

Eugene Alan (Gene) Geist

Professor in Elementary & Early Childhood Education

Luttrill & Pearl Payne School of Education | Louisiana State University

Professional summary | Reviewed October 13, 2026

Gene Geist studies how young children develop mathematical understanding and how educators can support that learning through meaningful experiences. His work connects early mathematics, constructivist approaches to teaching, and the possibilities of music, the arts, and STEM in early childhood. He brings over 30 years of experience in education and research.

genegeist@lsu.edu | [LSU faculty profile](#) | [ORCID](#)

Research themes

Early mathematical thinking - Understanding how mathematical ideas take shape from birth through the primary years, with attention to children's own ways of reasoning.

Learning through inquiry - Designing opportunities for children to explore, test ideas, and construct understanding through hands-on STEM experiences.

Music, movement & mathematics - Connecting mathematical learning with rhythm, everyday conversation, and the experiences families and educators share with children.

Education

Ph.D., Early Child Development and Education
University of Alabama at Birmingham | 1995

M.Ed., Child Development and Early Childhood Education
University of Cincinnati | 1991

Bachelor's degree
University of Cincinnati | 1988

Selected academic appointments

2024-present | Professor, Louisiana State University

2022-2024 | Associate Professor, Louisiana State University

1998-2022 | Faculty appointments, Ohio University

1995-1998 | Assistant Professor, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Teaching & service

Undergraduate and graduate teaching in child development, mathematics and science education, constructivist theory, curriculum, and educational psychology; doctoral advising and mentoring. Executive Committee Member-at-large, LSU Early Childhood Education Institute.

Education, appointment dates, and teaching history are author-CV reported; current rank and institute role are corroborated by LSU. This selected summary does not replace a complete curriculum vitae.

Selected publications & resources

Publication details are checked against publisher, journal, institutional repository, and library records.

Reinventing STEM in Early Childhood Education: A Constructivist Approach

Eugene Geist (2025). Routledge.

[Publication record](#)

Children Are Born Mathematicians: Supporting Mathematical Development, Birth to Age 8

Eugene Geist (2009 edition). Merrill/Pearson.

[Publication record](#)

Using Food as a Fun and Effective Teaching Tool in Preschool

Furr, K., Duffrin, M., & Geist, E. A. (2025). Spark! Innovations in Early Childhood Education · 1(1), Article 3.

[Publication record](#)

Where Are the Blocks? A Case for Blocks in Primary and Elementary Classrooms

Geist, E., & Webb, D. (2024). Childhood Education · 100(6), 44-49.

[Publication record](#)

Growth Patterns: Fractals, Fibonacci, and More in the Children's Garden

Geist, E., & Jung, J. (2022). Childhood Education · 98(5), 70-75.

[Publication record](#)

A Randomized Pilot Study of Rhythm-Based Music with Movement Strategies on Stress and Interaction Behaviors of Infant Caregivers

Geist, K., Zoccola, P., Andary, N., Geist, E., Dogbey, G., Williams, L. A., & Tuttle, B. (2021). Music and Medicine · 13(1), 7-19.

[Publication record](#)

Support Math Readiness Through Music

Eugene Geist (Family resource). National Association for the Education of Young Children.

[Publication record](#)

Support Math Readiness Through Math Talk

Eugene Geist (Family resource). National Association for the Education of Young Children.

[Publication record](#)

Upcoming professional engagement

Critical Issues in STEM Education for Young Children. December 10-12, 2026. Invited keynote at the 11th International Academic Conference on Education in Cambridge, UK. The talk explores age-appropriate teaching that opens up meaningful, accessible STEM learning for young children. Upcoming as of the review date. Source announcement.

Source notes

Core identity and current rank: LSU faculty profile. Education and career dates: the author-maintained CV linked from that profile. Service: LSU Early Childhood Education Institute roster. The book feature and publication list use the linked original records. Only selected professional information is included.