**Tugce B. Arda Tuncdemir**  
Assistant Professor of Early Childhood/Elementary Education

Penn State Harrisburg

School of Behavioral Sciences and Education

777 W. Harrisburg Pike

W-331-J Olmsted Building

Middletown, PA 17057

## Education

Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University, 2020.  
Major: Curriculum & Instruction  
Supporting Areas of Emphasis: Early Childhood Education  
Dissertation Title: Pretend, Move and Show: Supporting Early Childhood Practitioners' Professional Development through Incorporation with Creative Drama Activities.

Master of Science, Ege University, Turkiye, 2011.  
Major: Early Childhood Care and Education  
Supporting Areas of Emphasis: Social and Emotional Development and Learning  
Dissertation Title: Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies-PATHS- Preschool Program on Preschool Children’s Social Development.

BA, Hacettepe University, Turkiye, 2008.  
Major: Early Childhood Care and Education  
Supporting Areas of Emphasis: Preschool Teaching

## Publications

Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. & Napoli, M. (Accepted). Exploring the Impact of Preservice Teachers' Knowledge and Attitudes toward Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) through Children's Literature. *Early Childhood Education Journal*.

Guirguis, R., & Arda Tuncdemir, T. (2024). Developing a Playful Curriculum in the Higher Education Classroom. *The New York Academy of Public Education Research Journal, 13*(1), 11-16. <https://nyape.org/research-journals/>

Kharod, D., Guirguis, R., Longley, J., Arda Tuncdemir, T., Sutterby, J., Kamen, M., & Wisneski, D. (2024). Teacher Educators’ Perspectives, Beliefs, and Practices. In M. K. F. & D. H. Cortez-Castro (Ed.), *Re-Exploring Play and Playfulness in Early Childhood Teacher Education: Narratives, Reflections & Practices* (1st ed.). Routledge.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., & Guirguis, R. (2024). The Effects of COVID-19 on Socio-Dramatic Play. In R. P. & R. Guirguis (Ed.), *The Effects of COVID-19 on Early Childhood Education: Research and Implications* (1st ed.). Ethics Press. <https://ethicspress.com/products/the-effects-of-covid-19-on-early-childhood-education/?INTEGRITY>

Arda Tuncdemir, T. B., Burroughs, M. B., & 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. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1186/s40723-022-00098-w>

Johnson, J. E., Sevimli-Celik, S., Al-Mansour, M., Arda Tuncdemir, T., & Dong, P. I. (2019). Play in early childhood education. In O. N. Saracho (Ed.), *Handbook of research on the education of young children* (4th ed., pp. 165–175). Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/edit/10.4324/9780429442827/handbook-research-education-young-children-olivia-saracho?refId=8cab8b05-cb72-4b02-8737-06afd8330eb7&context=ubx>

Burroughs, M. B., 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. <https://doi.org/DOI>: 10.32076/RA10208

Greenberg, M. T., Domitrovich, C. E., Ocak Karabay, S., Arda Tuncdemir, T., & 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. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.24331/ijere.372270>

Ocak Karabay, S., & Arda Tuncdemir, T. (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. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15285/maruaebd.2728>

Burroughs, M. B., & Arda Tuncdemir, T. B. (2017). Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood: A Pilot Study. *Journal of Philosophy in Schools*, *4*(1), 74–101. <https://doi.org/DOI>: 10.21913/jps.v4i1.1420

Bilir Seyhan, G., Ocak Karabay, S., Arda Tuncdemir, T., Greenberg, M. T., & Domitrovich, C. E. (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. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijop.12426>

Ocak Karabay, S., & Arda Tuncdemir, T. (2014). The Comparison of Preventive Intervention Programs in Early Childhood Period. *Hacettepe University Journal of Education*, *29*(4), 171–188.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., & Ocak Karabay, S. (2012). Social Competence and Alternative Thinking Strategies Preschool Curriculum. *Educational Sciences: Theory & Practice*, *12*(4), 13–20.

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

## Presentations

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Asempapa, R. S., 2024 ECE Leaders Summit, "Improving teachers' play skills to enhance teachers' and children's social and emotional competencies," Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning, Hershey, PA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., AERA Annual Meeting, "Exploring the Collective Power of Creative Drama in Early Childhood Education," AERA, Philadelphia, PA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Guirguis, R., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Pre-service Teachers' Playful Mindset and TPP Playful Practices," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Rochester, NY.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Exploring the Transformative Power of Creative Drama: A Study on Preservice Teachers’ Perspectives, Methods, and PD in Play-Based Education," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Rochester, NY.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Virtual Play in Turkey During COVID Times: Fostering Play and Socialization Amidst Challenges," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Rochester, NY.

Wisneski, D., Kharod, D., Guirguis, R., Longley, J., Arda Tuncdemir, T., Kamen, M., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Playful Pedagogies in Early Childhood Teacher Education: Building a Playful ECE Workforce," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), New York, New York, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., International Play Association Annual Conference, "Professionals Need More Play Power: Creative Drama," International Play Association (IPA), San Antonio, TX, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Kamen, M., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Performance, Play, and Script Writing in College Classes for Preservice Teachers," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Virtual Meeting.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Lobman, C., Perone, L., Baylor, K., Fujii, N., Lowenheim, G., Parsons, E., Pernecky, T., Santucci Leoni,, A., Singer, S., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Yes, and Higher Education: A Practice of Being and Becoming," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Virtual Meeting.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Lobman, C., Lowenheim, G., Pernecky, T., Davies, S., Burciaga-Montoya, J., Education as Relating: A Virtual Conference, "Meeting Building the Boat as We Go: An Improvised Dialogue for/on Transforming Learning," The Taos Institute, Virtual Meeting.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., 28th Conference of the International Council for Children’s Play, "Creative Drama in US College Classes," International Council for Children’s Play (ICCP), Virtual Meeting.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Play and Improv in Higher Education," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Virtual Meeting.

Tugrul, B., Feyman Gok, N., Toker, T., Arda Tuncdemir, T., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "The World’s Largest TV-based Preschool: Turkey Example," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Virtual Meeting.

Bedard, C., Drew, W., Arda Tuncdemir, T., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Recontextualizing hands-on self-active play using Zoom as a creative response to COVID 19 pandemic in three countries," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Virtual Meeting.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Curriculum & Pedagogy 21st Annual Conference, "Creative Drama Practices in Teacher Education," Curriculum & Pedagogy Group, Virtual Meeting.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Johnson, J. E., Belland, B. R., Durham, S., Han, M., Hartle, L., Johnson, K. M., Kim, C., Patte, M., Sutterby, J., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Play in Higher Education," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Olgun Baytas, M., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Circle for a Fair World: Exploring Multiple Identities as a Teacher," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., NAEYC 2018 Annual Conference & Expo, "Creative Drama with Preservice Teachers," NAEYC, Washington DC, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., NAEYC 2017 Annual Conference & Expo, "Here we go! Superheroes!: Creative Drama Activities for PreK - 4th Graders," NAEYC, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Johnson, J. E., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Here we go! Superheroes," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), New Brunswick, NJ, USA.

Johnson, K. M., Johnson, J. E., Arda Tuncdemir, T., Wu, V., NAEYC 2015 Annual Conference & Expo, "Play in Kindergarten: Exploration, expression, transformation, and Learning," NAEYC, Orlanda, Florida, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Burroughs, M., Thomson, C., Valentine, D., Learning Sciences/Science of Learning Poster Conference, "Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood – PEECh," Penn State University, University Park, PA, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Burroughs, M., 20th Annual CSLEE Values and Leadership Conference, "Philosophical Ethics in Early Childhood –PEECh," University Council on Educational Administration, University Park, PA, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., 9th International PATHs Learning Conference, "The Journey of Preschool PATHS - the Stop: Turkey," PATHS Program, Cleveland, OH, USA.

Tugrul, B., Arda Tuncdemir, T., Johnson, J. E., Mahoney-Ferster, M., Almamsour, M., Almukaimy, M., Glisan, C., Wu, V.-H., Murillo, K., Sengupta, N., Lee, C., Sevimli-Celik, S., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Comparison of different culture’s play perceptions," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Rochester, NY, USA.

Arda Tuncdemir, T., Johnson, J. E., Mahoney-Ferster, M., Alazemi, N., Almukaimy, M., lp Dong, P., Wu, V.-H., Murillo, K., Sengupta, N., Tang, Y., International Conference of The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), "Transcultural Play: Meaning and Expression," The Association for the Study of Play (TASP), Rochester, NY, USA.

## Professional Positions

Adjunct Faculty, Commonwealth University of PA (Lock Haven University). (August 2020 - August 2023).

(https://earlyedualliance.org/earlyedu-alliance-in-action/pennsylvania-child-development-associate-credential-prep/)

Graduate Assistant, Penn State University. (August 2014 - May 2020).

## Professional Memberships

Member, International Play association. (August 1, 2022 - Present).

Member, The American Educational Research Association. (January 1, 2018 - Present).

Former President, The Association for the Study of Play. (August 1, 2015 - Present).

Member, The National Association for the Education of Young Children. (January 4, 2014 - Present).

## Awards and Honors

Student Travel Grant, The Association for the Study of Play (TASP). (March 1, 2020 - Present).

NAEYC - PPPIF Walter F. Drew Emerging Play Scholar Award, NAEYC. (November 19, 2018 - Present).

Student Travel Grant, Penn State University. (March 1, 2015 - 2020).

Travel and Thesis Support Scholarship, The Council of Higher Education of Turkey. (January 1, 2010 - 2011).

Visiting Scholar, The Pennsylvania State University. (January 1, 2010 - June 1, 2011).

National Scholarship Program for MSc, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. (August 1, 2008 - 2010).

## Contract, Fellowships, Grants and Sponsored Research

Mross, E. L., Arda Tuncdemir, T., Siffrinn, N., Napoli, M., "Celebrate Diverse Voice Through Poetry," Sponsored by Barnes & Noble Education, Corporations, $12,000.00.

## Teaching Experience

EDUC 404, Observatn/Eval Ece.

EDUC 495A, JUNIOR FIELD EXP.

EDUC 305, Creative Arts.

EDUC 403, Curric Early Child.

EDUC 410, Child and Soc Inst