

# 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**

2021-Present Clinical Assistant Professor & Community Outreach Practicum Coordinator  
Child & Family Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
2020-2021 Senior Lecturer & Community Outreach Practicum Coordinator  
Child & Family Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
2014-2020 Lecturer & Community Outreach Practicum Coordinator  
Child & Family Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
2012-2014 Adjunct Instructor  
Child & Family Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

### **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 (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 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 project evaluating on of the state's early intervention system

### **Manuscripts**

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

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**

**Sams, J. M.**, & Henke, T. M. (2019, March). *Intentional Parenting: Fathers' and Mothers' Experiences Parenting Young Children with Disabilities*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Baltimore, MD.

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.

### **Contributions to the Field**

Department/University

UTK Commission for Disability (8/20-present)

CFS ECE/SPED Search Committee (5/20-12/20)

UTK FUTURE Interview Member (4/20)

CFS Undergraduate SACS Coordinator (8/19-present)

CFS Senior Testing Coordinator (8/19-present)

UTK CEHHS Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee, member (8/16-5/20, 8/22-present)

UTK CFS Undergraduate Committee (8/15-5/19, 8/22-present)

CFS Advisor of undergraduate students (8/18-12/18)

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

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

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

SACS Faculty Assessor (9/20-12/20)

Community/Global

UT Extension, Guest Reviewer

*Journal of Family Theory and Review*, Guest Reviewer

*Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs*, Guest Reviewer

*International Journal of Educational Methodology*, Guest Reviewer

Autism Site Knoxville, Advisory Team Member (8/15-5/20)

Training

Stride Training (5/21)

Summer Accessibility Program (6/16)

New Faculty Teaching Institute (8/15)

### **Research Interests**

Children with special needs

Parenting

Role of the father

Early literacy

Family dynamics in the home environment

Stress in families

Language development