

**Tugce Burcu Arda Tuncdemir**

**Assistant Professor of Early Childhood/Elementary Education**

**Penn State Harrisburg  
School of Behavioral Sciences and Education  
777 W. Harrisburg Pike  
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Middletown, PA 17057  
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### **EDUCATION**

PhD in Early Childhood Education, 2020

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

*Dissertation:* Pretend, Move and Show: Supporting Early Childhood Practitioners' Professional Development through Incorporation with Creative Drama Activities

MS in Early Childhood Education, 2011

Ege University, Izmir, Turkey

*Dissertation title:* Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies-PATHS- Preschool Program on Preschool Children's Social Development

BA in Early Childhood Education, 2008

Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Teacher Education, Play, Improvisation, Creative Drama, Social and Emotional Development in Early Childhood, Philosophy for Children and Philosophy Outreach Program Development, Museum Literacy, Creative Dance and Movement, Children Literature.

### **RESEARCHER'S IDENTIFICATION**

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0945-3404>

Researcher ID: N-4564-2019

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=bEbNFdwAAAAJ>

Research Gate: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tugce\\_Tuncdemir](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tugce_Tuncdemir)

### **GRANTS**

- "Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood", Social Science Research Institute, The Pennsylvania State University, 2015, Graduate Assistant (\$5,000), 2015  
Funding for research on and development of philosophy and ethics education curriculum for pre-kindergarten students
- "PATHS to Success" - sub-study, Social Science Research Institute, The Pennsylvania State University, Visiting Scholar and Researcher, The Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, 2010  
Funding for research on involves the effects of the PATHS program on children's self-control strategies, coping skills, and socio-emotional competence in childcare settings via classroom observation, teacher assessment forms, and interviews with children
- "Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies Program Project", Ege University Scientific Research Grant, Ege University, 2009-2012, 2015, Graduate Assistant (\$5,000)

Funding for translation and cultural adaptation of Preschool PATHS Curriculum for Turkish Preschool and Kindergarten students and preparation in-service and preservice teacher training focusing on social – emotional development in Preschool and Kindergarten students

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### ***Assistant Professor of Early Childhood and Elementary Education***

- EDUC 305 Creative Arts, Penn State Harrisburg
- EDUC 403 Curriculum in Early Childhood Education
- EDUC 404 Young Children's Behavior: Observation and Evaluation
- EDUC 410 Child and Social Institutions

### ***Instructor***

- ECED 105 Becoming a Teacher Leader, Commonwealth University of PA-Lock Haven University, 2020-2023 (CDA Courses) (REMOTE)
- ECED 110/115 Child Development: Brain Building Commonwealth University of PA-Lock Haven University, 2020-2023 (CDA Courses) (REMOTE)
- ECED 205 Positive Behavioral Support for Young Children, Commonwealth University of PA-Lock Haven University, 2020-2023 (CDA Courses) (REMOTE)
- OOE 512 Theories and Models of Learning and Teaching in Early Childhood, Istanbul Aydin University, Turkey, 2021 (Graduate Course) (REMOTE)
- CI 295A Introductory Field Experience for Teacher Preparation, The Pennsylvania State University, 2016 –2020 (6.55/7.00)
- ECE 479 The Young Child's Play as Educative Processes, The Pennsylvania State University, 2016 (6.48/7.00)
- ECE 451 Introduction to Early Childhood Education, The Pennsylvania State University, 2016 (temporary)

### ***Teaching Assistant***

- ECE 479 The Young Child's Play as Educative Processes, The Pennsylvania State University, 2016-2017
- 4508002102006 Creative Drama and Improvisation, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey, 2011-2012
- 4508003152006 Field Experience for Teacher Preparation, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey, 2011-2012
- 4508004102006 Museum Literacy in PreK-4, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey, 2011-2012

### ***Float Teacher/ Classroom Helper***

- The Bennett Family Center, University Park, PA 2021

### ***Preschool Teacher***

- St. Paul Preschool, State College, PA, 2012-2013
- Discovery Space of Central Pennsylvania, State College, PA, 2014
- Penn State Saturday Art School, Pennsylvania State University, PA, 2014
- Ayşe Abila Okulları, Ankara, 2006 (5-year-old room) (student-teacher)
- Çekirdek Yuva, Ankara, 2006 (4 & 5-year-old room) (student-teacher)
- Arı Koleji Ankara, Ankara, 2005 (4-year-old room) (student-teacher)

### ***Kindergarten Teacher***

- TEGV (The Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey), Etimesgut Semahat-Nursel Eğitim Parkı, Ankara Turkey, 2007-2008 (classroom teacher)
- Aydınlikevler Elementary School, Ankara, 2005 (student-teacher)
- Alparslan Elementary School, Ankara, 2004 (student-teacher)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Assistant

- Curriculum & Instruction Department, College of Education, The Pennsylvania State University, PA, 2016-2020
- Rock Ethics Institute, The Pennsylvania State University, PA 2014 – 2016
- Ege University, Izmir, Turkey, 2009-2012

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- NAEYC - PPPIF Walter F. Drew Emerging Play Scholar Award (2018)
- The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) Student Travel Grant (2020)
- Graduate Student Travel Grant. The Pennsylvania State University (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019,2020)
- Visiting Scholar in The Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, College of Health and Human Development, The Pennsylvania State University, PA (2010-2011)
- Travel and Thesis Support Scholarship, The Council of Higher Education of Turkey (2010-2011) (\$12,000)
- National Scholarship Program for MSc, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (2008-2010) (\$8,000).

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Arda Tuncdemir, T.B.**, Burroughs, M. & Moore, G. (2022) Effects of philosophical ethics in early childhood on preschool children's social– emotional competence and theory of mind. *International Journal of Child Care and Education Policy*, 16(5), 1-19.
- **Arda Tuncdemir, T. B.** (2020). *Pretend, Move and Show: Supporting Early Childhood Practitioners' Professional Development through Incorporation with Creative Drama Activities*. Doctoral Dissertation. The Pennsylvania State University, PA
- Johnson, J. E., Sevimli-Celik, S., Al-Mansour, M., **Arda Tuncdemir, T. B.**, and Dong, P. (2020). Play in early childhood education. In O. N. Saracho, & B. Spodek (Eds.), *Handbook of research on the education of young children* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Routledge.
- Burroughs, M. D., Valbusa, F., **Arda Tuncdemir, T.B.** & Mortari, L. (2018). Melarete And PEECh: Two Educational Approaches to Developing Ethical and Emotional Competencies. *Ricercazione*, 10(2), 117-134
- Greenberg, M., Domitrovich, C., Ocak Karabay, S., **Arda Tuncdemir, T.B.** & Gest, S. (2018). Focusing on Teacher-Children Relationship Perception and Children's Social Emotional Behaviors - the PATHS Preschool Program, *International Journal of Educational Research Review*, 3(1), 8-20.
- Ocak Karabay Ş., & **Arda Tuncdemir, T. B.** (2018). The Assessment of Preschool Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies Program in Terms of Teachers' Views. *Marmara Üniversitesi Atatürk Eğitim Fakültesi Eğitim Bilimleri Dergisi* 47 (47), 51-67.
- Burroughs, M. & **Arda Tuncdemir, T. B** (2017). Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood: A Pilot Study, *Journal of Philosophy in Schools* 4(1), 74-101.
- Bilir Seyhan, G., Ocak Karabay, S., **Arda Tuncdemir, T. B.**, Greenberg, M. T. and Domitrovich, C. (2017). The Effects of Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies Preschool Program on Teacher–Children Relationships and Children's Social Competence in Turkey, *International Journal of Psychology*, 54(1), 61-69
- Burroughs, M. D. & **Arda Tuncdemir, T. B.** (2016). *Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood (PEECh) Instructor Manual*. Unpublished manuscript. The Pennsylvania State University: PA
- Ocak, Ş., & **Arda, T. B.** (2014). The Comparison of Preventive Intervention Programs in Early Childhood Period, *Hacettepe University Journal of Education*, 29(4), 171-188.
- **Arda, T. B.** (2012). *Visual Art Practices with Creative Drama Method in Early Childhood*. Unpublished professional development thesis. Turkey: Ankara
- **Arda, T. B.** & Ocak, S. (2012). Social Competence and Alternative Thinking Strategies Preschool Curriculum, *Educational Sciences: Theory & Practice*, 12(4), 13-20.
- **Arda, T. B.** (2011). *Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies-PATHS- Preschool Program on Preschool Children's Social Development*, Master of Art Dissertation. Ege University, Izmir, Turkey

- Ocak, S., and **Arda, T. B.** (2011). Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies Program in Preventive Intervention Science, *International Journal of Early Childhood Special Education (INT-JECSE)*, 3(2), 129-148.

### **In Progress**

- Kharod, D., Guirguis, R., Longley, J., **Arda Tuncdemir, T.B.**, Sutterby, J., Kamen, M., & Wisneski, D. (under preparation). Teacher Educators' Perspectives, Beliefs, and Practices, In M. K. Felton & D. H. Cortez-Castro (Eds.), *Re-Exploring Play and Playfulness in Early Childhood Teacher Education: Narratives, Reflections & Practices*. Routledge.
- **Arda Tuncdemir, T.B.** & Guirguis, R. (under preparation). The Effects of COVID-19 on Socio-Dramatic Play. In Covid-19 and Early Childhood Education: Multiple Voices and Perspectives from the United States.
- Creative Drama: Play and Improvisation with Preservice Teachers (under review in *International Journal of Play*)
- Creative Drama in Higher Education (in preparation for submission to *American Journal of Play*)

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- Wisneski, D., Kharod, D., Guirguis, R., Longley, J., Arda Tuncdemir, T.B., & Kamen, M. Playful Pedagogies in Early Childhood Teacher Education: Building a Playful ECE Workforce. International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), May 17-19, 2023, Borough of Manhattan Community College, NY.
- Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. Professionals Need More Play Power: Creative Drama, International Play Association Annual Conference (IPA), October 6-9, 2022, San Antonio, TX.
- Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. & Kamen, M. Performance, Play, and Script Writing in College Classes for Preservice Teachers, International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), May 21, 2022, Virtual Meeting.
- Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. and the others. Yes, and Higher Education: A Practice of Being and Becoming, International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), May 21, 2022, Virtual Meeting
- Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. and the others. Meeting Building the Boat as We Go: An Improvised Dialogue for/on Transforming Learning, The Taos Institute - Education as Relating Virtual Conference, November 4-6, 2021, Virtual Meeting
- Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. Creative Drama in US College Classes, 28<sup>th</sup> ICCP World Conference on Play, July 8-9, 2021, Virtual Meeting
- Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. Play and Improv in Higher Education, International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), March 20, 2021, Virtual Meeting
- Tugrul, B., Feyman Gok, N. Toker, T., & Arda Tuncdemir, T.B. The World's Largest TV-based Preschool: Turkey Example, International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), March 20, 2021, Virtual Meeting
- Bedard, C, Drew, W., & Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. Recontextualizing hands-on self-active play using Zoom as a creative response to COVID 19 pandemic in three countries, International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), March 20, 2021, Virtual Meeting, Workshop and Research Presentation
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B. Creative Drama Practices in Teacher Education. Curriculum & Pedagogy 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, October 21-24, 2020, Virtual Meeting
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B. Play & Improvisation with Preservice Teachers. International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) and American Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPA/USA), March 11-14, 2020, San Antonio, TX
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B., Johnson, J., Saracho, O., & Johnson, K. Interactive Media Play Experiences for Early Education and Development. International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) and American Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPA/USA), March 11-14, 2020, San Antonio, TX
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B. Play in Higher Education (Round Table). International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) and American Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPA/USA), March 13-16, 2019, James Madison University, Harrisonburg Virginia
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B & Olgun Baytas, M. Circle for a Fair World: Exploring Multiple Identities as a Teacher. 2019 International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) and American Association for

the Child's Right to Play (IPA/USA), March 13-16, 2019, James Madison University, Harrisonburg Virginia (Workshop)

- Arda-Tuncdemir, T. B., Creative Drama with Preservice Teachers (Round Table). NAEYC 2018 Annual Conference & Expo, November 14-17, 2018, Washington, DC
- Arda-Tuncdemir, T. B., Here we go! Superheroes!: Creative Drama Activities for PreK-4th Graders., NAEYC 2017 Annual Conference & Expo, November 18-21, 2017, Atlanta, (Workshop)
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B, & others. Transcultural Play: Meaning and Expression, 2016 International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) and American Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPA/USA), March 16-19, 2016, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (Workshop)
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B & Johnson, J., Here we go! Superheroes, 2016 International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP) and American Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPA/USA), March 16-19, 2016, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (Workshop)
- Johnson, K., Johnson, J. Arda-Tuncdemir, T. B, and Wu, V., Play in Kindergarten: Exploration, expression, transformation, and Learning, NAEYC's 2015 Annual Conference & Expo, November 18-21, 2015, Orlando (Workshop)
- Arda-Tuncdemir, T. B., Burroughs, M, Thomson, T. and Valentine, D. Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood – PEECh, Learning Sciences/Science of Learning Poster Conference, November, 6, 2015, College of Education, Penn State University, PA (Poster)
- Burroughs, M. & Arda-Tuncdemir, T. B. Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood –PEECh, 20th Annual CSLEE Values and Leadership Conference, October15-17, 2015, Penn State University
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B, The Journey of Preschool PATHS - the Stop: Turkey, International Paths® Learning Conference, 15 & 16 May 2014, Cleveland, OH
- Tugrul, B., Arda Tuncdemir T. B. and others, Comparison of different cultures' play perceptions, 40th Annual International Conference The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), April 23-26, 2014, The Strong Museum of Play, Rochester, NY
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B, & others. Transcultural Play: Meaning and Expression, 40th Annual International Conference The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), April 23-26, 2014, The Strong Museum of Play, Rochester, NY (Workshop)
- Arda Tuncdemir T. B. ECE in Turkey, ECE Around the Global Meeting, September 2013, Month Nittany Elementary School, PA
- Arda, T. B., Tunceli, H., and others, Examples of Parent Involment in Preschools- Beypazarı town.2nd International Participation Child Development and Education Congress, October 2009, Ankara (poster)
- Arda, T. B., Geylani, E. and Meletli, N. Peace Education in Preschools- My Peace My Exhibition, Good Examples of Education Congress, April 2008, Sabancı University, İstanbul, Turkey
- Arda, T. B. and Dogan, T. Examination of 6-year old Children's Thinking of Child Rights, 2nd National Student Congress in Preschool Education, May 2007, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey
- Arda, T. B. and Yesilyurt, D. Culture Project in Preschools, 2nd National Preschools Education Students Congress, May 2007, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey (poster)

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

### **Novel**

- Arda Tuncdemir, T. (2013). Ankara. In Tarik Solmus (Ed.), *Kadin Gozuyule Ask* (pp.264-268). Istanbul: Yitik Yayinlari

### **Translation**

- Arda Tuncdemir, T. (2018). Erken Cocuklukta Gozlem ve Degerlendirme. Ankara: Ani Yayıncılık Translation from English to Turkish. Original: Janice J. Beaty (2014) "Observing Development of the Young Child" into Turkish.

## **SELECTED INVITED LECTURES & WORKSHOPS**

- Online Self-Active Play Sessions in Turkey, November 2020, January 2021, and February 2021
- “Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood (PEECh) - Teacher Workshop, invited trainer, Lewistown, 2016
- “Creative Drama in Nursing – Cancer - for Nursing Formation Students”, invited workshop leader, Ege University, Izmir, 2012.
- “Comparison of American and Turkish Preschools in terms of physical and curriculum- for students and teachers”, invited speaker, Hacettepe University, Ankara, invited workshop leader
- “Basic Math Skills in Preschool – for teachers”, invited workshop leader, Caka Bey Schools, Izmir, 2012
- “Social – Emotional Development, and Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies – PATHS – Preschool Curriculum – Teacher Training”, invited trainer, Ege University Kampus Preschool, Tıp Fakultesi Preschool, and Private Untas Camlik Preschool, Izmir. (2010-2012)
- “Preschool Teaching 2nd Meeting”, invited speaker, Ege University, Izmir, 2012  
<http://egeburada.ege.edu.tr/content/genc-ege/2658/title/egitim-fakulteliler-tanismapartisinde-bulustu>
- “Features of Preschools” Ege Burada Journal Interview, invited speaker. Ege University, Izmir, 2012  
<http://egeburada.ege.edu.tr/content/saglik/2636/title/anaokulu-secimine-dikkat>
- “Rotary Club – Society Leaders – Communication and Motivation with creative drama – for students” invited trainer, Atlantis Susuzlu Hotel, Izmir, 2011
- “Rotary Club – Society Leaders – Time Management and Motivation with creative drama – for students”, invited trainer, Atlantis Susuzlu Hotel, Izmir, 2010

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- President, The Association for the Study of Play (TASP)(2022-2023)
- Member, International Play Association (IPA)
- Member, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Member, American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- Member, Curriculum & Pedagogy Group
- Member, The Contemporary Drama Association, Turkey
- Member, Equity Minded Faculty Learning Community, Pennsylvania State University

### **REVIEW WORK**

- Reviewer, Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education
- Reviewer, Early Child Development and Care
- Reviewer, Early Childhood Education Journal (ECEJ)
- Reviewer, International Journal of Play
- Reviewer, Journal of Research in Childhood Education
- Reviewer, Southeast Asia Early Childhood Journal
- Proposal Reviewer for NAEYC Annual Conferences
- Proposal Reviewer for AERA Annual Conferences

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SELECTED)**

- Creative Drama Leadership Program, The Contemporary Drama Association, Ankara, Turkey, 2012, with thesis: “Visual Art Practices with Creative Drama Method in Early Childhood”
- Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching, The Pennsylvania State University, PA, 2015
- College Teaching Certificate, The Pennsylvania State University, PA, 2016
- The Discipline of Play: A Workshop, Arts & Design Research Incubator, The Pennsylvania State University, PA, 2016
- 8th Annual Moral Literacy Colloquium, Ethics and Education: Developing Moral Literacy, April 24-25, The Pennsylvania State University, University, PA, 2015
- Professional Meeting, Strengthening Preschool Education in Turkey, 11th Oct, Syracuse, NY, 2013
- Professional Meeting between Syracuse and The Pennsylvania State University, May, PA, 2013

- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale ECERS-R from PA Keys to Professional Development, 2013
- Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale ITTERS-R from PA Keys to Professional Development, 2013
- Mind in Making: 7 Skills – Module 1 & 2 from PA Keys to Professional Development, 2013
- Coursera (Online Course) Creating Site-Specific Dance and Performance Works from California Institute of the Arts, 2013
- Coursera (Online Course) Effective Classroom Interactions: Supporting Young Children’s Development from University of Virginia, 2013
- Coursera (Online Course) Art and Inquiry: Museum Teaching Strategies For Your Classroom from The Museum of Modern Art, 2013
- Coursera (Online Course) Social Psychology from Wesleyan University, 2013
- Dance and Action - Elise De Vlieghe, Creative Drama Seminar, Kocaeli, Turkey, 2011
- Clown Workshop - Stefano D’Argenio, Müjdat Gezen Theatre, Izmir, Turkey, 2011
- Playback Theatre - Jutta Heppekaussen, The Contemporary Drama Association, Izmir, Turkey, 2011
- Forum Theatre- Julien Boal” The Contemporary Drama Association, Izmir, Turkey, 2011
- Dance-Music-Drama- Ulrike Jungmair, 15th International Creative Drama in Education, The Contemporary Drama Association, Eskisehir, Turkey, 2011
- ORFF Schulwerk- Education of Music, Dance and Movement in Preschool and Kindergarten, LERA, Ankara, 2006-2008

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

- Play and Improvisation with Natural Materials with Children and Families, Week of the Young Child on Earth Day 2017, State College, PA, 2017
- International Week Activities with Kindergarteners, Pleasant Gap Elementary School, State College, PA, 2017
- Turkish National Children Day’s Activities with Preschoolers and Toddlers, Bennett Family Center & Child Care at Hortwoods 2012-2020
- An Adventure around the Globe - The International Children's Festival, Global Connections, State College, PA, 2012-2015

### **NON-PROFIT AND OTHER PROJECTS**

- Why Walk When You Can Dance, Center of European Union Education and Youth Programs, Strvga, Macedonia, Participant/Organizer, 2009
- Read, Think and Share, Young Guru Academy, Ankara, Turkey, Project leader, 2008
- Turkish Student Association – Penn State, Former President