

Jessica Custer-Bindel

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EXPERIENCE

ICSD, Fall Creek Elementary School – Ithaca, NY – *First Grade Teacher*

August 2024- June 2025

Taught a diverse group of first grade students. Implemented a Reggio-Emilia inspired Science program which tied in community resources and followed an emergent curriculum philosophy (child-initiated). Provided ELA and Math instruction which followed the ISCD curriculum map.

Shine Literacy, Cape Town, South Africa – *Shine Reading Instructor at Lourier Primary School*

March 2024- June 2024

Provided individual and small group reading instruction which blended science of reading principles with storytelling and learning through play. Worked with first-third grade students who were struggling readers to develop positive dispositions for reading. Offered carefully structured hour-long literacy sessions which involved paired reading, share reading, have-a-go writing, and literacy games.

Freelance Grant Writer

January 2009 - Present

Researched different philanthropic government and private institutions that provided grants to individual clients and organizations. Wrote proposal plans that attained a 95% approval rate. Discussed and developed proposals with clients to highlight aspects of their work that aligned with the goals of the grant institutions. Followed up on submitted proposals with grant reports.

State University of New York, Cortland, Cortland, NY — *Adjunct Lecturer*

January 2023 - May 2023

Developed/delivered lectures in accordance with course objectives; prepared course syllabus and aligned learning objectives with course materials; and engaged students via Blackboard discussions, individual emails, and interactive classroom projects. Evaluated and graded student coursework, assignments, and papers in accordance with school policy; provided effective feedback to students. Collaborate with colleagues to address teaching and research issues.

ICSD, BJM Elementary School, Ithaca, NY — *Kindergarten Teacher*

August 2020 - June 2022

Taught a diverse group of learners, both on-line and in-person. Created lesson

SKILLS

Educator with 18+ years of teaching and curriculum planning experience in public schools, private schools, and higher education.

Experienced and effective grant writer with 15 years of experience finding and securing funding resources for important causes.

Over three years of supervisory experience.

Personal Grants and Awards

IPEI Teacher Grant – 2024

Teacher Artist in Residence at the Saltonstall Foundation – 2023

IPEI Teacher Grant – 2021

IPEI Gold Teacher Grant – 2020

Sustainable Tompkins Mini Grant -2017

Cornell Public Service Center Civic Leader Fellowship-2012

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Robert Smith Grant-2011

plans, conducted lessons, prepared assessments, and facilitated school/home connection. Served as the Kindergarten ICSD liaison for Kids Discover the Trail. Created and received a grant for "Cooking Around the World", a culturally inclusive curriculum. Created and successfully implemented a multidisciplinary outdoor education curriculum for our outdoor classroom.

Child Development Council, Ithaca, NY— *Infant and Toddler Specialist of Tompkins County*

July 2019 - July 2020

Coordinated with the Child Care Resource and Referral team for the delivery of training, technical assistance, regulatory requirements. Conducted ECERS assessments and created trainings for child care providers. Provided information on best child care practices for families and child care providers.

DICC, Ithaca, NY — *Educational Guide*

August 2017 - May 2018

Provided monthly staff development. Coached a staff of 65 on best teaching practices and conducted classroom observations. Provided strength based feedback for all observations. Ensured compliance with OCFS licensing regulations.

Child Development Council, Ithaca, NY — *Childcare Specialist*

July 2015 - July 2016

Conducted OCFS inspections for Family Daycare Providers. Supplied providers with resources, feedback, and guidance to assure they complied with New York State childcare regulations. Created and Presented a "Diversity and Inclusion" professional development workshop for Family Daycare and Group Family Daycare providers.

Community Nursery School, Ithaca, NY — *Lead Teacher*

August 2012- January 2014

Designed and set up the physical space of a new preschool classroom. Created and implemented an emergent, play based curriculum. Analyzed the program's needs, and petitioned for new materials. Organized and hosted parent events to create a classroom community. Set up a new parent communication model to foster a home-school connection.

El Museo Latinoamericano, Ithaca, NY — *Director, Educator*

January 2010-December 2012

Created, directed, and taught El Museo Latinoamericano, a sustainable 2nd and 3rd grade Spanish through expanded arts program. This program was funded through personal grants, and was picked up as a service learning course by Ithaca College.

**NYC Children for Children
Grant - 2010**

**New York City Board of
Education ESL Success
Initiative Grant -2009**

**Grants Written and Received for
Non-profit Organizations**

**No Mas Lagrimas - The
Community Foundation of
Tompkins County - Fall Grant
Cycle 2023**

**SingTrece - Community Arts
Partnership -Arts Education
Grant 2022**

**No Mas Lagrimas -The
Community Foundation of
Tompkins County - Spring
Grant Cycle 2020**

**Black Hands Universal - The
Community Foundation -
Susan Christopherson
Community Planning Fund
2020**

**Southside Community Center
- Cornell Cooperative
Extension-Healthy Food for
All 2017**

**Southside Community
Center- Sustainable
Tompkins Mini Grant -
Women Building Community
2017**

**Latin American Studies Program, Cornell, Ithaca, NY — LASP
Educational Outreach Coordinator,**

October 2009- October 2010

Managed all aspects of the administrative, financial, front of house, marketing and personnel operations of LASP. Managed screenings & events, and served as LASP' co-publicist, creating promotional materials. Worked as the press liaison, and corresponded with guest speakers and visiting filmmakers to arrange accommodations. Worked in conjunction with academic programs and other units across the Cornell campus and greater Ithaca community to attract the widest audience possible to LASP events. Oversaw daily operations and complex budgets. Monitored and analyzed income and expenditures. Created monthly budget reports to aid in transparency of funds and monitor expenditures. Worked with Cornell's UBSC to restructure accounts from Webfinancials to Kuali. Maintained records of all special project expenditures, plans, and evaluations. Created monthly reports summarizing activities, progress, and evaluations, and analyzed the effectiveness of each program. Supervised student employees and held quarterly meetings to foster office relations and maximize program development.

**South Bronx Academy for Applied Media (MS296) New York, NY –
ENL and Italian Teacher, Special Projects Coordinator, LEAP Arts
Liaison,**

August 2006 - June 2009

Developed MS296's first ELL and Italian program. Wrote and received a grant for \$65,000 for materials for the ELL program. Researched and ordered materials for the ELL grant and implemented their use. Created a pacing calendar and produced a presentation for the New York City Board of Education to demonstrate the successful implementation of grant materials. Analyzed the school's needs and collaborated with outside resources (LeAP Arts, Children for Children, Project BOOST) to provide the school with art, music, service learning, and cultural programs to meet those needs. Coordinated events such as professional development sessions, visiting teacher schedules, award ceremonies, fundraisers, and assemblies. Created an innovative hands-on field trip curriculum through Project BOOST funding (the International Culture Club). Established, coordinated, and advised the school's first National Junior Honor Society chapter to promote academics within the school. Collaborated with non-profit organizations to develop funding opportunities and supplied feedback to supporting organizations for the implementation of funding and results.

Languages

Spanish, Italian, English.
Conversational Portuguese.

Board Memberships

**The Community Foundation
of Tompkins County**

*-Executive Board Member and
Community Impact Committee
Member (2019-2024)*

**Child Development Council of
Tompkins County – Board**

Member (2022-present)

EDUCATION

SUNY, Cortland, Cortland, NY — *Masters in Education*

2015

Childhood Education

Hunter College, NYC, NY - Masters In ECE with a Bilingual Extension Program- *9 Graduate Credits*

2009

Montclair State University/Rutgers University, Montclair, NJ/New Brunswick, NJ — *BA*

2002

Education, Italian

NYS Teaching Certificate - Early Childhood Education

NYS Teaching Certificate - Childhood Education

NYS Teaching Certificate - English as a New Language

NYS Teaching Certificate - Italian

NYS T-TAP Trainer Certification - 2020

Presentations:

Literacy Exploration through Cooking: A Pre-K Interactive

Storytelling Session - *ICSD Early Childhood Summer Program, 2023*

Puppet Play and Purposeful Literacy. *7th Annual SUNY Cortland*

Literacy Conference, 2023

The Environment as the Third Teacher: Spaces, Places, and

Aligning our Values to Our Practice. *Ithaca City School District*

Professional Development Session, 2022

Statutes and Regulations Pertaining to Childcare. *TC3 Childcare*

Center, 2020

Start Here: Supporting English Language Learners in Early

Childhood Education. *Ithaca Community Childcare Center, 2019*

Cooking Around the World: An Interdisciplinary Educational

Approach for Young Learners. *SACC Conference, 2016*

Creating Diverse Learning Environments in Early Childhood

Education Settings. *Ithaca Community Childcare Center, 2015*