

**REBECCA O'BRIEN**

86 Buff Cap Rd., Apt F2, Tolland, CT 06084

225.603.5281

rebecca.l.obrien@gmail.com

**EDUCATION**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

**Ph.D. student in Educational Psychology** **current**

*Dissertation Topic:* Relative age effects and measures of potential in the primary grades

*Concentration:* Giftedness, Creativity, and Talent Development

Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA

**M.Ed. in Special Education** **2013**

*Paper in Lieu of Thesis:* The Relationship of High-stakes Standardized Test Scores and the Learning Style, Preferences, and Intelligences of High-ability Learners

*Concentration:* Gifted Education

Centenary College, Shreveport, LA

**B.S. in Biology** **2006**

**AWARDS**

Survey Research SIG Graduate Student Award, *AERA* 2016

Joseph Renzulli and Sally Reis Renzulli Fund for Graduate Studies in Gifted Education,  
*University of Connecticut* 2015

Golden Apple for Volunteers in Public Schools, East Baton Rouge Parish Schools 2013

Gifted Teacher of the Year, East Baton Rouge Parish Schools 2012

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

**Teaching Assistant- Improving Students' Thinking Skills** **2016**

Assisted in development of syllabus and weekly lesson plans, design and grading of assessments, teaching course content

Glasgow Middle School, Baton Rouge, LA

**Science Olympiad Coach** **2013-2014**

Conducted after school learning experiences in the sciences, led students in regional and state competitions

Glasgow Middle School, Baton Rouge, LA

**Classroom Teacher-Gifted Science, Math, and Robotics; CKAP Science** **2008-2013**

Developed syllabi and overall course structures, implemented curriculum, mentored student teachers

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

**Graduate Research Assistant, Project LIFT** 2017 – current

Assisted in the development of the methodological aspects of the grant proposal

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

**Graduate Research Assistant, Project SPARK** 2014 – current

Established and maintained working relationships with teachers and school administrations, administered assessments to students, communicated research protocols and results, maintained database, taught critical and creative thinking skills lessons to primary students, organized summer programming

*Gifted Child Quarterly* and *Journal of Advanced Academics*

**Reviewer** 2015 - current

Reviewed papers submitted for publication

National Association for Gifted Children

**Proposal Reviewer** 2015 - current

Evaluated proposals submitted for presentation at annual NAGC Conventions

Louisiana Department of Education

**Certified Classroom Teacher, Level 3 #537587** 2008 – current

Certified in Middle School Math, Middle School Science, and Academically Gifted

## PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

Little, C. A., Adelson, J. L., Kearney, K. L., Cash, K., & **O'Brien, R. L.** (2018). Early opportunities to strengthen academic readiness: Effects of summer learning on mathematics achievement. *Gifted Child Quarterly*, 62, 83-95. doi:10.1177/0016986217738052

**O'Brien, R. L.**, Pan, X., Courville, T., Bray, M. A., Breaux, K. C., Avitia, M., & Choi, D. (2017). Exploratory factor analysis of reading, spelling, and math errors. *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*, 35, 7-23. doi:10.1177/0734282916669913

Koriakin, T. A., White, E., Breaux, K. C., DeBiase, E., **O'Brien, R. L.**, Howell, M., ... Courville, T. (2017). Patterns of cognitive strengths and weaknesses and relationships to math errors. *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*, 35, 155-167. doi:10.1177/0734282916669909

Choi, D., Hatcher, R. C., Langley, S. D., Liu, X., Bray, M. A., **O'Brien, R. L.**, & Courville, T. (2017). What do phonological processing errors tell about students' skills in reading, writing, and oral language? *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*, 35, 24-46. doi:10.1177/0734282916669018

Luria, S. R., **O'Brien, R. L.**, & Kaufman, J. C. (2016). Creativity in gifted identification: Increasing accuracy and diversity. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1377, 44-52.  
doi:10.1111/nyas.13136

## PRESENTATIONS

Little, C. A., Adelson, J. L., Kearney, K. L., **O'Brien, R. L.**, & Pittard, C. (2018, April). *Early attention to advanced potential: Supporting advanced learning in diverse populations at K-2*. Accepted for presentation at The Wallace Research Symposium on Talent Development, Baltimore, MD.

Little, C. A., Kearney, K. L., **O'Brien, R. L.**, Adelson, J. L., & Roberts, A. R. (2018, April). *Summer learning in mathematics: Promoting a supportive learning environment through curriculum and instruction*. Accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Kearney, K. L., Adelson, J. L., Little, C. A., **O'Brien, R. L.**, Cash, K., & Pittard, C. (2018, April). *More of a good thing? One- and two-year summer program effects on mathematics achievement*. Accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Kearney, K. L., **O'Brien, R. L.**, & Roberts, A. M. (2017, November). *Sparkling high potential: Illuminating young students' thinking*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, Charlotte, NC.

**O'Brien, R. L.**, Little, C. A., & Kearney, K. L. (2017, October). *Taming the fluff: Making differentiation substantive*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the New England Conference for Gifted Education and Talent Development, Portland, ME.

Kearney, K. L. & **O'Brien, R. L.** (2017, October). *Sparkling high potential in the early grades*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the New England Conference for Gifted Education and Talent Development, Portland, ME.

Kearney, K. L., Cash, K., Adelson, J. L., Little, C. A., & **O'Brien, R. L.** (2017, April). *Promoting diversity in the referral process: Teacher ratings and other assessments across demographic groups*. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

**O'Brien, R. L.**, Little, C. A., Kearney, K. L., Adelson, J. L., Cash, K. (2017, April). *Professional development and teacher consistency in use of a rating scale*. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

Little, C. A., Adelson, J.A., Kearney, K. L., Cash, K., & **O'Brien, R. L.** (2017, April). *Challenging ALL advanced learners: Research insights from projects funded by the Jacob K. Javits Program*. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

**O'Brien, R. L.**, Sweeters, J., Kearney, K. L., & Little, C. A. (2017, March). *SPARKing high potential: Promoting mathematics achievement in diverse populations*. Presentation at the Leadership in Diversity Conference, Storrs, CT.

Kearney, K.L., **O'Brien, R. L.**, & Little, C. A. (2016, November). *Sparkling high potential: Encouraging thinking in young students*. Roundtable presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Little, C. A., Adelson, J. L., Kearney, K. L., Cash, K., & **O'Brien, R. L.** (2016, November). *Early opportunities to strengthen academic readiness: Examining poverty as a moderator of intervention effects*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

**O'Brien, R. L.**, Kearney, K. L., & Little, C. A. (2016, November). *Sparkles, unicorns, and rainbows: Differentiating without the fluffy stuff*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

**O'Brien, R. L.**, Gelbar, N., Bray, M. A., & O'Rourke, P. (2016, November). *A comparison of the errors made by identified gifted students to similar, but non-identified students on the KTEA-3*. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, Lake Buena Vista, FL.

**O'Brien, R. L.**, Pan, X., & Courville, T. (2016, August). *Exploratory factor analysis of errors on reading/writing and math tasks*. Poster session at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.

**O'Brien, R. L.**, & White, E. C. (2016, August). Patterns of strengths & weaknesses and math errors—CHC perspective. In A. S. Kaufman & N. L. Kaufman (Chairs), Patterns of strengths and weaknesses: Implications for assessment and intervention. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.

**O'Brien, R. L.**, & Little, C. A. (2016, April). *Re-examining the control and autonomy factors in a popular classroom-based questionnaire*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, D.C.

Little, C. A., Horn, C. V., Kearney, K. L., **O'Brien, R. L.**, & Adelson, J. L. (2015, November). *SPARKing summer learning in grades K-2*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, Phoenix, AZ.

Little, C. A., Kearney, K. L., & **O'Brien, R. L.** (2015, October). *Project SPARK: Promoting high potential at K-2*. Presentation at the New England Conference on the Gifted and Talented, Cromwell, CT.

**O'Brien, R. L.** & Kearney, K. L. (2015, October). *SPARKing high potential*. Presentation at the New England Conference on the Gifted and Talented, Cromwell, CT.

Kearney, K. L. & **O'Brien, R. L.** (2015, July). *SPARKing high potential in the classroom*. Special topics presentation at the annual University of Connecticut Confratute, Storrs, CT.

Little, C. A., Kearney, K. L., & **O'Brien, R. L.** (2014, November). *Project SPARK*. Roundtable presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, Baltimore, MD.

**O'Brien, R. L.** (2014, November). *Where does the gifted child fit in the charter school movement?* Session presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, Baltimore, MD.

**O'Brien, R. L.** (2012, November). *Using creative assessment in the middle school classroom*. Session presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children, New Orleans, LA.

#### MEMBERSHIPS

National Association for Gifted Children  
American Educational Research Association  
Connecticut Association for the Gifted