

Jessica Amsbary, Ph.D.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
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EDUCATION

- 2019 Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Education, Applied Developmental Sciences and Special Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2003 Master of Science Degree in Early Childhood Development, Erikson Institute
Specialization: Infancy
- 2001 Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, University of Notre Dame, Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Experience Academic:

Assistant Clinical Professor, Coordinator of the Master Degree for Experienced Teachers in Early Childhood Intervention and Family Supports, School of Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2020-present

Postdoctoral Research Associate, *STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education Center (STEMIE)*, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2019-present

Principal Investigator, *An Exploration of Parents' Perceptions Participating in an Intervention for their Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2018-present

Principal Investigator, *Caregivers' Voices Regarding Implementation of a Caregiver-Mediated Early Intervention for their Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2017-2020

Research Assistant, *Promoting Advancing Social Communication and Play (ASAP) Collaboration through Technology (PACT)*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2016-2019

Research Assistant, *Joint Attention Mediated Learning (JAML)*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2015-2017

Research Assistant and Classroom Intervention Coach, *Advancing Social Communication and Play (ASAP)*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2013-2015

Project Interventionist, *Early Development Project-2*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2011-2013

Professional Experience Nonacademic:

Certifications, Trainings, and Licensures:

TEACCH Five Day Classroom Training – Early Childhood, Completed summer, 2018

Infant, Toddler, and Family Specialist, North Carolina Infant and Toddler Program, Department of Health and Human Services, 2008-2012

Early Intervention Specialist, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, 2003-2013

Certified Trainer in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI), Cornell University, 2006-2009

Positions:

Developmental Therapist/Community Based Rehabilitation Specialist (CBRS) provider, KM Pediatric Therapy, Cary, NC, 2009-2011

Early Intervention Autism Classroom Teacher and Preschool Team Leader, Children’s Center for Developmental Enrichment, Oakstone Academy, Columbus, OH, 2006-2009

Home-Based Early Intervention Specialist, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Columbus, OH, 2003-2006

HONORS & AWARDED FUNDS

Joanne Erwich Roberts Early Career Award, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2020

Inspiring Meaningful Programs and Communication Through Science (IMPACTS) Ambassador, Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2019-present

Graduate and Professional Student Federation Senate Appropriations Award for Implementation Science Student Group Community-Engaged Research Panel, 2019

Early Childhood Leadership Cohort, Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC) and Division of Early Childhood, 2018-present

Nominated by the School of Education for the Graduate Education Advancement Board Impact Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2018 (not awarded)

Nominated for the J. David Sexton Doctoral Award from the Council for Exceptional Children, Division for Early Childhood, 2018 (not awarded)

Community Engagement Fellowship from the Carolina Center for Public Service, 2018

Carol and William Malloy Travel Award, 2017

Service-Learning Course Development Grant from the APPLES Service-Learning Program and the Carolina Center for Public Service, 2015

US Department of Education Doctoral Leadership Grant Award, *Interdisciplinary Preparation in Teaching, Leadership, and Service Focused on Young Children with Autism and Their Families*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014-present

SCHOLARSHIP

Peer-Reviewed Published Articles:

Amsbary, J., Able, H., Schertz, H., & Odom, S. (2020). Caregivers' voices regarding the use of parent-implemented early interventions in their daily lives. *Journal of Early Intervention*, Advance Online Publication

Nowell, S., Regan, T., **Amsbary, J.**, Crais, E., & Able, H. (2020). The impact of service-learning on undergraduate students' knowledge and understanding of ASD. *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*, 24, 55-72.

Able, H., **Amsbary, J.**, & Zheng, S. (2017). Application of DEC family-centered practices: Where the rubber meets the road. In C. M. Trivette & B. Keilty (Eds.), *Family: Knowing Families, Tailoring Practices, Building Capacities*. DEC Recommended Practices Monograph Series No. 3; 33-42.

Harrop, C., **Amsbary, J.**, Towner-Wright, S., Reichow, B., & Boyd, B. (2019). That's what I like: The use of circumscribed interests within interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. A systematic review. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 57, 63-86.

Reszka, S., Belardi, K., **Amsbary, J.**, Watson, L., & Boyd, B. (2019). Fidelity of a teacher-implemented intervention for preschoolers with autism spectrum disorder: No, some, and unexpected Effects. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, 39, 56-67

Manuscripts in Review or Preparation:

Amsbary, J., Alzamel, A., Lin, M., Savage, M., Reszka, S., Crais, E., Watson, L., & Boyd, B. (revise and resubmit). Targeting social-communication and play skills for preschoolers with autism spectrum disorder. *Young Exceptional Children*

Amsbary, J., Savage, M., Lim, M., Fanning, L., Watson, L., & Boyd, B. (in preparation). Engaging stakeholders in the development of a responsive website for parents of young children with autism. *Implementation Science Communication*.

Amsbary, J., Zheng, S., & Able, H. (in preparation). From my to our: Building a collaborative classroom environment. *Young Children*.

Amsbary, J. & Able, H. (in preparation) An exploration of parents' perceptions participating in an intervention for their toddlers with autism spectrum disorder. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*.

Other Publications:

Amsbary, J., Yang, H., Lim, C., & Catlett, C. (2020). *Resources within Reason: STEM Resources for Young Children*. Division for Early Childhood of the Council of Exceptional Children bi-monthly Resource Mailing.

Amsbary, J. & AFIRM Team (2017). *Naturalistic intervention*. Chapel Hill, NC: National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder, FPG Child Development Center, University of North Carolina.

Amsbary, J. & AFIRM Team (2017). *Parent-implemented intervention*. Chapel Hill, NC: National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder, FPG Child Development Center, University of North Carolina.

Refereed Presentations:

Amsbary, J. & Anderson, J. (2020, September). *Computational Thinking for Each and Every Child*. Presentation at STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education (STEMIE), Virtual STEMIEfest.

Amsbary, J., & Yang, H. (2020, August). *STEM Resources for Young Children with Disabilities and their Families*. Presentation at the North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children (NC-CEC) Virtual Mini Conference.

Amsbary, J. (2020, May). *An Exploration of Parents' Perceptions Participating in an Intervention for Their Toddlers with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. E-Poster presentation at the International Society for Autism Research Annual Conference.

Lim, C, **Amsbary, J.,** Chen, J., Vinh, M., & Yang, H. (2020, May). *Supporting Young Children with Disabilities in STEM Learning*. 2020 National Science Foundation STEM for All Video Showcase (Online)

Lim, C., Yang, H., **Amsbary, J.,** & Vinh, M. (2020, February). *Applying a Delphi Method to Develop an Early STEM Learning Model*. Poster presentation at the bi-annual Conference for Research and Innovation in Early Intervention (CRIEI), San Diego, CA

Amsbary, J. (2019, October) *Advancing Social Communication and Play Skills for Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster presentation at the annual conference for the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) for the Council of Exceptional Children, Dallas, TX

Amsbary, J. (2019, January). *Targeting Social Communication and Play Skills for Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Presentation at the annual conference for the North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children (NCCEC), Wilmington, NC

- Amsbary, J., & Able, H.** (2018, October). *Moving toward Innovation: Parent Perceptions of Community-Based Interventions for Toddlers with Autism*. Presentation at the annual conference for the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children, Orlando, FL
- Amsbary, J. & Able, H.** (2018, March). *An Exploration of Families' Lived Experiences in Research and Community-Based Early Intervention*. Poster presentation at the bi-annual Conference for Research and Innovation in Early Intervention (CRIEI), San Diego, CA
- Amsbary, J.** (2017, October). *Applying Implementation Science to Parent-Implemented Interventions: What About the Parents?* Presentation at the annual conference for the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children, Portland, OR
- Regan, T. & **Amsbary, J.** (2017, April). *Using Service-Learning in the Classroom to Change Knowledge and Understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Presentation at the Southeastern Association of Educational Studies (SEAES) Conference, Chapel Hill, NC
- Regan, T., Able, H., & **Amsbary, J.** (2017, April). *Using Service-Learning to Change Undergraduate Students' Understanding of Disability*. Presentation at the annual conference of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Boston, MA
- Crais, E., Kinard, J., **Amsbary, J.**, & Uzonyi, T. (2017, February). *Developmental Monitoring and Early Screening: Your Role in Identifying Children with Disabilities Including Autism*. Presentation at the annual Advancing Skills and Knowledge (ASK) Conference, Chapel Hill, NC
- Amsbary, J. & Zheng, S.** (2017, January). *Teaming and Collaboration in Early Childhood Classrooms for Exceptional Learners*. Presentation at the annual conference of the North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children (NC-CEC), Wilmington, NC
- Amsbary, J., Zheng, S. & Watson, L.** (2016, October). *Effects of Adaptive Responsive Teaching (ART) on Engagement of Toddlers at Risk for ASD*. Poster presentation at the annual conference for the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children, Louisville, KY
- Able, H., Gallagher, K., **Amsbary, J.**, & Zheng, S. (2016, October). *Reconnecting and Recharging: Use of DEC Recommended Practices*. Presentation at the annual conference for the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children, Louisville, KY
- Nowell, S., **Amsbary, J.**, Page, J., & Baranek, G. T. (2016, May). *An Examination of Adaptive Social Communication in Children with Autism as a Predictor of Parent Stress*. Poster presentation at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), Baltimore, MD
- Amsbary, J., Neitzel, J., Boyd, B. & Watson L.** (2016, January). *Using Coaching to Support Teachers' Implementation for Young Children with ASD*. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children (NC-CEC), Pinehurst, NC
- Reszka, S., **Amsbary J.**, Boyd, B., Watson L., & Crais, E. (2016, February) *The Measurement and Prediction of Intervention Fidelity for the Advancing Social-Communication and Play (ASAP) Intervention*. Poster presentation at the bi-annual conference for Research and Innovation in Early Intervention (CRIEI), San Diego, CA

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Courses

EDMX 716: Assessment and Differentiation – taught a master’s level course focused on assessment and differentiation for children and environments in early childhood intervention and early childhood education, Fall, 2020, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDMX 701: Early Childhood Intervention and Family Supports Graduate Summer Internship – guided master’s students through a virtual internship applying the Inclusive Classroom Profile, Summer, 2020, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDMX 764: Families and Teams: Interdisciplinary and Sociocultural Perspectives – co-taught a master’s level course on teaming and collaboration in schools and with families in early intervention and early childhood education, Fall, 2019, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDUC 390: Autism in Our Community: An Interdisciplinary Perspective – co-taught a service-learning course for undergraduate students with a focus on autism, Spring, 2016 & Spring, 2017, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDUC 181: Introduction to Human Development and Family Studies – served as a teaching assistant for a large, introductory undergraduate course on human development and families, Fall, 2016, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDUC 615: Introduction to the Education of Exceptional Learners – served as a part-time teaching assistant for an undergraduate course on special education services, Fall, 2016, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDUC 402: Models of Early Childhood Service Delivery – served as a teaching assistant for an undergraduate course on early childhood service delivery, Fall, 2015, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDUC 693: Graduate Internship: Infant/Toddler and Preschool – served as University Supervisor of early childhood internships for experienced teachers pursuing their master’s degree, Summer, 2015, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Invited Guest Lectures

Amsbary, J. (2020). *Parent-Mediated Interventions*. Guest lecture presented virtually to master’s students in an Autism course at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA

Amsbary, J. (2019). *Teaming and Collaboration*. Guest lecture presented to master’s students in an Introduction to Special Education Class at North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC

Amsbary, J. (2017). *Early Intervention Overview*. Guest lecture presented to undergraduate students in a Foundations of Special Education course at Elon University, Elon, NC

Guest Lectures

Amsbary, J. (2019). *Implementation Science in Early Intervention*. Guest lecture presented to master’s level students in an Educational Leadership course, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Amsbary, J. (2017). *Parent Coaching*. Guest lecture presented to master's level students in an Autism Seminar course, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Amsbary, J. & Regan, T. (2016). *Experiences in Coaching*. Guest lecture presented to master's level students in a Families and Teams course, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Amsbary, J. & Boyd B. (2014). *Play assessments used in Advancing Social Communication and Play (ASAP)*. Guest lecture presented to master's level Occupational Therapy students, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Academic Service

Research Committee Member, Co-chair of Interdisciplinary Research Subdivision, Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children, March 2020-present

Reviewer for *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, Spring 2020-present

Co-President, North Carolina Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children, December 2019-present

Leadership Team Member of the Implementation Science Student Group, Fall, 2017 – Spring, 2019, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Reviewer for *Journal of Early Intervention*, Spring 2019 – present

Guest Reviewer for Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Recommended Practices Monograph Series No. 5: Interactions, Fall, 2017

Doctoral Student Guest Reviewer for Young Exceptional Children (YEC), Fall, 2018

Reviewer for Division of Early Childhood (DEC) conference proposals, 2016 – present

Committee member/reader for honor's thesis, undergraduate candidate, 2015 – 2018

Reviewer for the Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (JIDD), 2016 – present

Community Service

Volunteer, Reading Partners, Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, Chapel Hill, NC, 2019 – present

Volunteer, Ronald McDonald House, Chapel Hill, NC & Durham, NC 2018 – present

Volunteer and Parent Chaperone, Girl Scouts of America, Coastal Pines, NC, 2019-present

Parent Teacher Association Member, Book Fair Co-chair, McDougle Elementary School, Chapel Hill, NC, 2018 – present

Parent Board Member & Event Planner, Our PlayHouse Preschool, 2016-2018

Co-chair of Christmas Partners Program for the University of Notre Dame Alumni Club of Eastern North Carolina, 2011-2014

Habitat for Humanity Service Project with the University of Notre Dame Alumni Club of Eastern North Carolina, 2012

Mentor for At-Risk Youth with Community HOPE Project, Alexander YMCA, Raleigh, NC, 2011

MEMBERSHIPS

2020-present Member, Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

2016-present Member, Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

2015-present Member, International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)

2011-present Member, North Carolina Infant Mental Health Association (NCIMHA)