

Rebecca Vasile, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

University of South Alabama | Leadership & Teacher Education

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Academic Preparation

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| 2022 - 2026 | Ph.D., Curriculum & Instruction, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL |
| 2022 - 2024 | Graduate Certificate, Dyslexia Assessment & Intervention, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL |
| 2018 - 2021 | B.S., Psychology, Minor in Child Development, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL |

Positions in Academia

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| 2026 - Present | Assistant Professor of Reading Education, Leadership and Teacher Education Department, University of South Alabama. |
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Professional Experience

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| 2020 - 2022 | Preschool Teacher , Florida State University Childcare and Early Learning Center, Tallahassee, FL |
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Areas of Specialization

Vocabulary development; shared book reading; book language; language learning environment; corpus linguistics

Research & Scholarly Activities

Graduate Research Assistant, School of Teacher Education, Florida Center for Reading Research, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

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| 2022 - 2026 | <i>Exploring Malleable and Meaningful Factors in Preschool Teachers' Talk Related to Children's Language Outcomes</i>
Funded by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
Principal Investigators: Beth Phillips & Sonia Q. Cabell (R305A220420 Total award \$1,700,00) |
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- 2022 - 2024 *Teaching Together: The Added Value of Tiered School Plus Home Interventions for Young Children At-Risk for Language Difficulties*
Funded by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
Principal Investigators: Tricia Zucker & Sonia Q. Cabell (R305A210157 Total award \$3,799,891)
- 2022 - 2023 *Efficacy of the Core Knowledge Language Arts Read Aloud Program in Kindergarten through Second Grade Classrooms*
Funded by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
Principal Investigator: Sonia Q. Cabell (R305A170635 Total award \$3,299,99)
- 2022 - 2023 *Understanding the Underlying Relation Between Phonological Clean-Up Ability and Early Word Reading: A Developmental Exploration*
Funded by National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Principal Investigator: Laura Steacy & Ashley Edwards (5R21HD108771-02 Total award \$423,454)
- 2022 - 2023 *Instructional Supports for Children with Dyslexia Learning to Read Complex Words*
Funded by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
Principal Investigator: Laura Steacy (R324B190025 Total award \$500,000)

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, Florida Center for Reading Research, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

- 2021 - 2022 *Instructional Supports for Children with Dyslexia Learning to Read Complex Words*
Funded by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
Principal Investigator: Laura Steacy (R324B190025 Total award \$500,000)

Scholarships, Fellowships, Awards & Honors

- 2026 **Nominee**, Graduate Student Leadership Award, Florida State University
- 2022 - 2026 **Fellow**, Reading Disabilities and Dyslexia Research (R2D2) Predoctoral Fellowship Program, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programming, Florida Center for Reading Research, Florida State University
- 2022 - 2026 **Fellow**, Fellows Society, Florida State University

Publications & Presentations

Publications:

Cabell, S. Q., Zucker, T. A., Brown, S., Schatschneider, C., Fumero, K., **Vasile, R. M.**, Espittia, C. J., Assel, M. (Submitted). *Immediate and Sustained Implementation of a Classroom Curriculum Supplement to Support Preschoolers' Oral Language Development*. Scientific Studies of Reading.

Wang, S., Cabell, S. Q., DeCoster, J., Wong, K. M., **Vasile, R. M.** (Submitted). *What Preschoolers Watch at Home and its Association with Vocabulary Skills*. Early Childhood Research Quarterly.

Invited Book Chapters:

Cabell, S. Q., **Vasile, R.**, & Espittia, C. J. (2026). How integrated content and literacy instruction improves reading outcomes in the early grades. In P. Lehane & P. Burke (Eds.), *Curriculum integration in primary classrooms*. Routledge.

Compton, D. L., Steacy, L. M., Rigobon, V. M., Edwards, A. A., Gutierrez, N., Marencin, N., & **Vasile, R. M.** (2025). Representational Quality in Children with Dyslexia: Issues of Precision and Redundancy that Affect Long-Term Word Reading and Decoding Development. In C. Okolo, N. Patton-Terry, & L. Cutting (Eds.), *Handbook of Learning Disabilities*, 3rd Edition New York: Guilford Press.

Publications in Preparation

Manuscripts in Preparation:

Vasile, R. M., Cabell, S. Q., Funari, C., Wang, S., Phillips, B. (in preparation). *Shared Book Reading in Early Childhood Classrooms: What Texts Are Teachers Reading?*

Steacy, L. M., Edwards, A. A., Marencin, N. C., Dozier, J. D., Kellenberger, M. G., Rigobon, V. M., Townsend, C. J., **Vasile, R. M.**, Compton, D. L. (in preparation). *The impact of mispronunciation training on set for variability performance and transfer: Testing the short-term impact of oral language training*.

Presentations:

*denotes undergraduate student contribution at the time of presentation

Conference Presentations (National/International)

Cabell, S. Q., Zucker, T. A., Brown, S., Schatschneider, C., Fumero, K., **Vasile, R.**, Espittia, C. J., & Assel, M. (2026, July 16). *Immediate and sustained implementation of a multi-tiered classroom and family curriculum supplement to support preschoolers' language development*. Presentation at the Thirty Third Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading. Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Vasile, R., Cabell, S., Cooper Borkenhagen, M., Phillips, B. (2026, June 4). *Features of Book Language and its Relation to Vocabulary Growth in Preschool Age Children*. Poster presented at the Forty-sixth Annual Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, Wisconsin.

Vasile, R., Cooper Borkenhagen, M., Phillips, B., Cabell, S., Wang, S. (2025, July 16). *A comparison of the text found in early childhood education classrooms by genre*. Poster presented at Thirty Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Calgary, Canada.

Cabell, S. Q., Petscher, Y., White, T., Kim, J., **Vasile, R.,** Hwang, H. (2025, July 16). *Item-level causal modeling of the impact of content-rich literacy instruction on vocabulary*. Presentation at Thirty Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Calgary, Canada.

Wang, S., Cabell, S. Q., DeCoster, J., Wong, K. M., **Vasile, R.** (2025, May 1). *What preschoolers are watching at home and its relation to language skills*. Poster presented at The Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Vasile, R. Cabell, S. Q., Funari, C., Wang, S., Phillips, B. M. (2024, July 10). *Shared book reading in early childhood classrooms: What texts are teachers reading and what role does classroom age composition play in teachers' choices?* Poster presented at the Thirty First Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Vasile, R., Wang, S., Cabell, S. Q., Phillips, B. (2023, July 24). *The importance of consistent protocols when working across labs*. Poster presented at the OSEP Leadership and Project Directors' 2023 Conference, Arlington, Virginia.

Marencin, N., Norris, C., **Vasile, R.,** Steacy, L., & Compton, D. L. (2023, July 21). *Examining the effect of "sight word" instruction on irregular word reading and spelling: A combined single-case and between-group meta-analysis*. Poster presented at the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Port Douglas, Australia.

Smith, K., Whalon, K., Steacy, L., Compton, D., Pino Hidalgo, Y., Himelhoch, C., Parrilla, N., **Vasile, R.,** & Muston, G. (2021, July 13). *Predictors of writing quality in adult basic education*. Poster presented at the Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Virtual.

Conference Presentations (Local/State)

Vasile, R. M. (2026, April 17). *Use of Corpus-based Methods in Shared Book Reading Related Research*. Poster presented at the Florida Center for Reading Research Innovative Methods for Supporting Reading Research Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

Zucker, T. A., Castillo, J., Cabell, S. Q., Brown, S., Schatschneider, C., Fumero, K., **Vasile, R. M.,** Espittia, C.J., Brown, H.S., Assel, M. (2026, April). *Implementation Outcomes of Tiered Universal and Targeted Interventions for Young Children with Lower Language*. Poster Presentation

Abstract. McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston Scientific Retreat, Houston, TX, United States.

*De Freitas, A., *Raden, L., **Vasile, R. M.** (2026, April 1). *Text and word level differences in children's books by genre*. Poster presented at the Twenty Sixth Undergraduate Research Symposium, Tallahassee, Florida.

Vasile, R. M., Cooper Borkenhagen, M., Phillips, B. M., Cabell, S. Q., Wang, S. (2026, March 27). *A comparison of text found in early childhood education classrooms by genre*. Presentation at Florida State University, Anne's College Research Showcase, Tallahassee, Florida.

*Pierre Louis, N., **Vasile, R.**, Phillips, B. (2025, October 20). *The emotional valence of the words in picture books read in preschool settings*. Poster presented at the Florida State University Transfer Research and Leadership Summit, Tallahassee, Florida.

Vasile, R., Espittia, C. J. (2025, April 15). *Action research teacher survey results*. Presentation at Florida State University Schools, Tallahassee, Florida.

*Pierre Louis, N., *Tran, K., **Vasile, R.**, Phillips, B. (2025, April 1). *The emotional valence of the words in picture books read in preschool settings*. Poster presented at the Twenty Fifth Undergraduate Research Symposium, Tallahassee, Florida.

Espittia, C. J., **Vasile, R.** (2025, January 24). *Using coherent text sets as a tool to have content rich strive for five conversations*. Presentation at the Sixtieth Annual Meeting of the Florida Literacy Association, Orlando, Florida.

Cabell, S., Passalacqua, J., Slik, D., Espittia, C. J., **Vasile, R.**, & Raines, R. (2024, May 28). *Strive-for-Five conversations to build language comprehension*. Three-hour presentation for teachers in Escambia County School District (delivered twice). Pensacola, FL.

Vasile, R. (2024, May 16). *How does the environment promote incidental word learning in early childhood? A research agenda*. Poster presented at the Florida Center for Reading Research Education Sciences Colloquium: Centering Early Career Researchers in Reading Research, Tallahassee, Florida.

Vasile, R. (2024, April 5). *The connection between early language and reading acquisition: What do preservice teachers know?* Poster presented at the Florida State University Provost Showcase of Scholarly Teaching, Tallahassee, Florida.

Vasile, R. (2024, March 22). *The effect of shared book reading on incidental word learning in early childhood: A meta-analysis*. Poster presented at Florida State University, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, Annual College of Education, and Human Sciences Conference, Tallahassee, Florida.

Marencin, N., Norris, C., & **Vasile, R.** (2022, March). *Examining the effects of irregular and sight word reading instruction: A combined single-case and between-groups experiments meta-analysis*.

Florida State University, College of Education, Annual Marvalene Hughes Research in Education Conference, Tallahassee, Florida.

Other Presentations / Course visits:

Vasile, R. (2025, October 2). *Academic and Professional Identity Panel Participant.* (Panel participant in EDG 6008 Academic and Professional Identity led by Dr. Amy Thompson), Panel participation for School of Teacher Education, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

Vasile, R. (2024, December 9). *How Does the Birth of a Word Happen?* Ted Talk, Florida Center for Reading Research Student Product. [How does the birth of a word happen](#)

Vasile, R. (2023, Fall November 2). *The Dos and Don'ts for Graduate School Applications.* (Panel participant in IDS 1000 First Year Connections and Success led by Serenity Vasile), Panel participation for Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

Grants/Funding

Grants Funded

2025 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Research Mentor Materials Grant. Division of Undergraduate Research. Total award \$100.

Grants Submitted

2025 Student and Early Career Council Dissertation Funding Award, Society for Research in Child Development (Not funded)

2025 Jeanne S. Chall Research Fellowship, International Literacy Association (Not funded)

University Teaching Experience

University of South Alabama, Instructor of Record

Fall 2026 EDU 331 Teaching Reading
EEC 496 Internship in Early Childhood Education

Florida State University, Co-Teacher

Fall 2025 RED 4310 Foundations of Reading (Matt Cooper Borkenhagen, Ph.D. Instructor of Record)

Florida State University, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2023 PSY 4930 Special Topics in Psychology: Dyslexia (Donald Compton, Ph.D. Instructor of Record)

Supervision of Student Research Not Related to Thesis or Dissertation

Florida State University, Directed Individual Study

2026 Emma Baxter (Communication Sciences and Disorders Undergraduate)

2026 Sarah Diehl (Communication Sciences and Disorders Undergraduate)

2026	Wilkerlyne Jean (Psychology Undergraduate)
Florida State University, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program	
2025 - 2026	Ana De Freitas (Nursing Undergraduate)
2025 - 2026	Leo Raden (Biomathematics Undergraduate)
2024 - 2025	Kaley Tran (Nursing Undergraduate)
2024 - 2025	Nashrah Pierre Louis (Psychology Undergraduate)
Florida State University, School of Teacher Education Mentor-Mentee Program	
2025 - 2026	Jordyn Thomas (Reading Education, Ph.D.)
2025 - 2026	Kaitlyn Mixon (Reading Education, Ph.D.)
2025 - 2026	Marleigh Elmore (Reading Education, Ph.D.)
2024 - 2025	Adjua McNeil (Reading Education, Ph.D.)

Professional Service & Activities

Service to the Profession

2024 - Present	Member , Cognitive Development Society
2024 - Present	Member , International Literacy Association
2024 - Present	Member , Council for Exceptional Children
2022 - Present	Member , Society for Research in Child Development
2022 - Present	Member , Society for the Scientific Study of Reading

Departmental/University Service

2025 - 2026	Director , Student Writing Accountability Group (SWAG), Florida Center for Reading Research, Florida State University
2023 - 2025	Director , School of Teacher Education Writing Group, Florida State University
2023 - 2025	President , School of Teacher Education Graduate Student Association, Florida State University
2023 - 2025	Co-Advisor , Council for Exceptional Children, Florida State University

Additional Training

National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (NNERPP) 101 Training, Florida Center for Reading Research, Florida State University, Virtual (2026, April 6, 13, 20, 27)

Research Institute for Implementation Science in Education (RIISE), Florida Center for Reading Research, Florida State University (2025, May 19-21)

Debnam, K., & Deutsch, N. Introduction to Mixed Methods, Florida Center for Reading Research, Florida State University (2025, May 8-9)

Alan Alda Center for Communicating Sciences Workshop, Florida Center for Reading Research, Florida State University (2023, May 10-11)