

Rebecca Vasile

Curriculum Vitae

Florida State University | Florida Center for Reading Research
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Current Position

Doctoral Candidate and Office of Special Education Programs Fellow at the Florida Center for Reading Research and School of Teacher Education at Florida State University (Advisors: Sonia Q. Cabell, Ph.D. & Matt Cooper Borkenhagen, Ph.D.)

Academic Preparation

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| 2022-Present | Ph.D. Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL (Expected Summer 2026)

Dissertation Title: <i>Book Language, Extratextual Talk, and Vocabulary Growth in Preschool Age Children</i> |
| 2022-2024 | Graduate Certificate, Dyslexia Assessment & Intervention, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL |
| 2021 | B.S., Psychology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL |

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-Present | <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 |
| 2022-2024 | <i>Teaching Together: The Added Value of Tiered School Plus Home Interventions for Young Children At-Risk for Language Difficulties</i>
Funded by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
Principal Investigators: Tricia Zucker & Sonia Q. Cabell |
| 2022-2023 | <i>Efficacy of the Core Knowledge Language Arts Read Aloud Program in Kindergarten through Second Grade Classrooms</i>
Funded by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
Principal Investigator: Sonia Q. Cabell |

- 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
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 National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
 Principal Investigator: Laura Steacy

Professional Experience

- 2020-2022 **Preschool Teacher**, Florida State University Childcare and Early Learning Center, Tallahassee, FL

Scholarships, Fellowships, Awards & Honors

- 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:

- 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. *The impact of mispronunciation training on set for variability performance and transfer: Testing the short-term impact of oral language training*. Scientific Studies of Reading (Manuscript under review).

Invited Book Chapters:

- Cabell, S. Q., **Vasile, R.**, & Espittia, C. J. (In press). 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.** (Accepted). Representational Quality in Children with Dyslexia: Issues of Precision and Redundancy that Affect Long-Term Word Reading and Decoding Development. In 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., Cabell, S. Q., Funari, C., Wang, S., Phillips, B. (in preparation). Shared Book Reading in Early Childhood Classrooms: What Texts Are Teachers Reading?

Presentations:

Conference Presentations (National/International)

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., 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.** (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:

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](#)

Invited Talks & Panels:

Vasile, R. (2023, Fall). *The Dos and Don'ts for Graduate School Applications*. Florida State University, bachelor's course requirement (IDS 1000), Tallahassee, Florida.

Grants/Funding

Grants Funded

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

Grants Submitted

2025 Student and Early Career Council Dissertation Funding Award, Society for Research
in Child Development (Pending)

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

University Teaching Experience

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, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

2024 - 2025 Kaley Tran

2024 - 2025 Nashrah Pierre Louis

Florida State University, School of Teacher Education Mentor-Mentee Program

2025-2026 Jordyn Thomas

2025-2026 Kaitlyn Mixon

2025-2026 Marleigh Elmore

2024-2025 Adjua McNeil

Professional Service & Activities

Service to the Profession

2024-present **Member**, Cognitive Development Society

2024 -present **Member**, International Literacy Association

2022-present **Member**, Society for Research in Child Development

2022-present **Member**, Society for the Scientific Study of Reading

Departmental/University Service

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

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

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

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