TEXAS STATE VITA

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Name: Shannon E. Dier Title: Assistant Professor

B. Educational Background

Degree	Year	University	Major	Thesis/Dissertation
Ph.D.	2024	University of Missouri	Human Development and Family Science	Parent Involvement in Medical Play
M.S.	2010	University of North Texas	Development and Family Studies	The Influence of Income, Ethnicity, and Parenting on Child Health
B.A.	2008	Alma College	Psychology; Sociology and Anthropology	

C. University Experience

Position	University	Dates
Assistant Professor Human Development and Family Sciences School of Family and Consumer Sciences	Texas State University	2024-Present
Graduate Instructor Human Development and Family Science	University of Missouri	2021-2024
Graduate Research Assistant Center for Family Policy and Research	University of Missouri	2022-2023
Graduate Research Assistant Human Development and Family Science	University of Missouri	2021-2023
Graduate Teaching Assistant Human Development and Family Science	University of Missouri	2020-2022
Adjunct Instructor Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling	Texas Woman's University	2018-2020
Graduate Teaching Assistant Educational Psychology	University of North Texas	2009-2010
Graduate Research Assistant Educational Psychology	University of North Texas	2008-2010

D. Relevant Professional Experience

Position	Organization	Dates
Child Life Specialist	Cook Children's Medical Center	2010-2020
Child Life Intern	Children's Health Dallas	2010
Summer Intern Program (SIP), Psychosocial Section, Pediatric Oncology, National Cancer Institute	National Institutes of Health	2009

E. Other Professional Credentials (licensure, certification, etc.)

Certified Child Life Specialist. Child Life Certification Commission. Obtained 11-1-2010. Valid through 12-31-2030. (CCLS # 18390).

II. TEACHING

A. Teaching Honors and Awards:

2024 Outstanding College Teaching Graduate Student Award, College of Education and Human Development, University of Missouri

B. Courses Taught:

Texas State University
- HDFS 4353: Introduction to Child Life (1 section)
- HDFS 4354: Play and Child Development (4 sections)
- HDFS 5352: Issues in Human Development and Family Sciences (graduate; 2 sections)
- HDFS 5343: Child Life Specialist (graduate; 1 section)

University of Missouri
- HDFS 2300: Multicultural Study of Children and Families (1 section)
- HDFS 4001: Developmental Support Strategies in Pediatrics (1 section)
- HDFS 4130: Child Life Practicum Seminar (6 sections)

Texas Woman's University
- FS 3323: Separation and Loss (1 section)
- FS 4403: Child Life: Working with Hospitalized Children and Families (2 sections)
- FS 5073: Professional Practice and Ethics (graduate; 2 sections)

C. Directed Student Learning (i.e. theses, dissertations, exit committees, etc.):

Master's Thesis Committees
- Chair. Samantha Yepes. (2025-Present). Human Development and Family Sciences.
- Member. Claire Brenner. *Mental Health in Chronically Ill College Students: Pain Interference and Attachment.* (2024-2025). Human Development and Family Sciences.

Undergraduate Research and Honors Theses
- Supervisor. Independent study. Renee Navejar. (August-December 2026. Human Development and Family Sciences.
- Supervisor. Honor's thesis. Emma Dawson. *Toilet Training: Reviewing Practices through a Developmental Lens.* (January-May 2026). Human Development and Family Sciences.
- Supervisor. Honor's thesis. Stephanie Small. *Bridging the Gap: Enhancing LGBTQ+ Competency in Healthcare Social Work.* (January-May 2025). Social Work.
- Supervisor. Honors independent study. Emma Dawson. (January-May 2025). Human Development and Family Sciences.

D. Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development:

- HDFS 5352: Issues in Human Development and Family Sciences
- HDFS 4001: Developmental Support Strategies in Pediatrics (University of Missouri)
- FS 3323: Separation and Loss (Texas Woman's University)

E. Teaching Grants and Contracts

1. Funded External Teaching Grants and Contracts:

2. Submitted, but not Funded, External Teaching Grants and Contracts:
3. Funded Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts:

Shen, Y., Alfaro, E., Behnke, A., **Dier, S**., Goble, P., Weimer, A. & Seo, E., (PIs). *Opportunities for Undergraduate Research in Human Development and Family Sciences (OUR HDFS): A Two-Track Training Program.* Texas State University College of Applied Arts Learning Communities Grant. November 2025-May 2026, $5,000.

Dier, S. (PI). *Integrating Open Education Resources (OER) into HDFS 4354: Play and Child Development.* Texas State University Libraries openTXST Grant. May 2025-December 2025. Time grant for course transformation.

Shen, Y., Alfaro, E., Behnke, A., **Dier, S**., Goble, P., Seo, E., & Weimer, A. (PIs). *Opportunities for Undergraduate Research in Human Development and Family Sciences (OUR HDFS): A Two-Track Training Program.* Texas State University College of Applied Arts Learning Communities Grant. September 2024-May 2025, $6,000.

4. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts:

F. Other:
Undergraduate Research Mentoring
2025-2026 Emma Dawson, Amina Pittman, Payton Porter
2024-2025 Emma Dawson, Stephanie Small

Student Accomplishments
2025 Emma Dawson, College of Applied Arts Outstanding Traditional Undergraduate Student

Guest Lectures

Spring 2025	HDFS 3690 Readings in Human Development and Family Science, Honors (University of Missouri), HDFS Careers
Fall 2023	HDFS 3800 Children's Play (University of Missouri), Therapeutic and medical play
2022-2021	PSYCH 2411 Stories and Selves (University of Missouri), Qualitative coding in narratives of mothers of children with Down syndrome (2 semesters)
2020-2024	HLTH_SCI 1000 Introduction to Health Professions (University of Missouri), The role of child life specialists (6 semesters)

G. Teaching Professional Development Activities Attended

UDOIT Right! Accessibility Tools in Canvas. Online and Extended Programs, Texas State University (June 2025).
Elevate Faculty Engagement in Student Success, Division of Student Success, Texas State University (May 2025)
AI in Teaching and Learning Symposium, Division of Information Technology, Texas State University (March 2025).

The Power of Play: Using Student-Centered Pedagogy & Play to Enhance Student Engagement, Connection, and Learning, Faculty Development, Texas State University (November 2024)

Integrity in the Age of AI: Q&A with the Honor Code Council, Faculty Development, Texas State University (October 2024)

AI in Academia Dialogue Series: AI in Action, Faculty Development/Division of Information Technology, Texas State University (September 2024)

New to Teaching? We've Got Your Easy Button! Faculty Development, Texas State University (August 2024)

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

A. Works in Print (including works accepted, forthcoming, in press):

1. Books: N/A

2. Articles (10 total, 6 since Texas State):

a. Refereed Journal Articles:

Goble, P., McMakin, H., **Dier, S**., Shen, Y., & Phillips, F. (2026). Child life specialist-patient relationships: Exploring the potential for measuring relationship quality. *The Journal of Child Life: Psychosocial Theory and Practice*. https://doi.org/10.55591/001c.161546

Dier, S. (2025). Revisiting adult roles in play: An expanded continuum for child life professionals. *The Journal of Child Life: Psychosocial Theory and Practice, 6*(2), 1-8. https://doi.org/10.55591/001c.150264

Dier, S., & Thibodeau-Nielsen, R. B. (2025). "Do you want to play doctors?" An exploratory study of parent engagement in medical play with preschool children. *Journal of Early Childhood Research, 23*(4), 494-507. https://doi.org/10.1177/1476718X251363715

Thibodeau-Nielsen, R. B., Rueda Posada, M. F., **Dier, S**., Dooley, A. W., Nadler, D. R., & Coxon, S. (2025). Exploring playful opportunities for STEM learning in early elementary school. *Early Education and Development*, *36*(7), 1499-1514. https://doi.org/10.1080/10409289.2025.2478653

Dier, S., Thibodeau-Nielsen, R. B., Palermo, F., Dooley, A., Rueda Posada, M. F., & White, R. E. (2024). Parent conversations with young children: Implications for child well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Developmental Psychology.* Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001851

Scruggs, X., **Dier, S.,** Schlaupitz, C., Karayianis, K., Lukowski, A., & Bohanek, J. (2024). "What does this mean for our future?": Uncertainty management in mothers' narratives about parenting a child with Down syndrome. *PLOS One*, *19*(11): e0313195. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0313195

Prior to joining Texas State University

Dier, S., & Ravert, R. (2024). Disclosure experiences of college students with chronic medical conditions. *Emerging Adulthood, 12*(5), 939-945. https://doi.org/10.1177/21676968241261102

Rueda Posada, M. F., Thibodeau-Nielsen, R. B., **Dier, S**., Wilson-Dooley, A., Palermo, F., White, R. & Chung, C. (2023). Pandemic play moderates the relation between caregiver stress and child emotional distress in contexts of economic adversity. *Frontiers in Psychology, 14*, 1155617. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1155617

Thibodeau-Nielsen, R. B., Palermo, F., White, R., Wilson, A., & **Dier, S**. (2021). Child adjustment during COVID-19: The role of economic hardship, parent stress, and pandemic play. *Frontiers in Psychology, 12*, 716651. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.716651

Nievar, M. A., Jacobson, A, Chen, Q., Johnson, U., & **Dier, S**. (2011). Impact of HIPPY on home learning environments of Latino families. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 26*(3). https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2011.01.002

b. Non-refereed Articles: N/A

3. Conference Proceedings: N/A
4. Abstracts: N/A
5. Reports: N/A

6. Book Reviews:

Dier, S. (2016). A unique self-care resource for child life professionals: A review of van Dernoot Lipsky L., & Burk, C. (2009). Trauma stewardship: An everyday guide to caring for self while caring for others. *Child Life Bulletin, 34*(2).

7. Essays:

Dier, S. (2024, Spring). The power of stories [Executive Editor column]. *ACLP Bulletin*, *42*(2), 8-9. https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/publications/bulletin/spring-2024/from-the-executive-editor.pdf

Dier, S. (2024, Winter). Separating self from practice. [Executive Editor column]. *ACLP Bulletin*, *42*(1), 8-9. https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/publications/bulletin/winter-2024/from-the-executive-editor_winter-2024.pdf

Dier, S. (2023, Fall). Child life-ing myself [Executive Editor column]. *ACLP Bulletin, 41*(4), 8-9. https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/publications/bulletin/bulletin-fall-2023/from-the-executive-editor.pdf

Dier, S. (2023, Summer). Rethinking routines [Executive Editor column]. *ACLP Bulletin, 41*(3), 8-9. https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/publications/bulletin/aclp-bulletin_summer-v41-3_final.pdf

Dier, S. (2023, Spring). Growing from challenge [Executive Editor column]. *ACLP Bulletin, 41*(2), 7-8. https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/publications/bulletin/aclp_bulletin_spring2023_final.pdf

Dier, S. (2023, Winter). Reflecting on reflection [Executive Editor column]. *ACLP Bulletin, 41*(1), 6-7. https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/publications/bulletin/aclp_bulletin_winter23-v41-1_final.pdf

Dier, S. (2022, Fall). A season of transition [Executive Editor column]. *ACLP Bulletin, 40*(4), 7-8. https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/publications/bulletin/aclp_bulletin_fall22-v40-4_final.pdf

Dier, S. (2022, Summer). A publication for members, by members [Executive Editor column]. *ACLP Bulletin, 40*(3), 7-8. https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/publications/bulletin/aclp_bulletin_summer22-v40-3_final.pdf

B. Works Not in Print:

1. Peer-Reviewed Presentations at Professional Meetings:

Dier, S., Goble, P, & Gibson, M. (2025, September). *Research in practice: Strengthening child life research through collaboration.* Presentation at the Southern Association of

Child Life Professionals Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX.

Dier, S., and Thibodeau-Nielsen, R. (2025, May). *Patterns of parent engagement in medical play with preschool children.* Poster presentation for the 2025 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development. Minneapolis, MN.

Rueda Posada, M., Thibodeau-Nielsen, R., Dooley, A., & **Dier, S.** (2025, April). *Preschoolers' compassion: The role of emotional regulation and parental compassion*. Poster presentation for the Midwest Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.

Dier, S., Thibodeau-Nielsen, R., Dooley, A. W., & Rueda Posada, M. F. (2025, February). *Everyday medical play and scaffolding children's healthcare knowledge*. Paper presentation submitted for the Annual Conference of The Association for the Study of Play. South Padre Island, TX.

Prior to joining Texas State University

Dier, S., Scruggs, X., Schlaupitz, C., Bohanek, J.G., Lukowski, A. F. (2024, April). *Uncertainty in mothers' narratives about the diagnosis and birth of their child with Down syndrome.* Poster presentation at Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Kansas City, MO.

Dier, S., & Morgan, M. E. (2023, June). *From practice to print: Sharing your story and expertise in writing*. Presentation at the 2023 Annual Child Life Conference. Grapevine, TX.

Dier, S., Ravert, R., & Roos, J. (2023, April). *Chronic illness disclosure in emerging adulthood and implications for adjustment.* Poster presentation at the 95th Annual Midwest Psychological Association Conference. Chicago, IL.

Dier, S., Ravert, R., & Roos, J. (2023, April). *Chronic illness disclosure in emerging adulthood and implications for adjustment.* Poster presentation at the University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council 39th Annual Research and Creative Activities Forum. Columbia, MO.

Schlaupitz, C., **Dier, S.,** Scruggs, X., Bohanek, J.G., Lukowski, A. F. (2023, April). *Navigating developmental change in families with children with Down syndrome: Maternal perceptions of worry, concern, and challenges from childhood to adolescence.* Poster presentation at the 2023 Society for Research on Adolescence Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA.

Dier, S., McGreevy, M., Wilson, A., Rueda Posada, M., Thibodeau-Nielsen, R., Stormont, M., & White, R. (2023, March). *Examining pretend play as an emotion regulation strategy for preschool children.* Poster presentation at the 2023 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development. Salt Lake City, UT.

Dier, S., Rueda Posada, M., Wilson, A., & Thibodeau-Nielsen, R. (2023, March) "*Play is everything": Examining caregiver perceptions of play in a children's museum.* Poster presentation at the 2023 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development. Salt Lake City, UT.

Wilson, A., **Dier, S.**, Rueda Posada, M., & Thibodeau-Nielsen, R. (2023, March). *Pretend play in an evolving family context.* Poster presentation at the 2023 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development. Salt Lake City, UT.

Wilson, A., **Dier, S.,** Rueda Posada, M., Thibodeau-Nielsen, R., Palermo, F., & White, R., & (2022, April). *Pretend play and emotional regulation development in early childhood.* Poster presentation at the Society for Research on Child Development Special Topics Meeting "Learning through Play and Imagination." St. Louis, MO.

Dier, S., Thibodeau-Nielsen, R., Wilson, A., White, R., & Palermo, F. (2021, April). *"Big bad germie": Exploring how parents talk to young children about COVID-19.* Poster presentation at the 2021 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child

Development. Virtual.

Dier, S. (2020, November). *"Big bad germie": Exploring how parents talk to young children about COVID-19*. Presentation at the University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council 37th Annual Research and Creative Activities Forum. Virtual.

Dier, S., and Reid, E. (2019, October). *Fitting in and finding your flow: Exploring child life assessment and planning in outpatient specialty clinics*. Presentation at 3rd Annual TACLP Regional Child Life Conference. Houston, TX.

Bozarth, C., and **Dier, S**. (2018, October). *A fresh perspective: Reimagining boundaries as a therapeutic tool*. Presentation at 2nd Annual TACLP Regional Child Life Conference. Fort Worth, TX.

Dier, S., and Driscoll, L. (2015, July). *Left out and left behind: Addressing the needs of siblings across the continuum of care*. Presentation at Pedi-Hope: Texas Pediatric Palliative Care Consortium 7th Annual Conference. Austin, TX.

Nievar, M. A., Jacobson, A. L., & **Dier, S.** (2009, April). *Home visiting for at-risk preschoolers: A successful model for Latino families*. Poster presentation at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development. Denver, CO.

2. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

Dier, S. (2026, August). *Strengthening clinical capacity for child life research.* Invited to present professional development seminar to the Cook Children's Medical Center Child Life Department.

Dier, S. (2026, August). *Stories worth sharing: Narrative, reflective practice, and self-compassion*. Invited to present professional development seminar to the Cook Children's Medical Center Child Life Department.

Dier, S. (2026, March). *Reconnecting play to everyday practice.* Invited to present professional development seminar to Children's Hospital of Colorado Child Life Department.

Dier, S., & Beene, S. (2026, March). *Stories worth sharing: Narrative, reflective practice, and self-compassion*. Invited to present webinar for the Association of Child Life Professionals.

Prior to joining Texas State University

Dier, S., McGreevy, M., Wilson, A., Rueda Posada, M., M. Thibodeau-Nielsen, R., Stormont, M., & White, R. (2023, April). *Examining pretend play as an emotion regulation strategy for preschool children.* Poster presentation at University of Missouri Human Development and Family Science Research Symposium. Columbia MO

Dier, S. (2020, April). *Navigating the gray: Ethics and professional boundaries*. Webinar presented for Association of Child Life Professionals Mentor Program.

Davitt, K., **Dier, S.**, Copeland, L., Foster, P., King, W., & Warren, V. (2019, April). *Caregiver challenge: Balancing professional boundaries.* Presentation and panel discussion at Cook Children's Pediatric Respiratory Conference. Fort Worth, TX.

Dier, S., and Brosey, W. (2017, April). *Supporting children during medical encounters*. Presentation for Texas State Society of American Medical Technologists. Fort Worth, TX.

Dier, S., and Wiener, L. (2009, August). *NIH gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) clinic: Psychosocial characteristics and considerations*. Poster presentation at NIH Summer Research Program Poster Day. Bethesda, MD.

3. Consultancies: N/A

4. Workshops: N/A

5. Other Works not in Print:
   a. Works "submitted" or "under review":
      Dier, S., Goble, P., Gibson, M., & *Benavides, M. Job demands and resources in pediatric healthcare: Implications for burnout and turnover intention among child life specialists. Submitted to *Journal of Child Health Care.*

   b. Works "in progress":
      Dier, S., and Beene, S. "We're here, and we can make a difference": Narratives of compassion satisfaction and secondary trauma among child life specialists. In preparation for *Qualitative Health Research.*
      Goble, P., **Dier, S.,** & Gibson, M. Perception of child life support among caregivers of hospitalized children. In preparation for *Journal of Child and Family Studies.*

C. Scholarly Grants and Contracts:
1. Funded External Grants and Contracts:
2. Submitted, but not Funded, External Grants and Contracts:
3. Funded Internal Grants and Contracts:

Dier, S., (PI) & Goble, P. (Co-PI). *Child Life Specialist Relationships and Hospitalized Children's Coping and Behavior*. Texas State University Research Enhancement Program. January 2025-May 2026, $15,976.

4. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Grants and Contracts: N/A

D. Scholarly Fellowships, Awards, Honors:

2023-2024	Lawrence H. Ganong Graduate Fellowship ($2200), Department of Human Development and Family Science, University of Missouri
2023	First place research presentation ($250), Health Sciences/Medicine/Veterinary Medicine category, Graduate Professional Council Research and Creative Activities Forum, University of Missouri
2023	Graduate Student Travel Award ($300), Student and Early Career Council, Society for Research on Child Development
2021	Research Development Award ($500), Graduate Professional Council, University of Missouri
2020	First place research presentation ($250), Social Sciences (Qualitative) category, Graduate Professional Council Research and Creative Activities Forum, University of Missouri
2020-2024	Eleanor Berger Blumenthal Fellowship ($51,000), Department of Human Development and Family Science, University of Missouri
2009	Graduate Student Travel Award ($500), College of Education, University of North Texas
2009	Graduate Student Travel Award ($300), School of Graduate Studies, University of North Texas
2008	Master's Fellowship ($15,000), College of Education, University of North Texas

E. Scholarly Professional Development Activities Attended:

Research Ready: External Funding for Early Career Faculty. Research Development, Texas State University (November 2025).
Field Vision: Understanding the Process and Procedures for Doing Research with Austin Independent School District, Research Development, Texas State University (October 2025).
Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor: Advice for Assistant Professors, Academic Affairs, Texas State University (October 2025)
Introduction to NVivo for Qualitative Data Analysis. University Libraries, Texas State University (September 2025).
The Grant Writers Guide to the Galaxy: Foundations for Grant Writing, Faculty Development, Texas State University (February 2025).
Positive Practices: Fostering Healthy Lab Environments, Faculty Development, Texas State University (October 2024)
Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor: Advice for Assistant Professors, Academic Affairs, Texas State University (October 2024)

IV. SERVICE

A. Institutional

1. University: N/A

2025-Present	Faculty Advisor, Kesem at Texas State University Judge, 19th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference, Honors College, Texas State University

2. College:

2021-2022	Department Representative, Graduate Student Advisory Council, College of Education and Human Development, University of Missouri

3. Department/School:

2024-Present	Member, Child Life Committee, Texas State University
2022-2023	Member, Search Committee for two HDFS/4-H faculty positions, University of Missouri
2022-2023	Vice President, HDFS Graduate Student Association, University of Missouri
2021-2022	President, HDFS Graduate Student Association, University of Missouri

B. Professional:

2026-2028	Member, Academic Endorsement Review Committee, Association of Child Life Professionals
2026-2027	Member, Exam Resource Review Task Force, Child Life Certification Commission
2026-Present	Reviewer, *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*
2026-Present	Reviewer, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*
2026-Present	Reviewer, *Journal of Child and Family Studies*
2025-Present	Reviewer, *PLOS One*
2025	Strategic Planning Focus Group, Child Life Certification Commission
2024	Conference Abstract Reviewer, Association of Child Life Professionals
2022-2024	Executive Editor, *ACLP Bulletin,* Association of Child Life Professionals

2020-2022	Associate Editor, *ACLP Bulletin,* Association of Child Life Professionals
2020	Mentor, Leadership Program, Association of Child Life Professionals
2020-Present	Reviewer, *Journal of Child Life*
2019-2020	Reviewer, *Child Life Focus*
2019	Mentee, Leadership Program, Association of Child Life Professionals
2014-2016	Professional Resources Committee, Child Life Council

C. Community:

2026	Child Life Support/Student Supervision, Back to School Resource Fair and Immunizations, Hays County Health Department
2022-2023	Child Life Support/Student Supervision, Vaccine "Comfort Clinics," Columbia/Boone County Public Health
2021-2022	Mentor, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Missouri

D. Organization Memberships:

Association of Child Life Professionals
Southern Association of Child Life Professionals
Society for Research on Child Development

E. Service Honors and Awards:

2023	Mary Elizabeth Gutermuth Award for Community Engagement ($4000), Graduate School, University of Missouri
2007	Posey Global Fellowship – Quito, Ecuador ($5000), Posey Foundation
2006	Discovering Vocation Internship Grant ($2500), Lilly Foundation

F. Service Grants and Contracts: N/A

G. Service Professional Development Activities Attended: N/A