

1 - Welcome! Get to know Drs. Heald and Shipley

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Purpose: The purpose of the transcripts is to provide readers and listeners with a written version of each episode of the UAGC Center for Early Childhood Education's Early Childhood Chatter Podcast so they can follow along with the audio content. URL at www.uagc.edu/ece-center/chatter-podcast

Audience: Current Active & Enrolled Students

Episode Transcript

Dr. Stephanie Heald: Hello, everyone, and welcome to the very first episode of the Early Childhood Chatter Podcast. We are so excited that you're here today. I am Dr. Shipley, and I am Dr. Stephanie Heald, and we welcome you to this new space.

Dr. Tisha Shipley: We are so excited about this podcast and have wanted to start this podcast for about two years, and we finally just decided that we were going to take the plunge and do it. So here we are with you today, and we're so excited that we have this professional space that we can share 10 minutes of your day to share resources, ideas from people that are actually out in the field. So you can do this on your way to work, or you can do this on your way home, or even on your lunch break. So, we're so excited, and thank you so much for being here.

Dr. Stephanie Heald: On this first episode, we just wanted you to get to know us a little bit more. So, we're going to start off with some questions. Dr. Shipley, is there anything that you'd like to know about me?

Dr. Tisha Shipley: Well, of course. Everyone should know, first of all, that Dr. Heald and I are colleagues, but we are really good friends also. She's been in my wedding, I've met her family. She's met my family. So, we really mesh well together, and we have the same passions and the same advocacy topics that we really want to resonate within this podcast. So, Steph, tell us a little bit about your background and your education.

Dr. Stephanie Heald: I love it. I started out in elementary education and early childhood education, and I had a great opportunity to travel to seven different states and actually live in seven different states in as many years. Seven states in seven years. And I just was really able to immerse myself in the early childhood and elementary education setting, as well as the educational leadership side. So, from pre-K right on up to grade eight, I experienced several classrooms from New York to Las Vegas to Los Angeles to inner city LA, and then back to Pennsylvania and Florida. We landed in Florida. So now I currently teach for Ashford University*. I'm an assistant professor, and I teach in the early childhood education department, and love it. But like I said, my deep roots come from actually being in the trenches of a classroom and in the trenches of leadership positions.

Dr. Tisha Shipley: Okay, so let's do something a little fun here. Steph and I usually show up to meetings in the same pajamas or have the same blanket on, and we love to eat, and we like candy. So, what's your favorite candy?

Dr. Stephanie Heald: It's fun. I mean, I've never met a candy I don't like, but my favorite candy is anything that's like gummy or chewy, Twizzlers and Skittles and gummy bears and Swedish fish and just all those. I will tell you, Dr. Shipley and I are, you'll get to know, we're really kind of two ends of the pendulum. And I'm that sweet and salty girl. And she's, or I'm sorry, I'm that sweet girl, and she's more of that chips and salsa girl.

Dr. Tisha Shipley: Definitely, I had chips and guacamole for lunch. So that is exactly right. So, I've met most of Steph's family. Who has inspired you the most throughout your life?

Dr. Stephanie Heald: Oh, wow. From a professional perspective, I had a principal who hired me right out of college. You know, one month after I graduated from college, she hired me. And she just poured into me. She poured her knowledge and her wisdom and her love and her passion in the field into me and just really showed me what good leadership looked like. And I have never looked back since that day. She still gets my phone calls when I'm in a dilemma or need some advice. So professionally, Nancy Gallagher inspired me and continues to inspire me. And personally, my kiddos, my kiddos are very driven. And they both have very deep-rooted passions in football and basketball. And you know what? They wake up and they just, they are so motivated and driven to reach their goals, and that inspires me. Education,

obviously, is my passion. And their love of what they do every day inspires me to get better at what I do every day. So yeah.

Dr. Tisha Shipley: OK. So, I know some of your hobbies outside of work. But what do you like to do when you're not working or you're not at your children's, your son's athletic events? Because you go to those a lot.

Dr. Stephanie Heald: I mean, is there anything else? Yeah. I don't miss a game. You know, I obviously immerse myself in work. I do love to read outside, you know, different types of genres, just other than the professional side. I love to obviously shop. I live in Florida, so I spend a lot of time outdoors, whether it be walking or doing yoga, you know, at the park with my dogs. But honestly, my main job and my most, the job that I love the most is just supporting my kids and what they do and honestly doing what I do in the education realm. So gosh, Tisha, enough about me. Let's get to know you a little bit. Tell us about your background.

Dr. Tisha Shipley: Well, I'll just tell you, Steph said she lives in Florida and I live in Texas. She loves to sweat and the heat. I despise summer. I love fall, spring, winter. Winter being my favorite with snow, sleet, rain, overcast. So, we are completely different on that. Right, Steph?

Dr. Stephanie Heald: Completely. But we work. That's what's good. You'll get both the yin and the yang in these presentations.

Dr. Tisha Shipley: Definitely. So, my background is a little bit diverse. I started out with my bachelor's in early childhood education in Oklahoma. And then I got my master's in elementary administration. And then I got my doctorate in curriculum and instruction. I have taught pre-K, kindergarten, gifted third through sixth. I've been a cheer sponsor. I have been an elementary principal, hired lots of teachers. And I have been in higher education for the last 10 to 12 years, starting out as an adjunct and now full time. I love it. I love working with aspiring teacher candidates and teachers that are out in the field right now sharing ideas. I love to present. I enjoy writing articles. And one of my favorite people who inspired me to be a teacher was my second grade teacher, Mrs. Lavonne Wiersig. And some of the things that she was doing clear back in the 80s still resonate today. And so, she really made me who I am today in the teaching profession and showed me what it was like to care about others and to really advocate for early childhood. So that's why I do what I do.

Dr. Stephanie Heald: Oh, my gosh, I love it. And I will tell you, I'm going to give a huge shout out to that teacher because every single day Dr. Shipley inspires me. I attend many of her presentations, and I know a lot of our audience members are coming over from the conference. So, Dr. Shipley, you present on amazing topics that just excite me so much from puppets to parent parties, to family forums, to your literacy sites and your blog posts and your websites. What was one thing from the classroom that you were just really inspired to share with children and families?

Dr. Tisha Shipley: I am a huge advocate for play and play-based learning. I think that it's backed in research. And in my opinion, I don't think enough schools do this anymore. Children learn through hands on engagement and play. I think that we are having young children sit for too many hours at a time and doing worksheets and things that aren't developmentally appropriate. They have a time and a place. But when we are working with younger children, they should be through learning through active exploration. So, getting administrators and teachers, other teachers and parents to understand that and to teach them that you're still covering those standards and those skills and are able to assess and that they are learning what they need to learn was always important to me and is near and dear to my heart.

Dr. Stephanie Heald: I love that. So stay tuned she's going to talk more about that as we kind of unfold this podcast. On a side note, I have also personally gotten to know Tisha's family. And I'll tell you, I love Mr. Bob and Miss Shelly and Cooper, who is a large part of her life. Just tell us a little bit about your family. I know your mom serves as a huge inspiration for you. So, you want to just tell us a little bit about your home life?

Dr. Tisha Shipley: Most definitely. My mom is my role model, always has been. She was a single mom growing up. I got to see a lot of things as I grew up and not to say that we lived in poverty, but, you know, I grew up very poor and it's really easy to resonate with that population in the low socioeconomic status. And my mom has had breast cancer, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. And so, she is just that huge inspiration to me to get up every day and to be your best person and to know that not all kids come from the greatest background and you might be the only person that day that gives them a hug. My stepfather is in education. My brother just graduated with his master's and he just started being a

college basketball coach and he just got his master's degree. So, education is kind of in my blood and where I enjoy being also.

Dr. Stephanie Heald: Go Coop! I feel like I know him. I feel like he's a little brother to me also. So that's amazing. Okay. So, as we wrap up one more thing, Dr. Tisha, what is one children's book that you just absolutely adore?

Dr. Tisha Shipley: My favorite by far from when I was little, I have two, The Babysitter's Club and Ramona Quimby. But when I'm just reading now, I love to read anything with Fancy Nancy.

Dr. Stephanie Heald: How fun. Welcome audience to this first episode of the podcast. We really hope that you are excited to get to some of the amazing presenters that Tisha will tell you more about.

Dr. Tisha Shipley: Yes, I'm so excited. We have presenters from all over the world that is going to come here and share resources and ideas with you. And we have a great lineup. We will be posting every other week. So, stay tuned for that. So, thank you so much for being here and stay tuned. We will be back soon.

Dr. Stephanie Heald: Thank you so much. *Ashford University is now the University of Arizona Global Campus.