



BRETT LINDSAY MURPHY | 1

Brett Lindsay Murphy, Bittyrina's founder and the author of the brand's "Very First" series, was born and raised in the south suburbs of Chicago. She was born into an industrious and crafty family of artisans.

Brett Lindsay was raised to admire nature, simplicity, and life's oft overlooked treasures. Her mother, a social worker by trade, is a singer with a knack for creating memorable ditties and jingles with ease. During her childhood, her father was a dedicated employee of the legendary John H. Johnson of Johnson Publishing Company and a stand-up comedian by night.

The oldest child of two imaginative "fixers", Brett's favorite pastimes included writing stories and poems, recording original songs on her cassette player, and conceiving inventions that would simplify the lives of others. Her younger brother was her first partner and critic. He would quickly subscribe to an idea, or if it bored him, he'd reject it.

Brett would not discover it until later, but designing and creating consumer goods is in her blood. Her paternal lineage is entrepreneurial, and her grandfather's family owned the oldest black-owned business in Oxford, Mississippi. Her family's historical establishment not only impacted famed author William Faulkner, The Boles Shoe Shop has inspired Brett Lindsay since she was a little girl.

As Brett entered grade school at Talala Elementary in Park Forest, Illinois, she also began her dance training at American Dance Center in Olympia Fields, Illinois. She studied ballet, tap, jazz, and modern at the dance school for ten years. During those years, she encountered triumphs and challenges that influenced her decision to create Bittyrina.

She vividly recalls the uncomfortable confinement and inconvenience caused by traditional leotards, the difficulty in creating the "perfect" ballet bun with textured hair, the taxing monetary investment, and other stressors associated with dance training.

Brett Lindsay's vision for Bittyrina is to address these challenges and broadcast the many benefits of introducing dance to bittyrinas everywhere. The "Very First" book series introduces readers to Bittyrina GiGi who is a young girl embarking on her first of many dance experiences. The series starts with "The Very First Ballet Class for a Bittyrina" which walks through the moments leading up to Bittyrina GiGi's first ballet class at Miss Sheila's School of Dance.

Mrs. Murphy uses the "Very First" book series to teach readers that preparation is the key to managing the anxiety that often accompanies being a novice. The message can be applied to an infinite number of experiences, and readers of all backgrounds can relate to what Brett Lindsay has coined "beginners' anxiety."

As a former professional performer, Brett is familiar with a variety of coping mechanisms to use when nervousness is a threat. She employed these tactics while pursuing a business degree at Florida A&M University's School of Business and Industry and a law degree from Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

Her experience extends from the stage to the boardroom. Through the "Very First" book series, Mrs. Murphy endeavors to share tools and lessons that will empower readers as they embark on fresh experiences as students.

As the mother of a 4-year-old who is an Earlybird dancer at Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles, Brett Lindsay teaches her bittyrina that any goal can be conquered with the right tools, preparation, and group of supporters!