

Jessica S. Akers, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Baylor University
Department of Educational Psychology
One Bear Place #97301
Waco, TX 76798
jessica_akers@baylor.edu

Education:

Post-doctoral Research Associate

University of Nebraska Medical Center
Munroe-Meyer Institute
Supervisor: Wayne W. Fisher

Ph.D. 2015:

Utah State University
Department of Special Education
And Rehabilitation
Disability Disciplines with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis
Advisor: Thomas S. Higbee

Dissertation: An evaluation of group activity schedules to train children with autism to play hide-and-seek with their typically developing peers

M.A. 2011:

California State University, Fresno
Department of Psychology
Applied Behavior Analysis
Advisor: Amanda Adams

Thesis: Using script fading to increase play-based language between children with autism and their typically developing sibling

B.A. 2009:

California State University, Fresno
Department of Psychology

Professional Certifications and Training:

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Certification number: 1-12-10034

Professional Memberships:

- Association of Behavior Analysis (ABAI)
- California Association of Behavior Analysis (CalABA)

Teaching Experience Distance Education:

Fall 2013 Utah State University

- Co-instructor: Undergraduate Level course in Applied Behavior Analysis
SPED 5010

Fall 2012 Utah State University

- Teaching Assistant: Graduate Level course in Behavior Analysis
SPED 6720

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Spring 2012

Utah State University

- Teaching Assistant: Graduate Level course in Behavior Analysis
SPED 6710

Fall 2011

Utah State University

- Teaching Assistant: Undergraduate Level course in Applied Behavior Analysis
SPED 5010

Teaching Experience On-campus:

Spring 2013

Utah State University

- Co-instructor: Undergraduate Practicum course: Working with Young Children with
Autism
SPED 5840

Book Chapters:

- Brodhead, M. T., Rispoli, M. J., Wendt, O., Akers, J. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Kim, S. Y.
(in press). Treatment of core symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder. In J. Matson
(Ed.), *Handbook of autism treatments*. New York, NY: Springer.

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

- DeSouza, A. A., Akers, J. S., & Fisher, W. W., (in press). Empirical application of
Skinner's Verbal Behavior for the intervention of children with autism: 60 years of
contribution. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*.
- Kaminski, A. J., Fisher, W. W., Greer, B. D. & Akers, J. S. (2017). Increasing sharing in
children with Autism Spectrum Disorder using automated discriminative stimuli.
Learning and Motivation. doi:10.1016/j.lmot.2017.02.004
- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (in press). An evaluation
of group activity schedules to train children with autism to play hide-and-seek with
typically developing peers. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*
- Gerencser, K. R., Higbee, T. S., Akers, J. S., & Contreras, B. P., (2017). An evaluation of
an interactive computer training to teach parents to implement a photographic activity
schedule. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. doi:10.1002/jaba.386
- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2016).
An evaluation of photographic activity schedules to increase independent playground
skills in young children with autism. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 49(4), 954-
959. doi:10.1002/jaba.327
- Pyle, D., Pyle, N., Lignugaris-Kraft, B., Duran, L., & Akers, J. (2016). A synthesis of
peer-mediated academic interventions for English language learners. *Review of
Educational Research*. doi: 10.1007/s40489-015-0062-9

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- Akers, J. S., Pyle, N., Higbee, T. S., Pyle, D., & Gerencser K. R., (2016). A synthesis of script fading effects with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A 20-year review. *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 3(1), 1-17.
- Brodhead, M. T., Higbee, Gerencser, K. R., & Akers, J. S. (2015). The use of a discrimination training procedure to teach mand variability to children with autism. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 49(1), 34-48. doi:10.1002/jaba.280
- Pollard, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Akers, J. S., & Brodhead, M. T. (2014). An evaluation of interactive computer training to teach instructors to implement discrete trials with children with autism. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 47(4), 765-776. doi:10.1002/jaba.152
- Brodhead, M. T., Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J. S., Akers, J. S., & Gerencser, K. R. (2014). The use of linked activity schedules to teach children with autism to play hide-and-seek. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 47(3), 645-650.

Publications (Under Review)

- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Reinert, K. S., & Pollard, J. S. (under review). Sibling-implemented script fading to promote play-based statements in children with autism. *Behavior Analysis in Practice*
- Akers, J. S., Retzlaff, B. J., Fisher, W. W., Greer, B. D., Kaminski, A. K., & DeSouza, A. A., (under review). An evaluation of conditional manding using a four-component multiple schedule. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*
- Briggs, A. M., Akers, J. S., Greer, B. D., Fisher, W. W., & Retzlaff, B. J., (under review). Systematic changes in preference for schedule-thinning arrangements as a function of relative density of reinforcement density. *Behavior Modification*
- Simmons, C. A., Akers, J. S., & Fisher, W. W., (under review). Functional analysis and treatment of covert food stealing in an outpatient setting. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

Publications (in preparation)

- Owen, T. M., Fisher, W. W., Akers, J. S., Roane, H. S., Sullivan, W. & Grasmick, A. (in preparation). The boss hat: Treating destructive behavior reinforced by increased caregiver compliance with the child's mands.
- Retzlaff, B. J., Fisher, W. W., Akers, J. S., & Greer, B. D. (in preparation). Emergence of novel functions of behavior following synthesized reinforcement contingencies.
- Retzlaff, B. J., Akers, J. A., Fisher, W. W., Kaminski, A. J., Machado, M. & DeSouza, A. A., (in preparation). An evaluation of an echoic differential observing response and identity-match prompt to teach auditory-visual conditional discriminations.

Invited Presentations

- Akers, J. S. (2016). *Current research in play and language skills for*

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young children with autism. Presentation for California State University, Fresno Applied Behavior Analysis Conference.

- Akers, J. S. (2015). *Current research in play and language skills for young children with autism*. Presentation for the Utah Association of Behavior Analysis.

Presentations:

- Akers, J. S., Fisher, W. W., Kaminski, A. J., Greer, B. D., DeSouza, A., & Retzlaff, B. J., (2017). An evaluation of conditional manding using a four-component multiple schedule. Presentation for the Association of Behavior Analysis. Denver, Co.
- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2016). *An evaluation of group activity schedules to train children with autism to play hide-and-seek with typically developing peers*. Presentation for the Association of Behavior Analysis. Chicago, IL.
- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2016). *An evaluation of group activity schedules to train children with autism to play hide-and-seek with typically developing peers*. Presentation for the California Association of Behavior Analysis. San Jose, CA.
- Akers, J. S., (2016) *Social Skills: Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Guest lecture for Autism course, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE.
- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Reinert, K. S., & Pollard, J. S. (2015). *Sibling-implemented script fading to promote play-based statements in children with autism*. Presentation for California Association of Behavior Analysis. San Diego, CA.
- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2015). *An evaluation of photographic activity schedules to increase independent playground skills in young children with autism*. Presentation for the California Association of Behavior Analysis. San Diego, CA.
- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Reinert, K. S., & Pollard, J. S. (2015). *Sibling-implemented script fading to promote play-based statements in children with autism*. Presentation for the Association of Behavior Analysis. San Antonio, TX.
- Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2015). *An evaluation of photographic activity schedules to increase independent playground skills in young children with autism*. Presentation for the Association of Behavior Analysis. San Antonio, TX.
- Akers, J. S. (2014). *Fragile X-syndrome: Growing up with siblings with disabilities*. Guest lecture for Young Children with Disabilities: Characteristics and Services, Utah State University, Logan, UT.
- Akers, J. S. & Higbee, T. S. (2014). *Introduction to Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis*. Presentation for School Psychology students and faculty, Utah State University, Logan, UT.
- Akers, J. S. & Higbee, T. S. (2014). *Using Environmental Supports with Children with Disabilities*. Guest lecture for Early Childhood course, Utah State University, Logan, UT.

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- Akers, J. S., Contreras, B., Higbee, T. S. (2014). *Using activity schedules and script fading with children with autism*. Guest lecture for Early Childhood Alternative Teacher Preparation Program course via Adobe Connect online platform, Utah State University, Logan, UT.
- Pollard, J.S., Higbee, T.S., Akers, J.S., & Brodhead, M.T. (2013). *An evaluation of an interactive computer training to teach instructors to implement discrete trials with children with autism*. Presentation for Utah Valley University Autism Conference, Orem, UT.
- Pollard, J. S., Higbee, T. S., Akers, J. S., & Brodhead, M. T. (2013). *An evaluation of an interactive computer training to teach instructors to implement discrete trials with children with autism*. Presentation for the Association of Behavior Analysis. Minneapolis, MN.
- Akers, J. S., Gerencser, K. R. & Higbee, T. S. (2012). *Introduction to Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis*. Presentation for Child & Family Support Center, Logan, UT.
- Kelley, K.N., Akers, J. S. & Higbee, T.S. (2012). *Behavioral interventions for students with autism*. Presentation for Head Start teachers and paraprofessionals. Logan, UT.
- Pollard, J., Brodhead, M., Akers, J. S., Hartzeim, D., & Higbee, T. S. (2012). *Ethical considerations for clinical applied behavior analysts*. Workshop presented at California Association for Behavior Analysis. Garden Grove, CA.
- Brodhead, M, Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S. (2012) *Considering Ethical Behavior in educational settings: Part 1*. Workshop given at annual Effective Practices Conference. Logan, UT.
- Brodhead, M, Akers, J. S., Higbee, T. S. (2012). *Considering Ethical Behavior in educational settings: Part 2*. Workshop given at annual Effective Practices Conference. Logan, UT.
- Akers, J. S., Brodhead, M, & Higbee, T.S. (2012). *Using activity schedules to promote independence in early learners*. Workshop given at annual Effective Practices Conference. Logan, UT.
- Hartzheim, D., Akers, J. S., & Higbee, T.S. (2012). *Understanding and Managing Challenging Behavior*. Guest lecture for Speech and Language Pathology students and faculty, Utah State University, Logan, UT.
- Akers, J. S., Gerencser, K., & Higbee, T.S. (2012). *Understanding and Managing Challenging Behavior*. Presentation for the Utah Early Childhood Conference, Provo, UT.
- Kelley, K.N., Akers, J. S. & Higbee, T.S. (2011). *Using reinforcement in teaching*. Guest lecture for Speech and Language Pathology students and faculty, Utah State University, Logan, UT.
- Kelley, K.N., Akers, J. S., & Higbee, T.S. (2011). *Functions of behavior*. Guest lecture for Speech and Language Pathology students and faculty, Utah State University, Logan, UT.

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Case Manager

- Managing client cases
- Monitoring client progress
- Developing behavior plans
- Supervising behavior therapists
- Providing training for new hires
- Conducting parent observations and trainings

2009-2011 Central California Autism Center
Clinical Supervisor

- Managing client cases
- Monitoring client progress
- Developing behavior plans
- Supervising behavior therapists
- Providing training for new hires