

Melisa Smitson is the Director of Professional Development at Children's TLC, as well as an adjunct faculty member in the field-based Child Growth and Development Department for the Metropolitan Community Colleges in Kansas City, Missouri. She has a Master's Degree in Reading and is currently completing an Education Specialist's Degree in Early Childhood Curriculum and Instruction at UMKC. Melisa has worked in the field of early childhood education in the Kansas City area for over 10 years. She was the Project Director for the Emerging Language and Literacy Project at Children's TLC, a 2002 Early Reading First grantee. A recognized authority on the ELL curriculum, Melisa has developed a highly successful training program in support of its use. She regularly facilitates intensive ongoing professional development sessions for preschool teachers and center directors.