

Kellsie Prather

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2026

The University of Georgia, Human Development and Family Science

Dissertation: A Qualitative Exploration of Parenting Practices in Rural Appalachia

M.Ed. 2020

Ohio University, Reading Education

Thesis: Supporting Elementary Student's Literacy Development through Multisensory Phonics Instruction

B.S.Ed. 2019

Ohio University, Early Childhood Education

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Assistant Professor 2026 – present

Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Utah State University

Homeschool Coordinator and Educator 2020 – 2021

Athens, Ohio

First- and Second-Grade Reading Intervention Specialist 2019 – 2020

Amesville Elementary School, Amesville, Ohio

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Parenting and parent–child relationships
- Family processes in rural and under-resourced communities
- Emotion socialization and child emotional development
- Poverty, economic hardship, and family well-being
- Family risk, resilience, and protective processes
- Community-engaged family research

GRANT ACTIVITY

Summer Research Grant (\$5,000) <i>University of Georgia Graduate School</i>	2025
Sharon Price Excellence in Research Award (\$2,500) <i>University of Georgia Department of Human Development and Family Science</i>	2025
Don Bower Student Extension Experience Award (\$2,200) <i>University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences</i>	2023

HONORS AND AWARDS

Excellence in Teaching Award Nominee <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Outstanding Teaching Assistant <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Engaged Scholarship by Graduate Student Award <i>University of Georgia Graduate School</i>	2025
Future Faculty Fellow <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025

TEACHING: COURSES TAUGHT

HDFS 4260: Family Life Education Methods <i>Utah State University</i>	Fall 2026
HDFS 2660: Parenting and Child Guidance <i>Utah State University</i>	Fall 2026
HDFS 1500: Human Development Across the Lifespan <i>Utah State University</i>	Fall 2026
HDFS 5110: Research Methods in Human Development and Family Science <i>University of Georgia</i>	Spring 2025
HDFS 4860: Parenting and Child Guidance <i>University of Georgia</i>	Fall 2024

TEACHING: INVITED SINGLE LECTURES

Title: <i>Cultural Perspective of Parenting</i> In HDFS 4860: Parenting and Child Guidance, University of Georgia	2026
Title: <i>Marriage, Co-Parenting, and Triadic Functioning</i> In HDFS 4860: Parenting and Child Guidance, University of Georgia	2025
Title: <i>Abuse, Neglect, and Parental Psychopathology</i> In HDFS 4860: Parenting and Child Guidance, University of Georgia	2025
Title: <i>Parenting School-Aged Children</i> In HDFS 4860: Parenting and Child Guidance, University of Georgia	2025
Title: <i>Pregnancy and Childbirth</i> In HDFS 4860: Parenting and Child Guidance, University of Georgia	2025
Title: <i>Transition to Parenthood</i> In HDFS 4860: Parenting and Child Guidance, University of Georgia	2025
Title: <i>How to Conduct Qualitative Research</i> In HDFS 2300: Research Unlocked: Skills for Understanding and Applying HDFS, University of Georgia	2024
Title: <i>What is Qualitative Research?</i> In HDFS 2300: Research Unlocked: Skills for Understanding and Applying HDFS, University of Georgia	2024
Title: <i>Organizing, Cleaning, and Analyzing Survey Data</i> In HDFS 2300: Research Unlocked: Skills for Understanding and Applying HDFS, University of Georgia	2024
Title: <i>Research in Human Development and Family Sciences</i> In PSYC 4220: Developmental Psychology, University of Georgia	2024
Title: <i>Searching the Literature for Research in Human Development and Family Sciences</i> In HDFS 2300: Research Unlocked: Skills for Understanding and Applying HDFS, University of Georgia	2024
Title: <i>Health, Well-being and Resilience Across Childhood and Adolescence</i> In HDFS 2950: Introduction to Child Development, University of Georgia	2023
Title: <i>Social Development Across Childhood and Adolescence</i>	2023

In HDFS 2950: Introduction to Child Development, University of Georgia

PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)

Prather, K., Brown, G. L. & Ravindran, N. (2026). Children's negative emotions and parent emotion socialization following parent-child and sibling interactions in naturalistic settings. *Family Relations*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.70226>

Ravindran, N., **Prather, K.**, & Carvalho, C. (2026). Maternal responses to children's negative emotions in real-world settings: A diathesis-stress approach. *Journal of Family Psychology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0001454>

Kramer, L., Ravindran, R., **Prather, K.** (2025). Raising siblings is stressful: Measuring parental emotion regulation in the sibling context. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 43(1), 353-374. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075241312688>

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Prather, K., Linscott, J., Carte, K., Campbell, L. & Barker, I. (2026, March). Families in Context: Appalachian Parenting Across Generations. In *Domesticity and Community in Regional Contexts*. 2026 Appalachian Studies Association Annual Conference, Huntington, WV.

Ravindran, N., Carvalho, C., & **Prather, K.** (2025, May). Mother-child Coregulation Following Children's Spontaneous Expressions of Negative Emotion in the Home. In Degirmencioglu, K. (Chair), *Parent-Child Behavioral Coregulation Dynamics in Normative, High-Risk, and Maltreated Samples: From Contingency to Child Regulation*. 2025 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Ravindran, N., **Prather, K.**, & Carvalho, C (2025, May). Proximal Predictors of Maternal Responses to Children's Negative Emotions in Naturalistic Settings. In Fields-Olivieri, M. A. & Ravindran, N. (Chairs), *Beyond the Lab: Measuring Young Children's Distress and Parental Emotion Socialization in Real-World Settings*. 2025 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Prather, K., Zhang, S., Wang, Z., Eason, S., & Ravindran, N. (2025, May). *Parental Beliefs and Expectations for Children's Education Attainment as Predictors of the Home Learning Environment*. [Poster Presentation]. 2025 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Kim, J., Carvalho, C., **Prather, K.** & Ravindran, R. (2025, May). *Dyadic behavioral flexibility moderates the relationships between maternal depression and child internalizing problems*.

[Poster Presentation]. 2025 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Ravindran, R. & **Prather, K.** (2023, November). *Maternal and Paternal Responses to Children's Negative Emotions Elicited by Parent-Child and Sibling Conflict in Naturalistic Settings*. [Poster Presentation]. 2023 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, USA.

Prather, K. & Ravindran, N. (2023, March). *Parental Emotional Functioning as a Predictor of Parental Responsiveness to Child Cries in Naturalistic Settings*. [Poster Presentation]. 2023 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT, USA.

Prather, K. & Ravindran, N. (2022, July). *Within-Family Associations Between Familial Risk and Children's Home Environments Across Infancy and Toddlerhood*. [Poster Presentation]. 2022 Meeting of the International Congress of Infant Studies, Ottawa, Canada.

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING

Research Mentor

Apr 2024, 2025, 2026

Eagle, E., Duman, C., Purushothaman, A., **Prather, K.** & Ravindran, N. (2026, April). *Mirrored Distress in Parent-Child Dyads During Challenging Math Tasks*. [Poster Presentation]. 2026 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium, Athens, GA, USA.

Clark, E., Shivkumar, A., **Prather, K.** & Ravindran, N. (2026, April). *Effects of Parenting Stress on Children's Emotion Regulation: The Mediating Role of Parent Emotion Regulation*. [Poster Presentation]. 2026 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium, Athens, GA, USA.

Adu, F., **Prather, K.** & Ravindran, N. (2025, April). *Effects of Parenting Stress on Children's Emotion Regulation: The Mediating Role of Parent Emotion Regulation*. [Poster Presentation]. 2025 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium, Athens, GA, USA.

Krupa, R., **Prather, K.** & Ravindran, N. (2025, April). *Children's Anger-Proneness, Assertiveness During Parent-Child Play, and Social Behaviors*. [Poster Presentation]. 2025 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium, Athens, GA, USA.

Natarajan, T., Iyer, R., **Prather, K.** & Ravindran, N. (2025, April). *The Role of Caregiver Math Anxiety in Early Childhood Math Anxiety: Examining Moderating Effects of Parent-Child Interactions During Math Activities and Demographic Factors*. [Poster Presentation]. 2025 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium, Athens, GA, USA. And 2025 National Undergraduate Research Conference at Brown University, Providence, RI, USA.

Flores-Penaloza, R., Brulte, K. J., Iyer, R., Ballur, S., **Prather, K.** & Ravindran, N. (2024, April). *The Triggers and Contexts of Cry Episodes in Preschool Children: A Naturalistic Study*

of Family Interactions. [Poster Presentation]. 2024 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium, Athens, GA, USA.

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Family Life Educator-Provisional Status <i>National Council on Family Relations</i>	2025
GRADTeach Certificate <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Graduate Portfolio in Community Engagement <i>University of Georgia Office of Service-Learning</i>	2025
Quantitative Methodology Certificate <i>University of Georgia Department of Human Development and Family Science</i>	2023

PEDAGOGICAL TRAININGS

Class Act: Navigating Disruptive Student Behavior <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Learner-Centered Teaching <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Distracted! How to Cultivate Engagement in Today's Classroom <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
The Relevant Educator: Bridging Curriculum and the Real World <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Got it?! Assess Student Learning Just in Time <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
The SRCD Developmental Science Teaching Institute – Pre-Conference <i>Society for Research on Child Development</i>	2025
Enhancing Content with Accessible and Engaging Files, Pages, and Templates <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
TILTed Towards Success <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025

Active Learning Summit <i>University of Georgia Office of Instruction</i>	2025
Tool or Terminator? Navigating Technology in the Classroom <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Establishing Course Policies <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Metacognition & Motivation <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Cultivating Belonging by Building Community <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Generative AI 102: (Re)Constructing Critical Skills <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2025
Elevate & Excite: Designing Meaningful Learning Experiences <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2024
Teacher's Hardware: Building Your Toolbox for Effective Instruction <i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	2024

METHODOLOGICAL TRAININGS

Post-Qualitative Inquiry Workshops and Lecture Series <i>University of Georgia Institute for Women's and Gender Studies</i>	2024-2025
• Post Qualitative Inquiry, the Refusal of Method, and the Creation of the New • Practices for the “New” in the New Empiricisms, the New Materialisms, and Post Qualitative Inquiry • Laying out a Plane for Post Qualitative Inquiry • Post Qualitative Inquiry in an Ontology of Immanence • The Empirical and the New Empiricisms • A Primer for Post Qualitative Inquiry	
CardioEdit/CardioBatch Workshop on editing heart-rate data <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Brain-Body Center for Psychophysiology and Bioengineering</i>	2024
Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) Seminar <i>Stats Camp: Rigorous Methodological and Statistical Training</i>	2023

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Appalachian Studies Association	2025 – Present
National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)	2023 – Present
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	2021 – Present
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)	2021 – Present
International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS)	2021 – Present
American Educational Research Association (AERA)	2021 – Present
National Rural Educator Association (NREA)	2021 – Present

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Block Party” Community Event	2023 – 2026
<i>Family and Consumer Science Cooperative Extension, University of Georgia</i>	

SERVICE: COMMUNITY

4-H District Project Achievement Judging	2023, 2025
<i>University of Georgia Cooperative Extension</i>	

SERVICE: PROFESSIONAL

Ad Hoc Co-Reviewer	Jan 2025
<i>Journal of Family Psychology</i>	

SERVICE: UNIVERSITY

Organizer and facilitator	2025
<i>University of Georgia Center for Teaching and Learning</i>	

- “Course Evaluations: Evolving your Teaching from Feedback” TA Workshop
- Fall TA Orientation
- Spring GRADTeach Celebration
- “Flipping the Flop: Managing Teaching Missteps” TA Workshop

Oral Session Convener	2025
<i>University of Georgia Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Symposium</i>	

Conference submission reviewer	2024
<i>Georgia Conference on Children’s Literature</i>	

Scholarship reviewer	2023 – 2026
<i>University of Georgia Office of Global Engagement Study-Away Scholarship</i>	