

# CLAIRE CHRISTENSEN, Ph.D.

Senior Education Researcher, SRI Education

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## SUMMARY

Senior researcher leading 10+ year program of research to understand how families and educators select videos, and how video content affects children's learning and development. Deep expertise in formative and summative evaluations across formal and informal learning settings. Skilled at translating findings into actionable insights that shape product development and guide educational strategy. Led 18 studies totaling \$6.5M+.

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## CORE SKILLS

- **Research Methods:** Qualitative and quantitative research, surveys, interviews, usability testing, focus groups, RCTs, diary studies, think-alouds, landscape scans
  - **Analysis & Tools:** R, SPSS, Dedoose, Excel, Qualtrics, QuickBase, log-level usage data analysis
  - **Communication & Dissemination:** Research synthesis, reports, blogs, journal articles, podcasts, videos, mentoring, grant writing
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Senior Education Researcher

*SRI International | 2015–present*

Lead mixed-methods research on educational videos. Deliver actionable insights for product, funder, and education teams through cross-functional collaboration.

- **Develop frameworks for understanding educational content quality in YouTube videos.** Led 3 interdisciplinary projects funded by NSF and U.S. Department of Education (\$1.5M) to develop and apply criteria for quality educational content in YouTube videos for children. Consulted with advisory boards of leading children's media researchers. Communicated insights to machine learning and product developers to create automated content classification systems.
- **Lead & Conduct Research Studies.** Directed mixed-methods studies for PBS KIDS, Sesame Workshop, EdSurge, and Amira; oversaw 3 RCTs (\$3M+) with 1,000+ children and teams of 30+ staff.
- **Communicate Research Insights** Delivered 25+ presentations and 20+ research reports; published 7 journal articles, 15 blog posts, 3 press features, and 2 book

chapters. Featured in 3 podcast episodes; presented 26 conference papers. Developed engaging social media posts and videos to share research findings.

- **Share knowledge.** Mentored junior researchers; reviewed PBS KIDS and GBH scripts and curriculum guides; partnered with ML engineers on AI tools for content detection.

### **Lab Manager, Social Emotional Teaching & Learning Lab**

*University of Illinois at Chicago | 2013–2015*

- Conducted usability testing to improve an online teacher training program using think-aloud protocols and educator interviews.
- Managed data collection for 200+ classroom observations and assessments supporting curriculum development.

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## **EDUCATION**

### **Ph.D., Psychology (Community & Prevention Research)**

*University of Illinois at Chicago | 2015*

### **B.A., Mass Communication**

*Illinois State University | 2008*

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## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**Christensen, C.**, Cincebeaux, M., Roy, A., & Kim, S. (2025). A machine learning model to detect early math content in YouTube videos. *Artificial Intelligence in Education*, 1(1), 75–92. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AIIE-12-2024-0050>

**Christensen, C.**, Roy, A., Cincebeaux, M., Kaur, R., Radesky, J., & Munzer, T. (2025). *A machine learning model to automatically identify fast-paced online videos for children*. Menlo Park, CA: SRI Education. <https://www.sri.com/publication/a-machine-learning-model-to-automatically-identify-fast-paced-online-videos-for-children/>

**Christensen, C.**, & Cincebeaux, M. (2024). YouTube's ABCs and 123s: Describing the quality of early literacy and math videos on YouTube. SRI International. <https://www.sri.com/publication/education-learning-pubs/digital-learning-pubs/youtubes-abcs-and-123s-describing-the-quality-of-early-literacy-and-math-videos-on-youtube/>

Gupta, R., Roy, A., **Christensen, C.**, Kim, S., Gerard, S., Cincebeaux, M., ... & Shah, M. (2023). Class prototypes based contrastive learning for classifying multi-label and fine-grained educational videos. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition* (pp. 19923-19933).

**Christensen, C. G.**, & Myford, C. M. (2014). Measuring social and emotional content in children's television: An instrument development study. *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, 58, 21–41.