**Jessica S. Akers, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Baylor University

Department of Educational Psychology

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**Education:**

***Post-doctoral*** University of Nebraska Medical Center: Munroe-Meyer Institute

***Research Associate*** Omaha, Nebraska

***Ph.D*. 2015*:*** Utah State University, Logan, Utah

Disability Disciplines, Concentration: Applied Behavior Analysis

**M.A. 2011:** California State University Fresno, Fresno, California

Psychology, Concentration: Applied Behavior Analysis

**B.A. 2009:** California State University Fresno, Fresno, California

Psychology, Criminology Minor, Summa Cum Laude

**Academic Position**

2017—Present Assistant Professor

Department of Educational Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis Program

Baylor University, Waco, Texas

**Professional Experience:**

2015- 2017 Post-doctoral Research Associate, University of Nebraska Medical Center: Munroe-Meyer Institute, Omaha, Nebraska

Role: Implemented treatment targeting the reduction of severe challenging behavior. Participated in research addressing acquisition of conditional responding for children with autism and the reduction of challenging behavior including food stealing, aggression, and self-injurious behavior.

2013- 2015 Consultant, Granite School District, West Valley, Utah

Role: Consulted in four classrooms within the school district: two preschool autism model classrooms providing one-on-one instruction, and two hybrid model classrooms (kindergarten and 1st-3rd grade) providing one-on-one, two-on-one and group instruction for children with autism. Trained teachers and paraprofessionals to implement effective teaching strategies.

2012-2013 Consultant, Park City School District, Park City, Utah

Role: Trained teachers to implement discrete trial instruction and conduct the Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP) assessment.

2011- 2013 Case Manager, Utah State University Autism Support Services: Education, Research and Training (ASSERT) Preschool, Logan, Utah

Role: Served as the case manager for multiple children. Tasks included developing goals, monitoring client progress, parent and staff training.

2009-2011 Clinical Supervisor, Central California Autism Center, Fresno, California

Role: Served as the case manager for multiple children. Tasks included developing goals, monitoring client progress, parent and staff training.

**Areas of Specialization**

Applied behavior analysis (ABA), autism, developmental disabilities, social and play skills, challenging behavior, single-case research design

**Professional Certifications and Training:**

2012-present Board-Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral (BCBA-D)

Certification number: 1-12-10034

**Peer-Reviewed Publications:**

28. Canestaro, V. M., **Akers, J. S.,** & O’Guinn, N. (2021). Promoting reciprocal conversations in children with autism using text-message prompting*. Behavioral Interventions, 36*(4), 745-755*.*

<https://doi.org/10.1002/bin.1822>

27. Deel, N. M., Brodhead, M. T., **Akers, J. S**. & White, A. N. (2021). An evaluation of choice vs. no choice play sequences in activity schedules. *Behavioral Interventions, 36*(4), 731-744*.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/bin.1816>

26. Padilla-Mainor, K. L. & **Akers, J. S.** (2021). Content validity for the Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 51*, 4054-4066*.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04864-y>

25. Gerow, S., Radhakrishnan, S., Akers, J. S, McGinnis, K., & Swensson, R. (2021). Telehealth parent coaching to improve daily living skills for children with ASD*.* *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 54*(2), 566-581*.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.813>

24. Avery, S. & **Akers, J. S.,** (2021). The use of demand assessments: A brief review and practical guide. *Behavior Analysis in Practice, 14,* 410-421*.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s40617-020-00542-8

23. Kirkpatrick, M., Rivera, G. & **Akers, J. S.** (2020). Systematic review of behavioral interventions using digital technology to reduce problem behavior in the classroom. *Journal of Behavioral Education*, 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10864-020-09406-1>

22. Kirkpatrick, M., Rehfeld, D. M., **Akers, J. S.,** Rivera, G. & Sulak, T. N. (2020). Using behavioral skills training with preservice teachers in the university classroom. *Behavioral Interventions, 36*(1), 145-158*.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/bin.1764>

21. Kirkpatrick, M., Rivera, G. & **Akers, J. S.** (2020). Use of behavioral skills training with teachers: A systematic review. *Journal of Behavioral Education, 28*(3), 344-361*.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10864-019-09322-z>

20. **Akers, J. S.,** Davis, T. N., Gerow, S. & Avery, S. (2020). Decreasing motor stereotypy in individuals with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, 77*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2020.101611>

19. Owen, T. M., Fisher, W. W., **Akers, J. S.,** Sullivan, W., Falcomata, T. S., Greer, B. D., Roane, H. S., & Zangrillo, A. N. (2020). Treating destructive behavior reinforced by increased caregiver compliance with the participant’s mands. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 53*(3)*,* 1494-1513*.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.674>

18. Gerow, S., Rivera, G., **Akers, J. S.,** Kirkpatrick, M., Radhakrishnan, S. (2019). Parent-implemented treatment for automatically maintained stereotypy. *Behavior Interventions, 34*(4)*,* 466-474*.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/bin.1689>

17. Gerencser, K., R., **Akers, J. S.,** Becerra, L. A., Higbee, T. S., & Sellers, T. P. (2019). A review of asynchronous trainings for the implementation of behavior analytic assessments and interventions. *The Journal of Behavioral Education, 29*(1),122-152. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10864-019-09332-x>

16. Retzlaff, B. J., Fisher, W. W., **Akers, J. S.,** & Greer, B. D. (2019). A translational evaluation of potential iatrogenic effects of single and combined contingencies during functional analysis. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 53*(1),67-81*.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.595>

15. Fisher, W. W., Retzlaff, B. J., **Akers, J. S.,** DeSouza, A. A., Kaminski, A. J., & Machado, M. (2019). Establishing initial auditory-visual conditional discriminations and emergence of initial tacts in young children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 52*(4)*,* 1089-1106*.* <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.586>

14. Simmons, C. A., **Akers, J. S.,** & Fisher, W. W., (2019). Functional analysis and treatment of covert food stealing in an outpatient setting. *Behavioral Development, 24*(1), 42–57. http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/bdb0000086

13. **Akers, J. S.,** Retzlaff, B. J., Fisher, W. W., Greer, B. D., Kaminski, A. K., & DeSouza, A. A., (2018). An evaluation of conditional manding using a four-component multiple schedule. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior, 35*(1)*,* 94-102*.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s40616-018-0099-9

12. **Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J. S., & Reinert, K. S., (2018). Sibling-implemented script fading to promote play-based statements in children with autism. *Behavior Analysis in Practice, 11*(4)*,* 395-399*.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s40617-018-0257-5

11. **Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2018). An evaluation of group activity schedules to promote social play in children with autism. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 51*(3), 553-570. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.474>

10. Briggs, A. M., **Akers, J. S.,** Greer, B. D., Fisher, W. W. & Retzlaff, B. J. (2018). Systematic changes in preference for schedule-thinning arrangements as a function of relative reinforcement density. *Behavior Modification, 42*(4)*,* 472-497. [https://doi.org/10.1177/0145445517742883](https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0145445517742883)

9. DeSouza, A. A., **Akers, J. S.,** & Fisher, W. W., (2017). Empirical application of Skinner’s Verbal Behavior to interventions for children with autism: A review. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior, 33*(2),229-259*.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40616-017-0093-7>

8. 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, 62,* 41-50. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lmot.2017.02.004>

7. Gerencser, K. R., Higbee, T. S., **Akers, J. S.,** & Contreras, B. P., (2017). Evaluation of interactive computerized training to teach parents to implement photographic activity schedules with children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 50*(3)*,* 567-581.<https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.386>

6. **Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J. S., Pellegrino, A. J., & Gerencser, K. R. (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. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.327>

5. Pyle, D., Pyle, N.,Lignugaris-Kraft, B., Duran, L., & **Akers, J.** (2016). Academic effects of peer-mediated interventions for English language learners: A research synthesis. *Review of Educational Research, 87*(1)*,* 103-133*.* [https://doi.org/10.3102/0034654316653663](https://doi.org/10.3102%2F0034654316653663)

4. **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. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40489-015-0062-9>

3. 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. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.280>

2. 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. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.152>

1. 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. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaba.145>

**Publications (Under Review)**

O'Guinn, N., **Akers, J. S.,** & Gerencser, K. (2021). Interventions targeting interactive play in individuals with autism: A systematic review. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Educational Psychology, Baylor University.

Davis, T. N., **Akers, J. S.,** Exline, E., Avery, S., & Wicker, M. (2021). *Reinforcement schedule thinning following FCT:  A systematic review*. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Educational Psychology, Baylor University.

**Akers, J. S.,** Davis, T. N., McGinnis, K. & Swensson, R. M. (2021). *Effectiveness of remote performance feedback on accurate implementation of parent coaching.* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Educational Psychology, Baylor University.

Avery, S., Gerow, S., **Akers, J. S.,** Rivera, G., & Radhakrishnan, S. (2021). *The effect of immediate help with demand completion on escape-maintained challenging behavior* [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Educational Psychology, Baylor University.

**Nonpeer-Reviewed Publications:**

**Akers, J. S.** (2021, June 28). What’s your brother saying? *Verbal Behavior Matters, Behavior Science Dissemination.* https://science.abainternational.org/2021/06/28/whats-your-brother-saying/

**Book Chapters:**

Padilla-Mainor, K. **Akers, J. S.,** & Kirkpatrick, M. (In Press). Coordinating ABA Services. In J. Shahidulla & K. Mezher (Ed.), *Interdisciplinary Care Coordination for Youth with ASD.*

**Akers, J. S.,** Davis, T. N., & Gerow, S., (2020). Self-Injurious Behavior, Rituals, and Stereotypies in Dual Diagnosis. In J. Matson (Ed.), *Handbook of Dual Diagnosis: Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment in Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.*

**Akers, J. S.,** Davis, T. N., Gerow, S., Hodges, A., & Weston, R. (2019). Sensory and repetitive behaviors. In J. Matson (Ed.), *Handbook of Intellectual Disabilities: Integrating Theory, Research and Practice.*

Brodhead, M. T., Rispoli, M. J., Wendt. O., **Akers. J. S.,** Gerencser, K. R., & Kim, S. Y. (2017).  Treatment of core symptoms of autism spectrum disorder. In J. Matson (Ed.), *Handbook of autism treatments*. New York, NY: Springer.

**Peer-Reviewed Presentations**

**Invited Presentations**

Akers, J. S., (2020, April). *Recent research on promoting peer play in children with autism* [Oral presentation]. Midwestern Conference on Professional Psychology, Mankato, MN.

Akers, J. S. (2016, November). *Current research in play and language skills for young children with autism* [Oral presentation]. California State University, Fresno Applied Behavior Analysis Conference, Fresno, CA.

Akers, J. S. (2015, June). *Current research in play and language skills for young children with autism* [Oral presentation]. Utah Association of Behavior Analysis, Salt Lake City, UT.

**National/International Conference Presentations:**

Canestaro, V. & Akers, J. S. (2019, May). *Teaching children with autism spectrum disorder to engage in reciprocal conversations using text-message prompting* [Oral presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis International, Chicago, IL.

Kirkpatrick, M., Rehfeld, D. M., **Akers, J. S.,** Rivera, G., & Sulak, T. N. (2019, May). *Evaluating the effects of behavioral skills training with pre-service teachers* [Oral presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis International, Chicago, IL.

**Akers, J. S.,** Briggs, A. M., Greer, B. D., Fisher, W. W., & Retzlaff, B. J., (2018, May). *Systematic changes in preference for schedule-thinning arrangements as a function of relative reinforcement density* [Oral presentation]. Association of Behavior Analysis, San Diego, CA.

**Akers, J. S.,** Fisher, W. W., Kaminski, A. J., Greer, B. D., DeSouza, A., & Retzlaff, B. J., (2017, May). *An evaluation of conditional manding using a four-component multiple schedule* [Oral presentation]. Association of Behavior Analysis, Denver, Co.

**Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2016, May). *An evaluation of group activity schedules to train children with autism to play hide-and-seek with typically developing peers* [Oral presentation]. Association of Behavior Analysis, Chicago, IL.

**Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Reinert, K. S., & Pollard, J. S. (2015, May). *Sibling-implemented script fading to promote play-based statements in children with autism* [Oral presentation] Association of Behavior Analysis, San Antonio, TX.

**Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2015, May). *An evaluation of photographic activity schedules to increase independent playground skills in young children with autism* [Oral presentation]. Association of Behavior Analysis, San Antonio, TX.

Pollard, J. S., Higbee, T. S., **Akers, J. S.,** & Brodhead, M. T. (2013, May). *An evaluation of an interactive computer training to teach instructors to implement discrete trials with children with autism* [Oral presentation]. Association of Behavior Analysis, Minneapolis, MN.

**State/Regional Conference Presentations**

Davis, T. N., **Akers, J. S.,** & Gerow, S. (2019, March). *Evidence-Based Treatments to Reduce Stereotypy* [Oral presentation]. Texas Association for Behavior Specialists Annual Conference, Round Rock, TX.

Kirkpatrick, M., Rehfeld, D. M., **Akers, J. S.**, Rivera, G., & Sulak, T. N. (2019, March). *Evaluating the effects of behavioral skills training with pre-service teachers* [Oral presentation]. Texas Association of Behavior Specialist Conference, Round Rock, TX.

**Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2016, February). *An evaluation of group activity schedules to train children with autism to play hide-and-seek with typically developing peers* [Oral presentation]. California Association of Behavior Analysis, San Jose, CA.

**Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Reinert, K. S., & Pollard, J. S. (2015, February). *Sibling-implemented script fading to promote play-based statements in children with autism* [Oral presentation]. California Association of Behavior Analysis, San Diego, CA.

**Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J. S., Gerencser, K. R., & Pellegrino, A. J., (2015, March). *An evaluation of photographic activity schedules to increase independent playground skills in young children with autism* [Oral presentation]. California Association of Behavior Analysis, San Diego, CA.

Pollard, J.S., Higbee, T.S., **Akers, J.S.,** & Brodhead, M.T. (2013, March). *An evaluation of an interactive computer training to teach instructors to implement discrete trials with children with autism* [Oral presentation]. Utah Valley University Autism Conference, Orem, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** Gerencser, K., & Higbee, T.S. (2013, February). *Understanding and Managing Challenging Behavior* [Oral presentation]. Utah Early Childhood Conference, Provo, UT.

Pollard, J., Brodhead, M., **Akers, J. S.,** Hartzeim, D., & Higbee, T. S. (2012, February). *Ethical considerations for clinical applied behavior analysts* [Workshop presentation]. California Association for Behavior Analysis, Garden Grove, CA.

Brodhead, M, **Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S. (2012, June) *Considering Ethical Behavior in educational settings: Part 1.* [Workshop presentation]. Effective Practices Conference, Logan, UT.

Brodhead, M, **Akers, J. S.,** Higbee, T. S. (2012, June) *Considering Ethical Behavior in educational settings: Part 2.* [Workshop presentation]. Effective Practices Conference, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** Brodhead, M, & Higbee, T.S. (2012, June). *Using activity schedules to promote independence in early learners* [Workshop presentation]. Effective Practices Conference, Logan, UT.

**Poster Presentations**

O’Guinn, N., **Akers, J. S.,**  & Gerencser, K., (2021, May). *Interventions Targeting Interactive Play in Individuals with Autism: A Systematic Review* [Poster presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis, Virtual Conference.

Kirkpatrick, M., **Akers, J. S.,** & Swensson, R. (2021, May). *Systematic Review of Video Activity Schedules to Teach Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder* [Poster presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis, Virtual Conference.

Avery, S. & **Akers, J. S.** (2021, May). *The Use of Demand Assessments: A Brief Review and Practical Guide* [Poster presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis, Virtual Conference.

Padilla-Mainor, K. & **Akers, J. S.** (2021, May). *Content Validity Evidence for the Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program* [Poster presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis, Virtual Conference.

Kirkpatrick, M., **Akers, J. S.,** Davis, T. N., O’Guinn, N., & Avery, S. (2021, February). *Systematic review of video activity schedules to teach individuals with ASD* [Poster presentation]. Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, Virtual Conference.

Avery, S., & **Akers, J. S**. (2021, February 11–14). *The use of demand assessments: A brief review and practical guide* [Poster presentation]. Texas Association of Applied Behavior Analysis 36th Annual Regional Conference, Virtual Conference.

Swennson, R. & **Akers, J. S.,** (2020, May). *A systematic review of mand training techniques for children with autism* [Poster presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis, Virtual Conference.

Swennson, R. & **Akers, J. S.,** (2020, March). *A systematic review of mand training techniques for children with autism* [Poster presentation]. Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, Virtual Conference.

O’Guinn, K. N. & **Akers, J. S.** (2020, March). *Teaching Negotiation Skills During Play to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders* [Poster presentation]. Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, Virtual Conference.

**Akers, J. S.,** Busby, M., & O’Guinn, K. N. (2020, February). *A further evaluation of scripts and systematic fading to increase play-based comments in children with autism when playing with peers* [Poster presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis International Autism Conference, Miami, FL.

Kirkpatrick, M., Rehfeld, D. M., **Akers, J. S.,** Rivera, G., & Sulak, T. N. (2019, March). *Evaluating the effects of behavioral skills training with pre-service teachers* [Poster presentation]. Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, Fort Worth, TX

**Akers, J. S.**, & Davis, T. N., Gerow, S. (2019, May). *Decreasing stereotypy in children with autism: A systematic review* [Poster presentation]. Association of Behavior Analysis International, Chicago, IL.

Kirkpatrick, M., Rehfeld, D. M., Akers, J. S., Rivera, G., & Sulak, T. N. (2019, March). *Evaluating the effects of behavioral skills training with pre-service teachers* [Poster presentation]. Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, Fort Worth, TX

**Akers, J. S.**, & Davis, T. N. (2019, February). *Decreasing stereotypy in children with autism: A systematic review* [Poster presentation]. California Association of Behavior Analysis, Long Beach, CA.

Canestaro, V. & **Akers, J. S.** (2018, March). *An evaluation of interventions targeting reciprocal conversations for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A review of the literature* [Poster presentation]. Texas Association for Behavior Analysis, Houston, TX.

**Akers, J. S.**, Fisher, W. W., Kaminski, A. K., De Souza, A., & Retlaff, B. J. (2017, January). *An evaluation of conditional manding using a four-component multiple schedule* [Poster presentation]. Association for Behavior Analysis International Autism Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Brodhead, M, Higbee, T. S., Pollard, J., & **Akers, J. S.** (2012, June) *The use of activity schedules to promote social and on-task behaviors in children with autism during a game of hide and seek* [Poster presentation]. Utah Association of Behavior Analysis, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.** & Adams, A. (2012, February). *Using script-fading to increase play-based language between children with autism and their typically developing siblings* [Poster presentation]. California Association of Behavior Analysis, Garden Grove, CA.

**Akers, J. S.** & Adams, A. (2011, May). *Using script-fading to increase play-based language between children with autism and their typically developing siblings* [Poster presentation]. Association of Behavior Analysis, Seattle, WA.

**Akers, J. S.** & Adams, A. (2011, November). *Using script-fading to increase play-based language between children with autism and their typically developing siblings* [Poster presentation]. Nevada Association of Behavior Analysis, Reno, NV.

**Teaching**

**Baylor University**

*Advanced Concepts in Applied Behavior Analysis* (EDP 6355)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Spring 2021

Description of Course: This is a doctoral level course in the ABA sequence. This course covers the seminal behavioral literature related to the principles of behavior analysis.

*Concepts and Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis* (EDP 5302)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Summer 2020, Summer 2021

Description of Course: This is a master’s level course in the ABA sequence. This course focuses on the principles of behavior analysis. This course is required for students seeking certification from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

*Ethics* (EDP 5354)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Summer 2020, Summer 2021

Description of Course: This is a master’s level course in the ABA course sequence. This course focuses on ethical and professional conduct in the field of behavior analysis. This course is required for students seeking certification from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

*Philosophy in Applied Behavior Analysis* (EDP 5301)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Spring 2020, Spring 2021

Description of Course: This is a master’s level course in the ABA sequence. This course focuses on the philosophical foundations of behavior analysis. This course is required for students seeking certification from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

*Verbal Behavior* (EDP 6363)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Spring 2020

Description of Course: This is a doctoral level course in the ABA sequence. This course covers the seminal behavioral literature related to human language.

*Teaching Individuals with Autism and Developmental Disabilities* (EDP 5358)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021

Description of Course: This is a master’s level course in the ABA sequence. This course focuses on evidence-based teaching strategies within the field of behavior analysis. This course is required for students seeking certification from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

*Practicum in Applied Behavior Analysis* (EDP 5V98)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2021

Description of Course: This is a master’s level course in the ABA sequence. This course provides students with in-vivo experiential training to prepare them for employment. Students receive supervision required for students seeking certification from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

*Advanced Single-Case Research* (EDP 6354)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Spring 2018, Spring 2022

Description of Course: This is a doctoral level course in the ABA sequence. This course prepares students to conduct single case research using advanced methodology and designs.

*Developmental Disabilities* (EDP 3361)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Spring 2018

Description of Course: This is an undergraduate course in the special education sequence. This course provides a holistic view of the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

*Ethics* (EDP 5V95)

Role: Instructor of Record

Semester: Fall 2017, Fall 2018

Description of Course: This is a master’s level course in the ABA course sequence. This course focuses on ethical and professional conduct in the field of behavior analysis. This course is required for students seeking certification from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

**Utah State University**

*Applied Behavior Analysis 1: Principles, Assessment, and Analysis* (SPED 5010)

Role: Instructor of Record (2013), Teaching Assistant (2011)

Instructional format: Synchronous, distance education

Semester: Fall 2013, Fall 2011

Description of Course: This is an undergraduate course for students accepted into the special education program. In this course, students learn to collect data, make data-based decisions, analyze data, and apply principles of behavior management and instruction with children with disabilities.

*Practicum: Working with Young Children with Autism* (SPED 5840)

Role: Instructor of record

Semester: Spring 2013

Description of Course: This is an undergraduate practicum course designed to provide students with the opportunity to practice ABA strategies with children with autism.

*Educational Applications of Behavior Analysis I* (SPED 6720)

Role: Teaching assistant

Instructional format: Synchronous, distance education

Semester: Fall 2012

Description of Course: This is a master’s level course in the ABA course sequence. This course is designed to expand student’s understanding and application of behavior analysis.

*Concepts and Principles of Behavior Analysis in Education* (SPED 6710)

Role: Teaching assistant

Instructional format: synchronous, distance education

Semester: Spring 2012

Description of Course: This is a master’s level course in the ABA course sequence. This course is designed to expand the student’s understanding of the theoretical and conceptual framework and experimental research of behavior analysis.

**Invited Guest Lectures**

Bagby, J., **Akers, J. S.,** & O’Guinn, K. N. (2019). *Supporting graduate students and adjunct instructors.* Seminar for Excellence in Teaching, Baylor University, Waco, TX.

**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.** (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.* Guest lecture 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.

**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.

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.

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.

**Grants**

**Grant Applications**

**Funded Grants**

***Externally Funded***

Self-Instructed Video Activity Schedules to Support Academic Learning for Students with ASD During Small Group Activities

Principal Investigator: Marie Kirkpatrick

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Jessica Akers

Competition: Graduate Research Grant Competition

Funding Organization: Organization for Autism Research

Budget: $1,730

Caregiver coaching project: Providing support for parents of children with ASD in Texas

Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephanie Gerow

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Tonya Davis

Key Personnel: Dr. Akers

Competition: Autism Grant Program, Parent-Directed Treatment

Funding Organization: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Budget: $369,699

Autism Grant Program - Parent-Directed Treatment

Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephanie Gerow

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Tonya Davis

Key Personnel: Drs. Jessica Akers and Kristen Padilla-Mainor

Competition: Autism Grant Program, Parent-Directed Treatment

Funding Organization: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Budget: $278,456

Parent training via tele-health technology for families of children with ASD in rural areas

Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephanie Gerow

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Tonya Davis

Key Personnel: Drs. Jessica Akers and Kristen Padilla-Mainor

Competition: Autism Grant Program, Parent-Directed Treatment

Funding Organization: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Budget: $212,409

***Internally Funded***

Developing Practical Treatments for Challenging Behavior Among Children with Autism Principal Investigator: Dr. Jessica Akers

Co-principal Investigator: Dr. Tonya Davis

Competition: Mid-range Grant Program

Funding Organization: Baylor University Research Committee

Budget: $7,500

Developing Best Practices for Supervising Pre-Service Behavior Analyst Field Experiences

Principal Investigator: Dr. Tonya Davis

Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Jessica Akers

Competition: Teaching Exploration Grant

Funding Organization: Baylor University Academy for Teaching and Learning

Budget: $7,000

A further evaluation of increasing sharing in children with autism spectrum disorder using programed discriminative stimuli

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jessica Akers

Funding Organization: School of Education, Baylor University.

Competition: Summer Sabbatical

A further evaluation of establishing discriminative control over response variability in young children with autism

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jessica Akers

Funding Organization: School of Education, Baylor University.

Competition: Summer Sabbatical

***Contracts***

EOAC & BU Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Program & School Psychology Partnership Grant

Principal Investigator: Dr. Kristen Padilla-Mainor

Co-Principal Investigators: Drs. Jessica Akers and Julie Ivey

Funding Organization: Equal Opportunities Advancement Corp

Funding Dates: Summer 2020-Summer 2021

Budget: $59,999

Applied Behavior Analysis & School Psychology Graduate Program

Principal Investigator: Dr. Kristen Padilla-Mainor

Co-Principal Investigators: Drs. Jessica Akers, Stephanie Gerow and Eric Robinson

Funding Organization: Waco Independent School District

Funding Dates: Summer 2020-Summer 2021

Budget: $73,408

Midway Independent School District and Baylor University Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Program Partnership Grant

Principal Investigator: Dr. Kristen Padilla-Mainor

Co-Principal Investigators: Drs. Jessica Akers and Stephanie Gerow

Funding Organization: Midway Independent School District

Funding Dates: Summer 2018-Summer 2019

Budget: $36,587

Waco Independent School District and Baylor University Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Program Partnership Grant

Principal Investigator: Dr. Kristen Padilla-Mainor

Co-Principal Investigators: Drs. Jessica Akers and Stephanie Gerow

Funding Organization: Waco Independent School District

Funding Dates: Summer 2018-Summer 2019

Budget: $36,587

**Grant Applications – Not Funded**

Improving Feasibility of Challenging Behavior Treatment

Principal Investigator: Davis, T.N.

Co-principal Investigator: Akers, J. S.

Competition: Applied Research Competition

Funding Organization: Organization for Autism Research

Budget: $40,000

Evaluating the Use of Tele-Health Technology to Improve Young Children’s Access to Effective Problem Behavior Interventions.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Stephanie Gerow

Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Jessica Akers,

Funding Organization: Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood

Budget: $45,000 for 1 year

Central Texas Autism Training

Principal Investigator: Dr. Tracey Sulak

Co-Principal Investigators: Drs. Jessica Akers, Stephanie Gerow and Kristen Padilla-Mainor

Competition: 2018-2019 Services to Students with Autism

Funding Organization: Texas Education Agency

Budget: $1,000,000 over 2 years

Role: Assisted with development of the innovative early intervention plan and the writing of the grant application.

**Professional Development**

Academic Analytics Presentation: Faculty Insight & Faculty Expertise Portal. Office of the Provost, Baylor University. Waco, TX. October 6, 2020.

Single-Case Intervention Research Design and Analysis Summer Training Institute. National Center for Special Education Research, U.S. Department of Education. Madison, WI. June 18-22, 2019.

Planning and Writing Successful STEM Proposals Seminar. Office of the Vice Provost for Research, Baylor University. Waco, TX. January 10, 2019.

OSP 101: A Researcher’s Guide to Grants Management. Office of Research Advancement and Research Compliance. Waco, TX. October 4, 2018.

Planning and Writing Successful NIH K Award Applications Seminar. Office of the Vice Provost for Research, Baylor University. Waco, TX. January 5, 2018.

Planning and Writing Successful Proposals Seminar. Office of the Vice Provost for Research, Baylor University. Waco, TX. January 4, 2018.

**Awards and Honors**

Fall 2018 Proposal Development Award, Office of Research Advancement, Baylor University.

Fall 2018 Rising Stars Program, Office of Research Advancement, Baylor University.

**Service**

**Service to the Profession**

Guest Reviewer

Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis

Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders

Behavior Analysis in Practice

Behavior Modification

Journal of Behavioral Education

Behavioral Development

The Analysis of Verbal Behavior

Developmental Neurorehabilitation

**Service to the Educational Psychology Department**

Ph.D. Program Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee, Baylor University. Fall 2019-Fall 2020

Role: Attended all meetings. Aided in the resynchronization of the course sequence for Ph.D. program. Assisted in the development of new preliminary exam procedures.

ABA Practicum Coordinator, Baylor University. Summer 2019-present.

Role: Revised ABA practicum handbook. Create or revamp practicum syllabi at all six levels. Organize and oversee all practicum related documentation.

ABA Faculty Member. Department of Educational Psychology, Baylor University. Fall 2017-present.

Role: Attended all ABA faculty meeting. Aided in the resynchronization of the course sequence with the certification task list. Assisted in the development of new doctoral courses for the ABA specialization.

Informational Sessions for Students Interested in the ABA Specialization. Educational Psychology Department, Baylor University. Fall 2017-present.

Role: Attended sessions.

Educational Psychology Department Meetings, Educational Psychology Department, Baylor University. Fall 2017-present.

Role: Attended all meetings.

**Service to the School of Education**

Baylor Clinic for Assessment, Research and Evaluation (CARE) Coordinator, Baylor Center for Developmental Disabilities (BCDD), Baylor University. Fall 2021-present.

Role: Coordinated service delivery for children with developmental disabilities.

Professional Education Faculty (PEF) Member. School of Education, Baylor University. Fall 2017-present.

Role: Attended all meetings.

School of Education Faculty Meetings. School of Education, Baylor University. Fall 2017-present.

Role: Attended all meetings.

**Service to the University**

Commencement Committee Member. Fall 2020-Spring 2022.

**Service to the Student**

***Judge for Baylor Annual Graduate Research Showcase***

Fall 2019

I was invited to serve as a judge for posters which presented the research of Baylor graduate students for multiple disciplines.

***Master’s Thesis Committee Chair***

Canestaro, V. (2019). Teaching children with autism spectrum disorder to engage in reciprocal conversations using text-message prompting. Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Swennson, R. (In progress). Teaching Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to Mand for Answers to Questions via Telehealth: A Caregiver Implementation. Baylor University, Waco, TX.

***Doctoral Dissertation Committee Chair***

Padilla-Mainor, K. (2020). Content Validity Evidence for the Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program. Baylor University, Waco, TX.

Kirkpatrick, M. (2021). Video Activity Schedules to Support Academic Learning for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Baylor University, Waco, TX.

O’Guinn, N. (In progress). Teaching Social Leisure Skills to Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Baylor University, Waco, TX.

***Meeting with Students***

ABA Research Meetings. ABA Faculty, Baylor University. Fall 2017-Present.

Description: The ABA Faculty mentored ten graduate students in conducting their own student-led research during these meetings.

Role: Dr. Tonya Davis, Dr. Stephanie Gerow, and I organized these weekly research meetings. During the meetings, I provided mentorship and guidance to students leading research.

***Journal Reading Group for ABA Graduate Students***

Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis reading group. Baylor University. Summer 2018-present.

Description: According to the publication cycle of the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, this group meets to discuss the articles, which represent the most up to date research within the field of ABA. Each member is assigned 2-3 articles to read and present to the group. During the meeting, each member presents their assigned articles and the group discusses possible research projects.

Role: I organized these meetings to promote consumption of research in the field of ABA and discussion of future research projects. Faculty and graduate students participate in the meetings.

**Service to the Community**

***Committee Service***

EOAC Head Start Advisory Committee. Fall 2018-present.

Description: Collaborate with EOAC Head Start administrators in an advisory capacity to help improve Head Start’s early learning outcomes for young children and approaches to school readiness.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Padilla-Mainor, K. (2018). *Autism and Challenging Behavior: Transferable Teaching Approaches.* Presentation for EOAC Head Start, Waco, TX.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Pellegrino, A. J. (2015). *Discrete Trial Instruction and Challenging Behavior.* Presentation for school district training, West Valley, UT.

**Akers, J. S.** (2014). *Preparing for the Holidays.* Presentation for ASSERT parent training, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Reinert, K. (2014). *Using activity schedules to promote independence in early learners.* Presentation for ASSERT parent training, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Gerencser, K. R. (2014). *Discrete Trial Instruction and Challenging Behavior.* Presentation for school district training, West Valley, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** Pellegrino, A. J., & Higbee, T. S. (2014). *Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP).* Presentation for URLEND, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Reinert, K. (2013). *Preparing for the Holidays.* Presentation for ASSERT parent training, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** Gerencser, K. R. & Higbee, T. S. (2013). *Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP).* Presentation for URLEND, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Contreras, B. (2013). *Promoting Play and Language in Young Children with Autism.* Presentation for ASSERT parent training, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.** (2013). *Discrete Trial Instruction and Challenging Behavior.* Presentation for school district training, West Valley, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Nix, L. (2012). *Preparing for the Holidays.* Presentation for ASSERT parent training, Logan, UT.

Brodhead, M., & **Akers, J. S.** (2012). *Discrete Trial Instruction and Challenging Behavior.* Presentation for school district training, West Valley, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** Gerencser, K. R. & Higbee, T. S. (2012). *Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP).* Presentation for URLEND, Logan, UT.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Gerencser, K. R. (2012). *Challenging Behavior.* Presentation for ASSERT parent training, Logan, UT.

**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.

**Akers, J. S.,** & Brodhead, M. (2011). *Preparing for the Holidays.* Presentation for ASSERT parent training, Logan, UT.

**Professional Memberships:**

Association of Behavior Analysis (ABAI)

Texas Association of Behavior Analysis (TxABA)