

**Willis, Clarissa 1**

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

900 W. Dixson Street  
Rogers, AR 72758  
[clarissa@clarissawillis.com](mailto:clarissa@clarissawillis.com)

Phone: 336-407-9098

**II. EDUCATION**

- A. Ph.D. Special Education 1993  
Area of Emphasis: Early Childhood  
University of Southern Mississippi  
Hattiesburg, MS
- B. M.A. Speech/Language Pathology 1979  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR
- C. B.A. Speech/Language Pathology 1977  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR

**III. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- A. Professor August 2020-Present  
Teacher Education/ Early Childhood  
University of Southern Indiana  
Evansville, Indiana
- B. Faculty Coordinator August 2018-2021  
Children's Learning Center  
University of Southern Indiana  
Evansville, Indiana
- C. Associate Professor (Tenured 8/17) August 2013-2020  
Teacher Education  
University of Southern Indiana  
Evansville, Indiana
- D. Senior Vice President Education-Professional Dev. June 2009-June 2013  
Intellectual Properties  
Kaplan Early Learning Company  
Lewisville, NC
- E. Academic Liaison-Vice President-Publishing August 2008-June 2009  
Kaplan Early Learning Company  
Lewisville, NC

**Willis, Clarissa 2**

- F. Tenured Associate Professor August 2001-August 2008  
Early Childhood & Special Education  
Department of Human Development/Learning  
East Tennessee State University  
Johnson City, TN
- F. Associate Director August 2001-August 2008  
Center for Early Childhood Learning and Development  
East Tennessee State University  
Johnson City, TN
- G. Assistant Professor 1997-2001  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Arkansas Tech University  
Russellville, AR
- H. Executive Director 1995-1997  
Southern Early Childhood Association  
Little Rock, AR
- I. Assistant Professor 1993-1995  
Department of Special Education  
East Tennessee State University  
Johnson City, TN
- J. Early Childhood Special Needs Consultant 1992-1993  
Center for Child Development  
Hattiesburg, MS
- K. Program Coordinator 1990-1992  
Facilitating Adaptations in Family Routines  
University of Southern Mississippi  
Hattiesburg, MS
- L. Assistive Technology Consultant 1992-1993  
University Affiliated Programs (UAP)  
University of Southern Mississippi  
Hattiesburg, MS
- M. Speech-Language Pathologist 1989-1990  
Mayflower Public Schools  
Mayflower, AR
- N. Early Childhood Consultant 1989-1990  
Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative  
Russellville, AR

- O. Community Based Instruction Coordinator 1987-1989  
Centers for Youth and Families  
Little Rock, AR
- P. Communication Specialist 1983-1987  
Pulaski County Special School District  
Little Rock, AR

#### IV. KEYNOTE ADDRESSES/PAPERS PRESENTED/WORKSHOPS

##### **Keynote Addresses**

- Willis, C.** (2021, February) *Teaching Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Strategies that work*. Invited keynote South Carolina Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Virtual Event.
- Willis, C.** (2018, April). *Best practices for early education of young children*. Shanghai International Conference on Education, Shanghai, People's Republic of China.
- Willis, C.** (2017, April). *Missed behavior of missed communication? Understanding the behavior of the children we teach*. Tennessee Methodist Preschool Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN
- Willis, C.** (2016, April). *Treasures from the heart: What you do does make a difference*. Keynote presented at the Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2016, March). *Working with young children with autism spectrum disorder: Strategies that work*. Keynote presented at the Southern California Infant Development Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Willis, C.** (2013, November). *He brain, she brain: What the brain research tells us about how children learn*. Keynote presented at the New Jersey/New York Association of Jewish Day Schools, Paramus, NJ.
- Willis, C.** (2013, October). *Learn every day: Incorporating math, science, social studies, literacy, creativity, and social-emotional development into multi-sensory learning environments for all children*. Keynote presented at the South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Columbia, SC.
- Willis, C.** (2013, August) *Learn every day- incorporating math, science, social studies, and the creative arts into developmentally appropriate environments for all children*. Keynote presented at the Greater New Orleans Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, New Orleans, LA.,
- Willis, C.** (2013, February). *The heart-mind connection: Applying brain research to best practices for inclusive settings*. Keynote presented at the Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children, Annual Spring Conference, Galveston, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2013, January). *Treasures from the heart: What you do does make a difference*. Keynote presented at the Child Care Network Regional Conference, Raleigh, NC.

- Willis, C.** (2012, November). *Learn every day: Multi-sensory learning environments for all children*. Keynote presented at the Region VI: Head Start Conference, Rogers, AR.
- Willis, C.** (2012, October). *Teaching infants, toddlers and twos with special needs*. Keynote presented at Louisiana Early Childhood Association Annual Conference, Alexandria, LA.
- Willis, C.** (2012, August). *Learn every day developmentally appropriate practices for young children*. Invited presentation at the Second Annual Beijing Normal University & Yale University Symposium on Early Childhood Education, Beijing, China.
- Willis, C.** (2012, July). *Learn every day- incorporating math, science, social studies, and the creative arts into developmentally appropriate environments for all children*. Keynote presented at the Mississippi Head Start Association Annual Conference, Natchez, MS.
- Willis, C.** (2012, July). *Learn every day- incorporating math, science, social studies, and the creative arts into developmentally appropriate environments for all children*. Featured Session presented at the Kentucky Coalition Annual Conference, Louisville, KY.
- Willis, C.** (2012, May). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Strategies that work!* Invited featured session at the Florida Association for Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologists, Buena Vista, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2012, February). *Inclusive literacy lessons*. Keynote presented at the Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK.
- Willis, C.** (2012, January). *Literacy and learning*. Keynote presented at the Annual Louisiana State Department of Education Summit, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Willis, C.** (2010, February). *I Love you! I hate you! I'm your best friend*. Keynote presented at the Tennessee Pre-Kindergarten Conference, Franklin, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2010, February). *I Love you! I hate you! I'm your best friend*. Keynote presented at the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Teacher's Conference, Greensboro, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2009, December). *I Love you! I hate you! I'm your best friend*. Keynote presented at the Georgia Kindergarten Teacher's Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Willis, C.** (2009, December). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Strategies that work*. Keynote presented to Chattanooga Early Head Start Winter Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2009, August). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Strategies that work*. Keynote presented at the Annual Early Childhood Conference, Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2009, July) *I Love you! I hate you! I'm your best friend*. Keynote presented at the Missouri Kindergarten Teacher's Conference, Osage Beach, MO.

- Willis, C.** (2009, April). *Autism spectrum disorders: Strategies that work!* Keynote presented at the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children. Indianapolis, IN
- Willis, C.** (2008, September). *Treasures from the Heart: What you do does make a difference.* Keynote presented at the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2008, July). *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Understanding the puzzle.* Keynote presented at the Montana State University at Billings Annual Summer Symposium, Billings, MT.
- Willis, C.** (2008, April). *Treasures from the heart: What you do does make a difference.* Keynote presented at the annual Discover the Joy Conference, Florida Early Learning Symposium. Fort Myers, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2008, February) *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Strategies that work.* Keynote presented at the Utah State Department of Special Education Winter Conference. Ogden, UT.
- Willis, C.** (2007, December). *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Strategies that work.* Keynote presented as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Velma Schmidt Fall Conference on Early Childhood Education, The University of North Texas, Denton, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Behavior as learned from the 'Three Little Pigs.* Keynote presented at the West Virginia Head Start Annual Conference, Charleston, WV.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *The heart-mind connection: Encouraging emotionally healthy children with and without special needs.* Keynote presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Early Intervention-Preschool Conference and Disability Expo, Birmingham, AL.
- Willis, C.** (2006, October). *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Red flags and options!* Keynote address presented at the Annual Conference for the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Wilmington, DE.
- Willis, C.** (2006, May). *Hidden Treasures: What you do does make a difference!* Keynote address presented at the Treasure Coast Children's Conference, West Palm Beach, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2006, March.). *Misbehavior or miscommunication: When children act out!* Keynote address presented at the Oklahoma I Teach K! Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Willis, C.** (2006, January). *Misbehavior or Miscommunication: When children act out!* Keynote address presented at the Texas I Teach K! Conference, El Paso, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2005, September). *What the brain research tells us about how children learn.* Keynote address for Kindergarten and non-categorical early childhood special educators. Los Angeles Independent School District, Los Angeles, CA.
- Willis, C.** (2001, March). *Where do we go from here? Brain research and early childhood education.* Keynote conducted at the Joint Conference of Maryland Family Childcare Providers and Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children. Eastern Shore, MD.

- Willis, C.** (1999, October). *Food for thought: Practical applications of the new brain research*. Keynote conducted at the Region III Head Start Annual Conference, Wilmington, DE.
- Willis, C.** (1998, March). *Practical applications of the new brain research: It's all about inclusion*. Keynote conducted at the Regional Child Care Directors and Administrators Conference, John Tyler Community College, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (1997, June). *You can make a difference: The importance of childcare workers*. Keynote conducted at the Annual Childcare Provider's Conference, Texas A & M University, Kingsville, TX.
- Willis, C.** (1996, November). *The magic of childhood*. Keynote conducted at the Second Annual North Carolina Early Childhood Association Conference, Moorhead City, NC.
- Willis, C.** (1996, February). *A journey through the field of education*. Keynote conducted at the South Carolina Early Childhood Association 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- Willis, C.** (1995, September). *What's going on with our children?* Keynote conducted at the Florida Early Childhood Association 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

#### **National and International (Peer Reviewed) Presentations**

- Willis, C. & Apple, L.** (2021, February). *Winston's Words of Wisdom: Using interactive books to help young children cope*. Arizona Elementary School Counselors Association, Virtual Presentation.
- Willis, C.** (2020, February) *Inclusive literacy lessons: Helping children with autism spectrum disorder*. Workshop presented at the Reading for the Love of It 2020 Annual Language Arts Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Willis, C.** (2020, February) *Teaching children with autism spectrum disorder: Communication matters*. Workshop presented at the Reading for the Love of It 2020 Annual Language Arts Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Willis, C.** (2019, November) *Teaching Young Children with Special Needs*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Raisor, J., Zhulamanova, I., & **Willis, C.** (2019, November) *Building community with classroom and school setting*. National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2018, November). *Autism spectrum disorder: Red flags and options*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Willis, C.** (2018, November). *P-12 Inclusion: What is it all about?* Workshop presented at the Yashad International Conference for Jewish Schools, Toronto, Canada.
- Willis, C.** (2018, April). Speaker, *Developmentally appropriate classrooms for all young children*. Shanghai International Early Childhood Annual Conference,

Shanghai, China.

- Berridge, G. & **Willis, C.** (2018, April). *Unsung heroes: Teachers speak out about teaching, learning, and job satisfaction*. Research presentation presented at the Center for Scholastic Inquiry Annual Research Conference, Savannah, GA.
- Willis, C.** (2017, November). *Teaching infants, toddlers, and twos with special needs*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Willis, C.** (2017, January). *Strategies to manage the behavior of young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Paper accepted at the International Division for Autism and Developmental Disorders (DADD) conference, Fort Myers, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2015, November). *Teaching young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the inclusive classroom: Facilitating communication and social-emotional development through simple, easy-to-implement strategies*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** & Tong, Lui (2015, November). *Learn Every Day: Adapting an inclusive curriculum for a Chinese audience*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference as part of the international symposium, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2015, February). *Helping students with Autism thrive*. Paper presented at the National Association of Teacher Educators Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- Willis, C.** (2014, November). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Strategies that work*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2013, November). *Learning together every day: Collaborative relationships and inclusive environments create meaningful experiences for all*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Willis, C.** & Laxton, L. (2012, November). *A special educator and a parent discuss the realities of collaboration and cooperation in the education of a young child with Down syndrome*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Willis, C.** (2012, October). *Learn every day- Incorporating math, science, social studies, and the creative arts into developmentally appropriate environments for all children*. Paper presented at the Maryland Head Start Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Willis, C.** (2012, April). *Autism: Red flags*. Invited presentation at the London Book Fair, Earl's Court, London, U.K.
- Willis, C.** (2011, November). *Workshop and model classroom demonstration, developmentally appropriate learning in preschool education*. The people's Republic of China, Private Preschool Director's Conference, Kunming, China.
- Willis, C.** & Isbell, R., Baillet, L. & Charner, C. (2011, June). *Educational publishing in today's world*. Workshop presented at the Annual Professional Development

Institute for the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Providence, RI.

**Willis, C. & Schiller P.** (2010, June). *Six essential skills for school success*. Workshop to be a featured presentation at the Annual Professional Development Conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Phoenix, AZ.

Schiller, P. & **Willis, C.** (2009, November). *Inclusive Literacy Lessons*. Paper presented at the Annual International Conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington D.C.

**Willis, C. & Lane, H.** (2009, November). *Autism spectrum disorders: Making a family connection!* Paper presented at the Annual International Conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington D.C.

**Willis, C. & Isbell, C.** (2008, June). *Addressing the technology needs of children with autism and sensory processing disorder*. Paper presented at the Annual Professional Development Institute of the National Association for Early Childhood Education, New Orleans, LA.

**Willis, C. & Isbell, C.** (2008, April). *Creating positive environments for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference for the National Association for Elementary School Principals, Nashville, TN.

**Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Autism spectrum disorders: Strategies that work!* Paper presented at the Annual International Conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Chicago, IL.

**Willis, C.** (2007, July). *Autism spectrum disorders: Strategies for teachers*. Paper presented at the Autism Society of America Annual Conference, Scottsdale, AZ.

Isbell, R. & **Willis, C.** (2007, June). *Creating inclusive environments for children*. Workshop presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Pittsburg, PA.

**Willis, C.** (2007, April). *Autism spectrum disorders: Strategies that work!* Paper presented at the Southern Early Childhood Association, Jacksonville, FL.

**Willis, C.** (2006, November). *Autism spectrum disorders: Red flags and options!* Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Ongie, A., Compton, J. & **Willis, C.** (2006, November). *Staff retention: Results of a study about staff and administrative perceptions*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Atlanta, GA.

**Willis, C.** (2006, July). *The kindergarten brain: Food for thought*. Paper presented at the I Teach K! National Kindergarten Conference, Nashville, TN.

**Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Creating a literacy-rich environment for children with disabilities*. Paper presented at the I Teach K! National Kindergarten Conference, Nashville, TN.

**Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Autism spectrum disorders: Red flags and options!* Paper presented at the I Teach K! National Kindergarten Conference, Nashville, TN.



- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Bullying: How it affects all children*. Paper presented at the I Teach K! National Kindergarten Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Children at risk for school failure*. Paper presented at the I Teach K! National Kindergarten Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *The first-grade brain: Food for thought*. Paper presented at the I Teach 1st! National First Grade Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Creating a literacy-rich environment for children with disabilities*. Paper presented at the I Teach 1st! National First Grade Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Autism spectrum disorders: Red flags and options!* Paper presented at the I Teach 1st! National First Grade Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Bullying: How it affects all children*. Paper presented at the I Teach 1st National First Grade Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Autism spectrum disorder: Red flags and options*. Paper presented at the National Summer Institute for Preschool Teachers sponsored by McGraw Hill-Wright Group. Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Inclusion: Strategies for helping children with special needs in the regular classroom*. Paper presented at the National Summer Institute for Preschool Teachers sponsored by McGraw Hill-Wright Group. Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2006, April). *Autism spectrum disorder: Myths and realities*. Paper presented at the Association for Childhood Education International Conference. San Antonio, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2006, April). *Inclusion: Celebrating diverse learning differences*. Paper presented at the Association for Childhood Education International Conference. San Antonio, TX.
- Willis, C., Compton, J. & DeVault, K.** (2005, December). *Creating a literacy-rich environment for infants and toddlers*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children International Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Willis, C. & Nelson, D.** (2005, October). *Helping families and caregivers: The death of a child*. Paper presented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Division of Early Childhood Conference, Portland, OR.
- Willis, C.** (2004, April). *Brain Research: What a decade has taught us about how children learn*. Paper presented at the Association for Early Childhood International, Annual International Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Willis, C.** (2004, December). *The East Tennessee Autism Training Project: A family service provider partnership*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Division of Early Childhood the Council for Exceptional Children, Chicago, IL.
- Willis, C.** (2004, April). *Best practices: A roadmap for inclusion*. Paper presented at the Association for Early Childhood International, Annual International Conference, New Orleans, LA.

- Willis, C.** (2004, April). *A child's brain: A key to lifelong learning*. Paper presented at the Association for Early Childhood International, Annual International Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Willis, C. & Lane, H.** (2004, April). *The East Tennessee Autism Training Project: A family service provider partnership*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, New Orleans, LA.
- Willis, C., Compton, J., & DeVault, K.** (2003, November). *The electronic portfolio and its use with infants and toddlers with special needs and their typically developing peers*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children International Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Leonard, A.M., & **Willis, C.** (2003, November). *Family home childcare providers: How to handle attrition*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children International Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Willis, C., & Lane H.** (2003, October). *The East Tennessee Autism Training Project: A family collaboration*. Paper presented at the Division of Early Childhood Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Willis, C.** (2003, October). *Project TIES: Training paraeducators for inclusion*. Poster session presented at the Division of Early Childhood Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Willis, C., & Burleson, R.** (2003, April). *Training paraeducators for inclusion*. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference and Expo, Seattle, WA.
- Willis, C., & Little, B.** (2002, December). *Project TIES: Preparing paraeducators for inclusion*. Paper presented at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Division of Early Childhood National Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Willis, C., & Little, B.** (2002, June). *Project TIES: Building bridges for all learners*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Eleventh Annual National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Willis, C.** (2002, April). *Miscommunication or misbehavior: Communicating with toddlers*. Paper presented at the Association for Childhood Education International Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Sluss, D., Brown, W., **Willis, C.** & Little, B. (2001, December). *DEC and NAEYC together: What we learned from Project TIES*. Paper presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Division of Early Childhood Conference, Boston, MA.
- Sluss, D., Brown, W., **Willis, C.** & Little, B. (2001, November). *DEC and NAEYC together: What we learned from Project TIES and beyond*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Anaheim, CA.
- Willis, C.** (2001, April). *Brain research: Applications for children with special needs*. Paper presented at the Association for Childhood Education International Annual Conference, Toronto, CA.

- Willis, C.** (2000, April). *Inclusion: Strategies that work*. Paper presented at the Association for Childhood Education International Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Willis, C.** (1999, April). *Brain research: Practical applications for family literacy*. Paper presented at the National Family Literacy Conference, Louisville, KY.
- Willis, C., & Peck, N.** (1997, November). *One-on-one dialog: Consensus building*. Poster session presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Anaheim, CA.
- Leister, C.** (1995, April). *Preparing young children without disabilities to accept their peers with disabilities*. Paper presented at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, Indianapolis, IN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, April). *Parent-teacher communication: The consumer speaks out!* Paper presented at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, Denver, CO.
- Leister, C., & Yates, C.** (1993, April). *Opportunities for growth: A transdisciplinary approach to assistive technology for preschool learners with developmental disabilities*. Paper presented at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, San Antonio, TX.
- Leister, C., & Yates, C.** (1993, January). *Transdisciplinary assistive technology assessments of children with low incidence disabilities*. Paper presented at the Tenth Anniversary International Technology and Media Conference on Special Education and Technology, Hartford, CT.

### **Regional (Peer Reviewed)**

- Willis, C.** (2016, January). *Teaching infants, toddlers, and twos with special needs: Strategies that work*. Workshop presented at the 2016 Young Child Expo & Conference, New York, NY.
- Willis, C.** (2012, October). *Learn every day- Incorporating math, science, social studies, and the creative arts into developmentally appropriate environments for all children*. Workshop presented at the Pennsylvania Early Childhood Summit, State College, PA.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Misbehavior or missed communication: When children with special needs act out!* Workshop presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Early Intervention-Preschool Conference and Disability Expo, Birmingham, AL.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *The special needs brain: Food for thought*. Workshop presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Early Intervention-Preschool Conference and Disability Expo, Birmingham, AL.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Lights! Camera! Action! Children with sensory integration issues*. Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young Children Conference, Midland, Texas.
- Willis, C.** (2006, July). *Autism spectrum disorder: Strategies that work!* Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young

Children Conference, Midland, Texas.

- Willis, C.** (2005, July). *Autism: Red flags and options*. Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young Children Conference, Midland, Texas.
- Willis, C.** (2005, July). *Providing a literacy-rich classroom for all children!* Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young Children Conference, Midland, Texas.
- Willis, C.** (2004, July). *Best practices in inclusion: A roadmap for success*. Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young Children Conference, El Paso, Texas.
- Willis, C.** (2004, July). *Missed behavior or missed communication: When children with special needs act out*. Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young Children Conference, El Paso, Texas.
- Willis, C.** (1998, June). *Science projects for the early childhood classroom*. Workshop conducted at the DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill, Early Childhood Education Summer Institute, Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (1997, March). *Using low-tech adaptations for young children with disabilities*. Parent workshop conducted at the Region X Head Start Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK.
- Willis, C.** (1997, June). *Inclusion of children with special needs: Suggestions for teachers*. Workshop conducted at the DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill, Early Childhood Education Summer Institute, Dallas, TX.
- Leister, C.** (1995, May). *Tips for teachers: Assistive technology in the inclusive classroom*. Paper presented at the Gulf Coast Conference on Early Intervention, Biloxi, MS.
- Leister, C.** (1995, March). *The princess was hearing impaired, and the prince didn't know sign language: Interactive activities for preschool teachers*. Paper presented at the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southern Early Childhood Association (SACUS), Orlando, FL.
- Leister, C.** (1994, April). *Misbehavior or miscommunication: Looking at the communicative attempts of young children*. Paper presented at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southern Early Childhood Association (SACUS), New Orleans, LA.

### State (Peer Reviewed)

- Willis, C.** (2017, April). *Teaching young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Strategies that work*. Paper presented at the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
- Willis, C.** (2016, April). *I love you! I hate you! Understanding preschool behavior*. Workshop presented at the Nashville Area Association of the Education of Young Children.

- Willis, C.** (2016, March). *Learn every day the infant, toddler way*. Workshop presented at the Southern California Infant Development Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Raisor, J. & **Willis C.** (2016, April). *You can't play with me: Strategies to identify and address social hierarchies in classrooms* (Half-day pre-conference session). Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Indianapolis, IN.
- Willis, C.** (2015, October). *Learn every day: Promoting inclusion for all!*. Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (Pre-k & Kindergarten) 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Schaumburg, IL
- Willis, C.** (2015, April). *Learning Centers on a Dime: Planning Activities for All Learners (Inclusion)*. Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (Pre-k & Kindergarten) 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Schaumburg, IL.
- Willis, C.** (2015, February). *Applying brain research in early childhood. (Featured session)*, Indiana Association for Rehabilitation Facilities Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Willis, C.** (2015, February). *Teaching young children with autism spectrum disorders: Strategies that work*. Indiana Association for Rehabilitation Facilities Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Willis, C.** (2014, September). *Learn every day the infant, toddler way: Inclusion for all. (Featured session)* Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Des Moines, IA.
- Willis, C.** (2014, September). *Learn every day the preschool way: Inclusion for all. (Featured session)* Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Des Moines, IA.
- Willis, C.** (2014, April). *Teaching young children with autism spectrum disorders: Strategies that work!* Ohio Care and Early Education Conference, Columbus, OH.
- Willis, C.** (2014, April). *The infant-toddler brain: Applications for successful learning (Featured session)*. Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Indianapolis, IN.
- Willis, C.** (2014, April). *He brain, she brain: What the brain research tells us about how children grow and develop (featured session)*. Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Indianapolis, IN
- Willis, C.** (2014, April). *The heart-mind connection: What the brain research tells us about social-emotional development (Featured session)*. Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Indianapolis, IN
- Willis, C.** (2013, October). *Learn Every Day: Incorporating math, science, literacy, and social studies in inclusive early childhood classrooms*. Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, San Antonio, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2012, October). *Teaching Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Featured workshop presented at Louisiana Early Childhood Association Annual Conference, Alexandria, LA.

- Willis, C.** (2012, September) *Learn Every Day- Incorporating Math, Science, Social Studies and the Creative Arts into Developmentally Appropriate Environments for All Children*. Workshop presented at the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children, Raleigh, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2008, March). *Autism spectrum disorders: Strategies that work*. Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Your child's brain: Food for thought*. Featured presentation at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Early Intervention-Preschool Conference and Disability Expo. Birmingham, AL.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Misbehavior- What to do when young children with special needs react*. Featured presentation at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Early Intervention-Preschool Conference and Disability Expo. Birmingham, AL.
- Willis, C.** (2007, September). *Autism spectrum disorders: Strategies that work!* Featured presentation at the North Carolina Early Childhood Association, Greensboro, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2007, September). *Misbehavior or Missed Communication*. Featured presentation at the North Carolina Early Childhood Association Conference, Greensboro, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2007, April). *Autism spectrum disorders: Strategies that work!* Featured presentation at the Ohio Early Childhood Association Conference, Columbus, OH.
- Willis, C.** (2007, April). *Misbehavior or missed communication*. Featured presentation at the Ohio Early Childhood Association Conference, Columbus, OH.
- Willis, C.** (2006, December). *Autism: Strategies that work!* Paper presented at the North Carolina I Teach Pre-K Conference, Greensboro, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2006, December). *Bullying! Answers for teachers*. Paper presented at the North Carolina I Teach Pre-K Conference, Greensboro, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2006, December). *Creating a literacy rich environment for children with disabilities*. Paper presented at the North Carolina I Teach Pre-K Conference, Greensboro, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2006, October). *Young children with autism spectrum disorder*. Paper presented at the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Chattanooga, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2004, October). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Red flags!* Featured presentation, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association Convention, LaCrosse, WI.
- Willis, C.** (2004, October). *Missed behavior or missed communication: When children with special needs act out*. Featured presentation, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association Convention, LaCrosse, WI.
- Willis, C.** (2004, April). *Brain research: Ten years later!* Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Conference, Roanoke, VA.

- Willis, C.** (2002, March). *Helping children cope: Handling grief*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Annual Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- Willis, C., & Little, B.** (2002, March). *Project TIES: Inclusion for all children*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Annual Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2001, February). *Brain research, practical applications for practitioners*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2001, February). *Brain research, practical applications for practitioners*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2000, March). *Now that we have the brain research, where do we go from here?* Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2000, March). *Brain research, practical applications for practitioners*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2000, March). *Now that we have the brain research, where do we go from here?* Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (1999, March). *Brain development and learning: Practical applications for young children*. Pre-conference session conducted at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education, Roanoke, VA.
- Willis, C.** (1997, September). *Brain development and communication*. Paper presented at the Early Childhood Association of Florida Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** (1997, October). *Brain development: Applications of the new research for the classroom teacher*. Paper presented at the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children, Gatlinburg, TN.
- Willis, C.** (1997, December). *Magicians in wonderland: Fostering creativity in young children*. Paper presented at the West Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Morgantown, WV.
- Willis, C.** (1997, October). *Full inclusion: Ideas that work for all children*. Paper presented at the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, Houston, TX.
- Willis, C.** (1995, August). *Assessment and children: What are we really assessing?* Keynote conducted at the Virginia State Department of Education New Teacher Orientation Training, Richmond, VA.
- Leister, C.** (1995, April). *A process oriented approach to assistive technology*. Paper presented at the Annual State of Tennessee Special Education Supervisor's Conference, Nashville, TN.

**State (Invited Presentations)**

- Willis, C.** (2020, July) *Teaching young children with autism spectrum disorder: Strategies for today!* Virtual presentation at the Region IV Annual Early Childhood Conference, Houston, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2020, July) *Teaching young children with special needs: Strategies for managing challenging behaviors.* Virtual presentation at the Region IV Annual Early Childhood Conference, Houston, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2019, December). *Infants, Toddlers with Special Needs.* Training presented at the invitation of the Family's First Group (Part C) Jackson, MS.
- Willis, C.** (2019, March). *Everyone's in! Inclusive literacy lessons.* Workshop presented at the South Carolina Pre-K/K Conference, Columbia, SC.
- Willis, C.** (2019, March). *Sensory Integration: The who, what, why of it.* Workshop presented at the South Carolina Pre-K/K Conference, Columbia, SC.
- Willis, C.** (2019, March). *Pictures and words, building strong vocabularies.* Workshop presented at the South Carolina Pre-K/K Conference, Columbia, SC.
- Willis, C.** (2019, March). *Misbehavior or missed communication,* Workshop presented at the South Carolina Pre-K/K Conference, Columbia, SC.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Children at risk for school failure.* Workshop presented at the invitation of the Virginia Pre-K Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Creating vocabulary using words & pictures.* Workshop presented at the invitation of the Virginia Pre-K Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Combining literacy and math: Interactive learning.* Workshop presented at Virginia Pre-K Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Children at risk for school failure.* Workshop presented at the invitation of the Illinois-K Conference, Redmond, IL.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Creating vocabulary using words & pictures.* Workshop presented at the invitation of the Illinois-K Conference, Redmond, IL.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Bullying!* Workshop presented at the invitation of the Illinois-K Conference, Redmond, IL.
- Willis, C.** (2007, November). *Children at risk for school failure.* Workshop presented at the invitation of the Virginia Pre-K Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2007, July) *Autism Spectrum Disorder: What to do?* Workshop presented at the invitation of the North Carolina State Department of Education, The Power of Kindergarten Summer Academy, Raleigh, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2006, March). *Children at Risk.* Paper presented at the Oklahoma I Teach K! Kindergarten Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Willis, C.** (2006, March). *Missed behavior or miscommunication: Behavior strategies that work.* Paper presented at the Oklahoma I Teach K! Kindergarten Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.
- Willis, C.** (2006, March). *Creating a literacy rich environment for kindergartners with disabilities.* Paper presented at the Paper presented at the Oklahoma I Teach K!



Kindergarten Conference, Oklahoma City, OK.

**Willis, C.** (2006, March). *Children at risk*. Paper presented at the Third Annual Kindergarten Conference for Kansas Teachers.

**Willis, C.** (2006, March). *Creating a literacy rich environment for kindergartners with disabilities*. Paper presented at the Third Annual Kindergarten Conference for Kansas Teachers.

**Willis, C.** (2006, March). *The kindergarten brain: Food for thought!*. Paper presented at the Third Annual Kindergarten Conference for Kansas Teachers

**Willis, C.** (2006, February). *Creating a literacy rich environment for kindergartners*. Paper presented at the Eighth Annual Kindergarten Conference for New Jersey Teachers, Atlantic City, NJ.

**Willis, C.** (2006, February). *Kindergarten communication: Misbehavior or missed communication*. Paper presented at the Eighth Annual Kindergarten Conference for New Jersey Teachers, Atlantic City, NJ.

**Willis, C.** (2006, February). *Autism spectrum disorder: Red flags and options!* Paper presented at the Eighth Annual Kindergarten Conference for New Jersey Teachers, Atlantic City, NJ.

**Willis, C.** (2006, February). *Creating a literacy rich environment for kindergartners with disabilities*. Paper presented at the Eighth Annual Kindergarten Conference for New Jersey Teachers, Atlantic City, NJ.

**Willis, C.** (2006, February). *The kindergarten brain*. Paper presented at the Kindergarten Conference for Wisconsin Teachers, Madison, WI.

**Willis, C.** (2006, February). *Creating a literacy rich environment for kindergartners*. Paper presented at the Kindergarten Conference for Texas Teachers, El Paso, TX.

**Willis, C.** (2006, January). *Kindergarten communication! Misbehavior or missed communication*. Paper presented at the Kindergarten Conference for Texas Teachers, El Paso, TX.

**Willis, C.** (2006, February). *Kindergarten science*. Paper presented at the Kindergarten Conference for Texas Teachers, El Paso, TX.

#### **Local (Invited Presentations)**

**Willis, C.** (2014, October). *Misbehavior or missed communication*. Evansville Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Evansville, IN.

**Willis, C.** (2014, October). *He brain, she brain. What the brain research tells us about how children grow and develop*. Making Connections Madison County Early Childhood Conference, United Way, Chesterfield, IN,

**Willis, C.** (2014, October). *Misbehavior or Missed communication*. Making Connections Madison County Early Childhood Conference, United Way, Chesterfield, IN,

**Willis, C.** (2014, June) *The blended classroom: Teaching young children with*

- developmental delays*. (Two-day workshop). Region 1, Educational Service Center, Edinburg, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2014, January) *Working with young children with autism spectrum disorder*, (Full Day Workshop) Region X, Educational Service Center, Richardson, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2012, August). *The blended classroom: A case for inclusion*. Wayne County Coalition for Children, Goldsboro, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2007, August). *Blended practices: Ideas for the classroom*. Workshop presented for the pre-school special education teachers of Rapides Parish Louisiana, Alexandria, LA.
- Willis, C.** (2007, August). *Autism: A lifelong perspective!* Workshop presented for Jefferson County Schools, Dandridge, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2006, August). *All about behavior! Getting ready for a new year*. In-service provided to the Scott County Head Start Staff, Webber City, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2006, June). *A child's brain! What the brain research tells us about how to help foster children excel!* Keynote address presented to the East Tennessee Foster Care Training Conference, Johnson City, TN
- Willis, C.** (2006, June). *Your child's brain! What the brain research tells us about how children learn*. Provider workshop sponsored by Educare, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO
- Willis, C.** (2006, March). *Math begins at home! Fun activities for you and your child*. Parent workshop sponsored by Region XIV Headstart, Abilene, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2006, March). *Science made simple! Fun activities for you and your child*. Parent workshop sponsored by Region XIV Headstart, Abilene, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2005, October). *Parents and teachers: Equal partners!* Workshop presented at the Community of Color Family Conference. Chattanooga, TN.
- Willis, C.** (2005, September) *Getting off to a great start! Collaboration, consultation, and cooperation*. Workshop for preschool special educators, preschool teachers, and kindergarten teachers. Alexandria, LA.
- Willis, C.** (2005, July) *Misbehavior or missed communication: When children with special needs act out!* Workshop presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill Summer Institute. Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2005, July) *Creating a literacy rich environment for all children!* Workshop presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill Summer Institute. Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2005, June) *How children learn: Applying brain research to the early childhood classroom*. Workshop for pre-school teachers sponsored by Region 20 Educational Cooperative. San Antonio, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2005, March). *The heart-mind connection: What the brain research tells us about how children learn*. Workshop sponsored by the Garrett County Community Action (Head Start) for teachers, para-educators, and parents. Oakland, MD.

- Willis, C.** (2005, March). *The heart-mind connection: What the brain research tells us about how children learn.* Workshop sponsored by the Garrett County Community Action (Head Start) for teachers and parents. Oakland, MD.
- Willis, C.** (2005, March). *Misbehavior or missed communication: When children with special needs act out.* Workshop sponsored by the Garrett County Community Action (Head Start) for teachers, para-educators, and parents. Oakland, MD.
- Willis, C.** (2005, March). *Positive discipline: Strategies that work!.* Workshop sponsored by the Garrett County Community Action (Head Start) for teachers, para-educators, and parents. Oakland, MD.
- Willis, C.** (2005, March). *Learning through play.* Workshop sponsored by the Garrett County Community Action (Head Start) for teachers, para-educators, and parents. Oakland, MD.
- Willis, C.** (2005, March) *Math begins at home! Fun activities for you and your child.* Parent workshop sponsored by Region XIV Headstart, Abilene, TX.
- Willis, C.** (2005, March) *Science made simple! Fun activities for you and your child.* Parent workshop sponsored by Region XIV Headstart, Abilene, TX.
- Willis, C., & Little, B.** (2002, April). *Project TIES: Toward Inclusion in Early Settings.* Workshop conducted at the Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Teachers In-service, College Station ISD, College Station, TX.
- Willis C., & Little, B.** (2002, March). *Project TIES: Toward Inclusion in Early Settings.* Three-day workshop conducted at the invitation of the Navajo Nation for the Navajo/Hopi Child Care Providers (Head Start), Tuba City, AZ.
- Willis, C.** (1999, October). *Applications of the new brain research for the Head Start classroom.* Keynote conducted at the Fairfax County Head Start Annual Fall Conference, Fairfax, VA.
- Willis, C.** (1999, October). *Practical applications of the new brain research: What does it mean for Head Start?* Staff development workshop conducted at the Bucks County Head Start Fall Training, Philadelphia, PA.
- Willis, C.** (1999, October). *A parent's guide to the new brain research: It's all about time.* Parent workshop conducted at the Bucks County Head Start Parent Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Willis, C.** (1998, December). *Portfolio based assessment: Uses in the regular and special education classroom.* Workshop conducted for the Russellville Public Schools, ELLA Training Workshop, Russellville, AR.
- Willis, C.** (1998, December). *Portfolio based assessment.* Russellville Public Schools, ELLA Training Workshop, Russellville, AR.
- Willis, C.** (1998, June). *Science projects for the early childhood classroom.* DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill, Summer Learning Workshop, Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (1998, May). *Making kindergarten fun for all learners.* Kinder Care Staff Development Workshop, Chicago, IL.
- Willis, C.** (1997, October). *Brain development and how it relates to developmentally*

- appropriate practice for all children.* Georgia Association for Young Children, Atlanta, GA.
- Willis, C.** (1997, September). *Moving and playing!* Early Childhood Association of Florida, Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (1997, July). *Tips for inclusion.* DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill Learning Seminar, Dallas, TX.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (1997, May). *Southern issues and perceptions: Public policy concerns for education.* Gulf Coast Conference on Early Intervention, Point Clear, AL.
- Willis, C.** (1997, April). *Brain research: Applications for parent-child interaction.* Keynote conducted at the Danforth Foundation Conference, Beau Bridge, LA.
- Willis, C.** (1997, March). *Resource conservation: Taking care of tomorrow's leaders.* Workshop conducted at the Louisiana Tech University Student Chapter, Early Childhood Education Association Annual Conference, Ruston, LA.
- Willis, C.** (1997, March). *The fourth little pig: Literacy learning in early childhood settings.* Keynote conducted at the Murray State University Child Care Provider Appreciation Dinner, Murray, KY.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (1996, July). *Behavior management: Time in the time-out syndrome.* DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill Learning Seminar, Dallas, TX.
- Leister, C.** (1996, June). *Observation of infants and toddlers: How to listen, watch, and learn.* Patrick Airforce Base, Melbourne, FL.
- Leister, C.** (1996, May). *Behavior management in the pre-school classroom.* Oklahoma Head Start Association, Spring Conference, Ada, OK.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (1996, September). *Getting started: Developing a plan of action for the local association.* Louisiana Association for Early Childhood Development, Fall Retreat, Monroe, LA.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (1996, August). *Putting all the pieces together: Developing a family-friendly plan for all learners.* Alabama Association for the Education of Young Children, Fairhope, AL.
- Leister, C.** (1995, February). *Children and software: Meeting the needs of the curriculum and providing opportunities for children with developmental delays.* Shelby County, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1995, January). *Using assistive technology with children in a classroom environment.* Bristol, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, August). *Workshop: Assistive technology issues for learners with severe disabilities.* LRE for Life Conference, Gatlinburg, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, June). *Workshop: Assistive technology for children with disabilities.* Tennessee Early Intervention Project, Knoxville, and Jackson, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, October). *Assistive technology: Expanding the process to include all learners.* Western Tennessee Special Education Director's Fall Retreat, Nashville, TN.

- Leister, C.** (1994, September). *Assistive technology for teachers: A high tech/low tech alternative*. Jackson Special Education Teachers, Jackson Madison County Schools, Jackson, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, September). *Assistive technology: A process oriented approach*. Kingsport Special Education Teachers, Kingsport, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, September). *Assistive technology for teachers: A high tech/low tech alternative*. Oakridge Special Education Teachers, Oakridge Public Schools, Oakridge, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, August). *Assistive technology across the lifespan*. LRE for Life Project, Knoxville, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, April). *Behavior disorders in the public school classroom*. Southeast Community College, Johnson City, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, January). *Communicating with persons with disabilities: Strategies for helping students achieve*. Southeast Community College, Johnson City, TN.
- Leister, C.** (1990, October). *Understanding non-symbolic communication*. Pulaski County Special School District, Little Rock, AR.
- Leister, C.** (1990, October). *Planning communication interactions for learners with low incidence disabilities*. Hattiesburg Public Schools, Hattiesburg, MS.

V. PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY WORK

A. Curriculum Projects

- \*Willis, C.** (2019). *Learn Every Day the Preschool Curriculum 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Curriculum Guide*. Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC 160 pages. Chapters are written: Introduction, Ten Terrific Tips for Using Learn Every Day the Preschool Curriculum, Building Blocks of Literacy, Children with Special Needs Blending All Learners into a Preschool Setting, Adapting Learn Every Day for Three-Year-Olds.
- \*Willis, C.** (2019) *Learn Every Day the Preschool Curriculum 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Volume 1*. Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC, 316 pages. (12 thematic units with special needs adaptations, second language learner suggestions, ways to manage challenging behaviors, objectives for each developmental domain, and research references to support best practices for teachers. Each thematic unit contains five daily lesson plans with activities in each one math, science, literacy, social studies, social, emotional development, and creative expression. Instructions for teachers, resource books, and suggested books to read to children were also included.)
- \*Willis, C.** (2019) *Learn Every Day the Preschool Curriculum 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Volume 2*. Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC, 319 pages. (12 thematic units with special needs adaptations, second language learner suggestions, ways to manage challenging behaviors, objectives for each developmental domain, and research references to support best practices for teachers. Each thematic unit contains five daily lesson plans with activities in each one math, science, literacy, social studies, social, emotional development, and creative expression.

Instructions for teachers, resource books, and suggested books to read to children were also included.)

- \***Willis, C.** (2019) *Learn Every Day the Preschool Curriculum 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Volume 3.* Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC, 352 pages. (12 thematic units with special needs adaptations, second language learner suggestions, ways to manage challenging behaviors, objectives for each developmental domain, and research references to support best practices for teachers. Each thematic unit contains five daily lesson plans with activities in each one math, science, literacy, social studies, social, emotional development, and creative expression.
  - \***Willis, C. (2019)** *Learn Every Day the Program for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Program Guide,* Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC, 196 pages. Chapters written: Introduction, Infants Toddlers and Twos with Special Needs, What the Brain Research Tells Us: Babies are Born Ready to Learn, Let's Talk: Communication.
  - \***Willis, C. (2019)** *Learn Every Day the Program for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Volume 1,* Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC, 274 pages. Wrote the introduction and teacher notes for 14 chapters, including research citations, and wrote approximately 50 domain-specific activities for infants. Edited the entire book for consistency and developmentally appropriateness.
  - \***Willis, C. (2019)** *Learn Every Day the Program for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Volume 2,* Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC, 274 pages. Wrote the introduction and teacher notes for chapters related to each domain, including research citations, and wrote approximately 50 domain specific activities for toddlers. Edited the entire book for consistency and developmentally appropriateness.
  - \***Willis, C. (2019)** *Learn Every Day the Program for Infants, Toddlers, and Twos 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Volume 3,* Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC, 274 pages. Wrote "Setting the Stage for Older Toddlers and Twos" and Six thematic units for older toddlers and two-year-olds. Wrote 45 activities for each unit and added research citations for the entire book.
- Willis, C., Tong, L. & Gilliam, W.** (2018). *Learn Every Day the Preschool Curriculum for China,* Dolphin Media, People's Republic of China.
- Tong, L. & **Willis, C.** (2015). *Learn Every Day: The Preschool Curriculum (Yale-China Version Prototype). Volume 1.* Zigler Center for Public Policy, Yale, University.
- Willis, C.** (2013) *Learn Every Day with Infants and Toddlers* (Primary Author), Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC
- Willis, C.** (2012) *Learn Every Day: The Preschool Curriculum* (Primary Author), Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC.
- Willis, C.** (2010) *Frog Street: Pre-K Curriculum.* (Contributing author) Wrote special needs adaptations for all lessons. Frog Street Press, Dallas, TX.

- Willis, C.** (2009) *Big Day for Pre-K*. (Contributing author) Wrote training piece on literacy. Scholastic, New York, NY.
- B. Refereed Journals
- Berridge, G.& **Willis, C.** (in press). Job satisfaction in U.S. public schools. *International Journal of Social Policy and Education*.
- Colson, T., **Willis, C.**& Satterfield, S. (2018) Strategic teacher compensation: The effects on teacher quality. *E-Journal of Educational Policy*.
- Berridge, G. Colson, T., Frimming, R., Sparks, K., & **Willis, C.** (2017) Pre-service teachers and self- efficacy: A study in contrast. *Discourse and Communication for Sustainable Education*. \*authors alphabetized at the request of Journal.
- Berridge, G., Goebel, V., & **Willis, C.** (2016). Unsung heroes: Teachers speak out about teaching, learning, and job satisfaction. *International Journal of Global Education*, 5(2). 17-27.
- Berridge, G., Eggers-Saxby, L, Sparks, K., & **Willis, C.** (2015). Personal Reading strategies of college freshmen placed in a developmental reading class. *International Journal of Global Education*, 4(3). 21-33.
- Willis, C.** (2015, Winter) Building social competence for children with special needs. *Early Years the Journal of the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children*, (36), 1. 20-24.
- Willis, C.** (2014 Spring). Learning the infant, toddler way! *Milestones the North Carolina Journal for the Education of Young Children*, 11-14.
- Willis, C.** (2013 Winter). Learn Every Day quality environments for all children. *Milestones the North Carolina Journal for the Education of Young Children*. 6-8.
- Willis, C.** (2012). Supporting children with autism spectrum disorder. *Teaching Young Children* (5)4, 8-11.
- Willis, C.** & Schiller, P. (2011). Preschoolers social skills steer life success. *Young Children-the Journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children*.66(1), 42-49.
- Willis, C.** (2009). Children with autism spectrum disorder: Strategies that work!, *Young Children-the Journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children*.64(1), 81-88.
- Schiller, P.,& **Willis, C.A.** (2008). Of Primary Interest. Using brain-based teaching strategies to create supportive early childhood environments that address learning standards. *Young Children, The Journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children*. 63(4), 52-55.
- Willis, C.** (2004). Children with special needs and grief: Suggestions for caregivers. *Childcare Information Exchange*, 172, 20-24.
- Willis, C.** (2002). The grieving process in children: Strategies for understanding, educating, and reconciling children's perceptions of death. *Early Childhood*

*Education Journal*, 29(4), 221–226.

**Willis, C.** (2001). Talking to children about death. *Tennessee's Children, Journal of the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children*, 14–17.

**Willis, C.** (1999). Brain research implications for caregivers and teachers. *Viewpoint, The Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education*, 2, 1–3.

**Willis, C.** (1998). Language development: A key to lifelong learning. *Childcare Information Exchange*, 121, 63–65.

Schiller, P., **Willis, C.**, & Peck, N. (1997). Kids these days: What Americans really think about the next generation. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 25(3).

**Willis, C.** (1997). Report on White House Conference on brain development: What it tells us about America's youngest children. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 25(2), Special Insert.

**Leister, C.**, Langenbrunner, M., & Walker, D. (1995). Pretend play: Opportunities to teach social interaction skills to young children with developmental disabilities. *Australian Journal of Early Childhood*, 20(4), 30–34.

Walker, D., & **Leister, C.** (1994). Recognition of facial affect cues by adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders. *Behavioral Disorders, Journal of the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders*, 19(4), 269–276.

**Leister, C.**, Koonce, D., & Nesbit, S. (1993). Best practices in full inclusion: An update. *Daycare and Early Education*, 21(3), 9–12.

**Leister, C.** (1993). Innovative teaching in the 90's: Assistive technology and young children with severe disabilities. *Reading Improvement*, 30(3), 134–139.

**Leister, C.** (1993). Bridges to success: Developing cultural competence in the preschool classroom. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 21(2), 13–14.

## C. Books

### 1. Primary Author

**Willis, C.** (2021) *Critter invasion*. OGHMA Creative Media, Children's book about helping children cope with anxiety.

**Willis, C.** (2015). *Teaching young children with autism spectrum disorder Second Edition*, Lewisville, NC: Gryphon House.

**Willis, C.** (2014) *Creating inclusive learning environments for young children; What to do on morning*. Japanese Edition, farternng.com.tw.

**Willis, C.** (2013). *Teaching Young Children with Autism (Korean Version)*. Sigma Press, Inc.

**Willis, C.** (2011). *Teaching Young Children with Autism*. A & C Black Publishers, London UK

**Willis, C.** (2010). *The early childhood classroom*. Frog Street Press, Dallas, Tx.

**Willis, C.** (2009). *My child has autism*. Beltsville, Md. Gryphon House.

**Willis, C.** (2009). *Infants and toddlers and twos with special needs*. Beltsville, MD:



Gryphon House.

- Willis, C.** (2008). *Creating inclusive learning environments for young children: What to do on Monday morning!* Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press
- Willis, C.** (2006). *Teaching young children with autism spectrum disorder.* Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.
- Willis, C.** (2005). *Lesson adaptations for children with disabilities.* Worthington, OH: A part of the DLM-Early Childhood Express Curriculum -McGraw Hill.
- Willis C., & Irby, B.** (2003). *Inclusive classrooms resource guide.* Worthington, OH: A part of the DLM-Early Childhood Professional Library published by SRA, a division of McGraw Hill.
- Willis, C. & Phipps, P.** (2001) *Your child's brain: Food for thought(second edition).* Little Rock, AR: Southern Early Childhood Association.
- Willis, C.** (1997). *Your child's brain: Food for thought.* Little Rock, AR: Southern Early Childhood Association.
- Leister, C.** (1996). *Children with Special Needs.* Worthington, OH: A part of the DLM-Early Childhood Professional Library published by SRA, a division of McGraw Hill.

## **2. Co-Author**

- Schiller, P. & **Willis, C.** (2008). *Inclusive literacy lessons for early childhood.* Beltsville, MD; Gryphon House.
- Schiller, P., **Willis, C.**, Bartkowiak , R. & Beckett, A. (2006). *School days: Twenty songs and over 250 activities for young children including special needs adaptations.* Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.
- Schiller, P., **Willis, C.**, Bartkowiak , R.& Beckett, A. (2006). *Bugs, bugs, bugs! Twenty songs and over 250 activities for young children including special needs adaptations.* Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.
- Schiller, P., **Willis, C.** , Bartkowiak, R. & Beckett, A. (2006). *Critters and company: Twenty songs and over 250 activities for young children including special needs adaptations.* Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.
- Schiller, P., **Willis, C.**, Bartkowiak, R., & Beckett, A. (2006). *Fabulous food: Twenty songs and over 250 activities for young children including special needs adaptations.* Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.
- Schiller, P., **Willis, C.**, Bartkowiak, R. & Beckett, A. (2006). *Honk, honk, rattle, rattle: Twenty songs and over 250 activities for young children including special needs adaptations.* Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.
- Schiller, P., **Willis, C.**, Bartkowiak, R. & Beckett, A. (2006). *Me, my family and friends: Twenty songs and over 250 activities for young children including special needs adaptations.* Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.
- Schiller, P., **Willis, C.** Bartkowiak, R. & Beckett, A. (2006). *Bountiful earth: Twenty songs and over 250 activities for young children including special needs adaptations.* Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.

Schiller, P., **Willis, C.** Bartkowiak, R., & Beckett, A. (2006). *Wild, wild west! Twenty songs and over 250 activities for young children including special needs adaptations*. Beltsville, MD: Gryphon House.

D. Book Chapters

**Willis, C.** (2016) *Children with difficult temperament*. Encyclopedia of Contemporary Early Childhood Education. (D. Couchenour & K. Chrisman Eds.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing Company

**Willis, C.** (2016). *Strategies for Teen Parents*. Encyclopedia of Contemporary Early Childhood Education. (D. Couchenour & K. Chrisman Eds.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing Company

**Willis, C.** (2016) *The Americans with Disabilities Act*. Encyclopedia of Contemporary Early Childhood Education. (D. Couchenour & K. Chrisman Eds.) Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing Company.

E. Other Publications (Non-refereed)

**Leister-Willis, C.** (1997-1999). Invited columnist, *Childcare Provider Magazine*, Bowie, MD.

**Leister-Willis, C.** (1995-1997). Arkansas Early Childhood Commission bimonthly newsletter (Editor and major contributor), Little Rock, AR.

**Willis, C.** (1995). Moving and playing: A parent's guide to a healthy child. (Brochure disseminated nationally to parents, over 50,000 printed and sold). Southern Early Childhood Association, Little Rock, AR.

**Leister, C.**, Hollingshead, L., Stremel, K., & Bennett, T. (1992). Their future is in our hands: A resource guide for families of children with disabilities.

Stremel, K., Molden, V., **Leister, C.**, Matthews, J., Wilson, R., Goodall, D., & Holston, J. (1990). Communicating systems and routines: A decision making process.

Stremel, K., Wilson, B., **Leister, C.**, & Holston, J. (1992). Communicating with children who are deaf and blind: A resource manual.

E. Review/Editorial Work

Reviewer *Dimensions of Early Childhood*. The journal of the Southern Early Childhood Association 2015-2017

Paid book reviewer for Delmar Publishing 1994, 1995, 1996.

VI. GRANTS FUNDED

**Willis, C.** (2013). Building Capacity for a Brighter Tomorrow: Youth Build and USI Partnership for Student Retention and Improvement, University of Southern Indiana Applied Faculty Outreach and Engagement Award. Funded May 1, 2014-October 1, 2014. (\$4,000)

- Willis, C.** (2008) Autism Inclusion in East Tennessee. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Funded, January 1, 2008-September 30, 2008. (\$66,000).
- Willis, C.** (2007). State of Tennessee Student Improvement Grant (GSIG), a Federal Project to Systematically Compliment Early Reading First. . Subcontract with the State of Tennessee (Special Education) to provide training for pre-school children at risk for failure and to serve on the GSIG steering committee. Funded July 1, 2007-August 31, 2008. (\$250,836).
- Willis, C.** (2006). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2007-September 30, 2007. (\$433,000).
- Willis, C.** (2006). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007. (\$256,611).
- Willis, C.** (2007) Expanding Horizons Early Intervention System for Rural Appalachia. Funded by the Department of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) and the Tennessee State Department of Education. Funded July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008. (\$355,000).
- Willis, C.** (2007) Autism Inclusion in East Tennessee. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Funded, January 15, 2007-September 30, 2007. (\$50,000).
- Willis, C.** (2006). Autism Inclusion in East Tennessee. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Funded, January 15, 2006-September 30, 2006. (\$66,526).
- Willis, C.** (2006) Expanding Horizons Early Intervention System for Rural Appalachia. Funded by the Department of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS). Funded July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007. (\$55,000).
- Willis, C.** (2006). State of Tennessee Student Improvement Grant (GSIG), a Federal Project to Systematically Compliment Early Reading First. Subcontract with the State of Tennessee (Special Education) to provide training for pre-school children at risk for failure and to serve on the GSIG steering committee. Funded July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007. (\$250,836).
- Willis, C.** (2006). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007. (\$1,106,108).
- Willis, C.** (2006). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007. (\$256,611).
- Willis, C.** (2005). East Tennessee Autism Training Project. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Funded, January 15, 2005-September 30, 2005. (\$55,533).
- Willis, C.** (2005) Expanding Horizons Early Intervention System for Rural Appalachia.

Funded by the Department of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS). Funded December 1, 2004-June 30, 2006 (\$65,000).

- Willis, C.** (2005). State of Tennessee Student Improvement Grant (GSIG), a Federal Project to Systematically Compliment Early Reading First. . Subcontract with the State of Tennessee (Special Education) to provide training for pre-school children at risk for failure and to serve on the GSIG steering committee. Funded July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006. (\$248,891).
- Willis, C.** (2005). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006. (\$900,270).
- Willis, C.** (2005). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006. (\$247,851).
- Willis, C.** (2004). East Tennessee Autism Training Project. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Funded, January 15, 2004-September 30, 2004. (\$72,515).
- Willis, C.** (2004). State of Tennessee Student Improvement Grant (GSIG), a Federal Project to Systematically Compliment Early Reading First. . Subcontract with the State of Tennessee (Special Education) to provide training for pre-school children at risk for failure and to serve on the GSIG steering committee. Funded September 1, 2004-October 31, 2005. (\$109,664).
- Willis, C.** (2004). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005. (\$1,166,243).
- Willis, C.** (2004). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005. (\$394,435).
- Willis, C.** (2003). East Tennessee Autism Training Project. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Funded December 1, 2002-September 30, 2003. (\$69,647).
- Willis, C.** (2003). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1) funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004. (\$1,028,429).
- Willis, C.** (2003). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004. (\$390,632).
- Willis, C.** (2002). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1) funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003. (\$915,933).
- Willis, C.** (2002). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part

C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003. (\$361,197).

- Willis, C.** (2001). Project TIES: Toward Inclusion in Early Settings. A Model Demonstration Project sponsored by U.S. Department of Education, Grant Number H024B960032-00. Funded December 14, 2001-December 15, 2002. (\$132,471).
- Leister, C.** (1995-1997) Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. Received \$35,000 to produce and disseminate a newsletter six times per year to all licensed child care providers in Arkansas.
- Leister, C.** (1995) Arkansas State Department of Education. Received \$144,000 to create staff development opportunities for public school teachers in grades K-3 in Arkansas.
- Leister, C.** (1994) Tennessee State Department of Education. Received approximately \$60,000 to plan and administer a summer institute for 100 teachers to attend East Tennessee State University for a three week intensive summer workshop.
- Leister, C.** (1994) Research and Development Grant, East Tennessee State University. Received \$500 to study the use of computer technology in both regular and special education early childhood public school classrooms.
- Leister, C.** (1993) Presidential-Grant-In-Aid recipient, East Tennessee State University. Received funds to visit exemplary programs utilizing assistive technology and a feasibility study on the implementation of similar programs at ETSU.
- Leister, C.** (1993) After School Care of Children at Risk for School Failure, Mississippi State Department of Human Services. A grant-funded through Federal block grant money to provide students at risk for school failure with after-school care and tutoring services.
- Leister, C.** (1992, 1993) Project Full Inclusion, Mississippi State Department of Human Services. A \$25,000 grant designed to implement inclusive practices for learners with developmental delays at the Center for Child Development located on the University of Southern Mississippi campus .
- Stremel, K., Molden, V., **Leister, C.**, Matthews, J., Wilson, R., Goodall, D., & Holston, J. (1990). Dual Sensory Impairments -Communicating systems and routines: A decision-making process. Funded by the US Department of Education Special Education Division, September 1990-August 1993, (\$800,000).

## VII. SPECIAL INVITATIONS AND HONORS

Interviewed and quoted in *Teaching Children with Autism*. Scholastic Instructor. Spring 2015.

Invited Speaker- Zigler Center for Public Policy, Yale University, Yale-China Kindergarten Education Project., October 2013, New Haven, CT.

Invited Speaker-People's Republic of China, China Private Preschool Association, November 2011, Kunming, China.

Faculty Research Award, 2005-2006. Clemmer College of Education, East Tennessee State University.

**Willis, Clarissa 30**

Oxford Roundtable on Special Education, March 23-30, 2003, Jesus College, Oxford, England.

Learning and the Brain Conference, May 7-8, 1999, Harvard University, Boston, MA.

AT&T Technology Conference, June 7-9, 1997, Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

Coalition for America's Children, Steering Committee, 1997.

White House Conference on Early Childhood "What the New Brain Research Tells Us about America's Youngest Children," April 17, 1997, Washington, D.C.

**VIII. Professional Affiliations**

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA)

National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Division of Early Childhood Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)

President Tennessee DEC (2004-2007).