Programs Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### ***Courses taught:***

Educational Assessment

Research in Special Education

Children with Moderate to Severe Disabilities

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support

Laws and Special Education

Curriculum and Instruction: Adaptations and Modifications

Collaborative Consultation for School Personnel

Autism Spectrum Disorders: Behavioral Interventions

## **SERVICE**

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### ***University Service***

2014–2018 Promotion and Tenure Committee

2008–2018 Undergraduate Award Committee, Chair

2015–2017 Faculty Grievance Committee

2011–2014 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

2011–2012 Grants and Contracts Planning Committee, Co-Chair

2011–2012 Institutional Review Board  
 2009–2011 Special Education Accreditation Coordinator  
 2008–2011 Special Education Program Director  
 2008–2011 Secretary/treasurer—Faculty of the Whole  
 2010 Autism Institute Executive Committee

***Community Service***

2007–2014 Education Advisor, Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress  
 2010–2012 CEU coordinator, Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress  
 2011–2012 Reading Tutor, Hartford Public Schools  
 2011–2012 Newsletter editor, Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress Quarterly  
 2009–2010 Advanced Research Mentor, Glastonbury High School

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS**

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2009–present Member, Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education  
 2004–present Lifetime Member, TASH  
 2001–present Member, Council for Exceptional Children  
 2011–2012 Reviewer, Current Issues in Education  
 2011 Recipient, Outstanding Professional Service award, Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress  
 2010 Panelist, Praxis Series Standard Setting Study, Education Testing Service  
 2003–2007 Connecticut Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)  
 2003 Recipient, Educator of the Year award, Connecticut Coalition for Inclusive Education  
 2002–2003 Coordinator, Statewide Network on Inclusive Education, University of Connecticut Center for Disabilities  
 1999 Recipient, Media Award for The Inclusion Notebook, Connecticut Coalition for Inclusive Education  
 1997–1999 Advisory Board Member, Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital Sibling Committee, New Haven, CT.  
 1996–1999 Delegate, Russian-American Child Study Team, The Institute for World Affairs, Washington D.C. Traveled to Russia as part of a transdisciplinary evaluation team to assess children with developmental disabilities