

Juli Meagan (Dolezal) Sams

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Education

University of Tennessee
August, 2012

Doctorate Degree, Child and Family Studies
Dissertation Title: *Expanded Parenting: Fathers' and Mothers' Experiences of Parenting Young Children with Disabilities*

University of Tennessee
August, 2006

Master's Degree, Child and Family Studies
Thesis Title: *Early Literacy and Children with Special Needs: An Examination of Resources in the Home Environment*

University of Tennessee
May, 2004

Bachelor's Degree, Audiology and Speech Pathology

Walters State Community College
May, 2002

Associates Degree, General

Teaching Experience

2011-Present

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Community Outreach Practicum Coordinator & Lecturer

Human Development (CFS 210)

Reviews development from conception to death in various ecological contexts

Development in Infancy and Early Childhood (CFS 211)

Incorporates development from conception to middle childhood in various ecological contexts

Development in Adolescence and Adulthood (CFS 213)

Incorporates development from adolescence to death in various ecological contexts

Family Interaction (CFS 320)

Involves discussion of parenting frameworks and theories from a variety of backgrounds

Family Stress (CFS 360)

Discusses the impact of stress on families in multiple situations

Diversity Among Children and Families (CFS 385)

Covers the multiple areas of diversity within family systems and broader culture

Family Life and Parent Education (CFS 440)

Encompasses both information regarding the field of family life and parent education and parenting at each stage of development

Community Outreach Practicum Placement (CFS 480)

Involves coordination of graduating seniors placed at local community agencies that serve children and families in the local area

Special Topics: Children and Families with Special Needs (CFS 485)

Explores the experiences of children with special needs and their families from conception through emerging adulthood.

Families of Young Children with Disabilities (CFS 530)

Integrates legal, professional, educational, and personal experiences of children with disabilities

Selected Professional/Applied Experience

May 2014 to Present

UTK Department of Child and Family Studies, Knoxville, TN

Community Outreach Practicum Coordinator

Coordinate the capstone experience of graduating Community Outreach students by investing in their experiences

Establish and maintain relationships with children and family service agencies serving the local community

Develop, implement, and refine policies related to the practicum process

February 2011 to April 2014

Knoxville Center for Autism, Knoxville, TN

Parent Educator/Interventionist

Provided applied behavior analysis techniques for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders ranging in ages 3 to 12, in both one-on-one and social skills settings

Created and managed therapeutic programs for children receiving ABA services

Developed and implemented parent ed curriculum for families of children with special needs

Met with parents weekly to discuss goals, progress, and data related to ABA services

Identified local resources that benefit and empower parents to identify resources on their own

February 2007 to June 2010

Tennessee Early Intervention System, Murfreesboro and Knoxville, TN

Early Intervention Teacher

Planned and implemented lessons in a home setting with the intention to promote development in areas of delay

Instructed parents on strategies and information on children's development and the transition of their young children with special needs into the school system

Became increasingly educated on a variety of delays, assessment tools and intervention strategies for children with special needs

Selected Research Experience

August 2011-June 2012

Principal Investigator, Parenting Young Children with Special Needs Research Project

- Develop and manage all aspects of research project from development of procedures to analysis
- Collaborate with research and recruitment teams associated with the project
- Conduct interviews with mothers and fathers of young children with special needs

August 2010-July 2012

Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Vey Nordquist

- Direct or assist in prep of papers and presentations
- Responsible for marketing of doctoral program
- Maintain activities associated with various projects related to early intervention and fathers

September 2006-June 2010

Data Collector-Independent Contractor, Social Work Office of Research and Public Service

- Involved in reliability study for an instrument examining childcare quality in family- group homes, childcare centers, and afterschool care
- Assessed preschool children with the Peabody Picture-Vocabulary Test and Woodcock-Johnson Test of Achievement
- Participated in reliability research for an instrument measuring caregiver-child interaction and an evaluation of the environment

August 2006-April 2008

Research Associate, Pathways Research Project

- Researched and organized grant funding resources for future research projects
- Conducted focused review of literature for papers, presentations and projects
- Maintained activities with ongoing project evaluating on of the state's early intervention system

Manuscripts

Henke, T., **Sams, J.M.**, Rimmasch, E. & Campbell, N. (submitted). Fathers and mothers of young children with disabilities coping with stress: A theoretical thematic analysis.

Sams, J.M. & Henke, T. (in process). Fathers parenting of young children with special needs.

Bluth, K., Roberson, P.N.E., Billen, R.M., & **Sams, J.M.*** (2013). A stress model for parents of children with autism spectrum disorders and the introduction of a mindfulness intervention. *Journal of Family Theory and Review*, 5, 194-213.

*all authors contributed equally to this manuscript

Sams, J.M. (2012). *Expanded parenting: Fathers' and mothers' experiences parenting young children with disabilities*. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tn.

Stolz, H. E., Henke, T. M., Brandon, D. J., & **Sams, J.** (2010). Professional development for parenting educators: Assessing availability, demand, and value. *Journal of Extension*, 48, Article 6FEA5. Available at: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2010december/a5.php>

Dolezal-Sams, J.M., Nordquist, V.M., & Twardosz, S. (2009). Home Environment and Family Resources to Support Literacy Interaction: Examples from Families of Children with Disabilities. *Early Education and Development*, 20, 603-630.

Dolezal, J. M. (2006). Early literacy and children with special needs: An examination of resources in the home environment. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Selected Paper Presentations

Henke, T.M., **Sams, J.M.**, Rimmasch, E. & Campbell, N. (2018, June). *Fathers and mothers of young children with disabilities: A theoretical thematic analysis of stress, appraisal, and coping*. Presented at National Research Conference on Early Childhood, Arlington, Virginia.

Billen, R.M., **Sams, J.M.**, & Nordquist, V.M. (2012, February). *Same (but different): A grounded theory of parenting young children with special needs*. Presented at roundtable, Quint State, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Sams, J.M. & Jung, M. (2011, November). *The cost of being different: Low-income and children with special needs*. Presented at roundtable, National Council on Family Relations, Orlando, Florida.

Sams, J.M., Billen, R.B., & Nordquist, V.M. (2011, October). *Some effects of a statewide family-centred service delivery system on parenting beliefs and practices in families of young children with disabilities*. Presented at Catholic University of Milan workshop, Milan, Italy.

Henke, T. M., **Sams, J.,M.**, Stolz, H.E., & Brandon, D. J. (2010, February). *Professional development for parenting educators: Assessing availability, demand, and value*. Poster presentation at the University of North Texas 18th Annual Conference on Parent Education, Denton, TX.

Field Activity

UTK CEHHS Tech Committee (2/17-2/18)

UTK CEHHS Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee (8/16-present)

UTK CFS Undergraduate Committee (8/15-present)

Autism Site Knoxville, Advisory Team Member (8/15-present)

Faculty mentor, UTK College Scholars Program undergraduate student; CFS graduate students

Journal of Family Theory and Review, Guest Reviewer

Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs, Guest Reviewer

New Faculty Training Institute (8/15)

Summer Accessibility Program (6/16)

Interim UTK Undergraduate Council, General Education sub-committee (8/16-12/16)

Research Interests

Children with special needs, parenting, role of the father, early literacy, family dynamics in the home environment, stress in families, language development, and environmental organization