

## **CURRICULUM VITA**

Saratessa Palos, MA BCBA LBA

### **TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

My research centers on three main areas: (a) promoting school readiness in young children with disabilities through evidence-based interventions that support the development of learning-related social skills, (b) using precise behavioral measurement and educational data science to refine interventions and assess their broader impact, and (c) synthesizing evidence through systematic reviews and meta-analyses to guide practice and policy. My ultimate goal is to inform impactful, data-driven strategies for high-need students with disabilities.

### **EDUCATIONAL RECORD:**

2023- 2027

**Doctor of Philosophy (in progress), Special Education**

*University of Oregon, Eugene, OR*

2020-2022

**Master of Arts, Special Education**

*University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA*

MA and Mild/Moderate Education Specialist Instruction Credential

2020-2022

**Master of Arts, Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis**

*University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL*

Exceptional Student Education with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis

2018-2020

**Bachelor of Arts, Child Development**

*California State University, Sacramento, CA*

Individualized Bachelor's emphasis in Early Development Care and Education

2018-2020

**Graduate Certificate, Applied Behavior Analysis**

*Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL*

ABAI accredited Verified Course Sequence

2017-2018

**Associate of Arts, Social Science**

*American River College, Sacramento, CA*

### **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

February 2019 – January 2025

**Behavior Analyst** *Get Social Therapy, Rocklin, CA*

Supervises behavior specialists and maintains client programs.

Provides behavior analytic services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Provides didactic lecture-style parent training via telehealth.

July 2023, July 2024, July 2025

**Precision Teacher (Summer School)** *Morningside Academy, Seattle, WA*

Utilizes Standard Celeration Chart methodology to accurately measure and analyze student progress in various academic domains within a small group setting, facilitating data-driven decision-making for instructional interventions and curriculum adjustments.

Implements direct instruction methodologies effectively to deliver tailored lessons and activities, ensuring optimal learning outcomes for students at a lab school and demonstration site for educational research.

June 2024 – January 2025

**Research Associate** *Impact Solutions of Arkansas, Harrisburg, Ar (remote role)*

Design and implement quantitative assessments and instruments to measure outcomes for clients including municipalities, entrepreneurial support organizations, philanthropies, and nonprofits in education and community health.

Analyze existing data to support client projects.

Utilize advanced data visualization tools such as ESRI, Datawrapper, and Maptive to present research findings effectively.

Collaborate with clients and team members and clients via Zoom to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support.

July 2022 – June 2023

**Inclusion Coordinator** *St. Hope Public Schools, Sacramento, CA*

Supported IEP teams and supervised special education personnel.

Attended high-need IEP meetings as an LEA.

Arranged IEP team placements in alternative programs.

Implemented IDEA mandates within the educational program.

Attended SELPA meetings, ensured legal compliance and timely responses, and fulfilled additional duties assigned by the director.

August 2021 – June 2022

**Special Education Teacher** *Aldar Academy, Sacramento, CA*

Provided transition services and resources to students with IEPs.

Delivered direct instruction and academic support for students working toward a high school certificate of completion.

August 2020 – May 2021

**Education Specialist** *Brier Elementary School, Fremont, CA*

Supported students through co-teaching, small group, and individual instruction.  
Managed cases for students with IEPs while collaborating with families, teachers, and specialized service providers.  
Delivered meaningful interventions via an RSP/Learning center model, providing Tier 2, Tier 3, and behavioral support.  
Used multiple progress monitoring and evidence-based assessment procedures.

February 2018 – December 2019

**Behavior Specialist** *Center for Social Dynamics, Sacramento, CA*

Implemented behavior-analytic services, collected data, submitted supervision records, and attended monthly staff training.

Worked at the Center for Social Dynamics, an Applied Behavior Analysis program offering assessment, treatment, and support for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

March 2018 – September 2020

**Client Service Coordinator** *Saint John's Program for Real Change CCTRP, Sacramento, CA*

Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program, or CCTRP, is a nonprofit organization that provides support and housing for women exiting incarceration.

Maintained client files, processed trust withdrawals, administered medication to participants, and maintained proper documentation.

Worked for the Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program (CCTRP), a nonprofit supporting and housing women exiting incarceration.

August 2015 – August 2020

**Program Instructor** *The Arc of Placer County, Roseville, CA*

Instructed and implemented activities that encouraged independence and self-advocacy.

Wrote individual service plans, progress reports, and documented clients' daily activities while keeping current case notes.

Contributed to staff meetings, attended training sessions, and collaborated with clients and staff.

May 2014 – August 2015

**Behavior Therapist** *B.E.S.T. Consulting Inc., Sacramento, CA*

B.E.S.T. Consulting (Behavior Education Specialist Training) operates an in-home ABA program.

Participated in parent education meetings.

Developed individualized stimuli.

Recorded, graphed, and reported clinical data.

Worked for B.E.S.T. Consulting (Behavior Education Specialist Training), an in-home ABA program.

## **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **A. Publications**

Schmitt, S. A., Devlin, B.L., Geer, E., **Palos, S.**, Zehner, T., Serban-Dragan, F., Brown Campbell, K., Jiang, Y., Callendar, E., Wilke, E., & (2024). Executive function, math, and spatial skills in preschool Spanish-speaking English Learners and monolingual English speakers in a low-income sample. In Review.

Schmitt, S. A., Devlin, B.L., Geer, E., **Palos, S.**, Zehner, T., Serban-Dragan, F., Brown Campbell, K., Jiang, Y., Callendar, E., Wilke, E., & (2024). Bidirectional Associations Among Early Childhood Executive Function and Academics: Differences by Achievement Quantile. In Review.

## **B. Conference Presentations**

Means, S. (May, 2022). *Between a Rock and a Soft Place: Examining an Evidence-Based Parent Education Program for Cultural Relevance*. Poster presentation given at the Association of Applied Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), Boston, MA.

Palos, S. (May, 2023). *Using Video Self-Modeling as a Reading Intervention for Dual-Identified Learners*. Poster presentation given at the Association of Applied Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), Denver, CO.

Palos, S. (May, 2024). *Leveraging antecedents and consequences to boost reading fluency in dual-identified learners*. Poster presentation given at the Association of Applied Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), Philadelphia, PA.

## **C. Research Experience**

**2023- Present** Advanced Behavioral Analysis Research Group led by Dr. Wendy Machalicek.

Compiles literature review sections for research proposals, manuscripts, and grant applications.

Participates in a working group to revise grant applications.

Designs and executes research studies and protocols.

Transcribes and codes video data from ongoing studies.

**2023- Present** Early Childhood Education / Early Intervention Lab (Schmitt Lab) led by Dr. Sara Schmitt.

Contributes to the preparation of research manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Collaborates with team members to ensure accuracy and clarity in manuscript content.

Participates in research projects focused on families and children.

Transcribes and codes video data from ongoing NSF-funded studies.

**2018-2019** Research Assistant for Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) with the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Collected and entered BRFSS survey data into databases with meticulous attention to detail.

Implemented quality control measures to maintain data integrity and accuracy in the BRFSS dataset.

Conducted statistical analysis of BRFSS data using software such as SAS and SPSS to identify health behavior trends and correlations.

Contributed to writing reports and presentations summarizing key findings from BRFSS surveys for diverse stakeholders.

Provided research support by assisting in study design, hypothesis formulation, and literature reviews using BRFSS data.

Collaborated effectively with interdisciplinary teams and external stakeholders to facilitate communication and achieve research objectives related to the BRFSS.

## **AWARDS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **a. Awards**

**2023- Present** Ph.D. Funded through United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs Leadership Grant (H325D220071). Project INSPIRE: Investing in New SPecial educators with Innovations to Realize Equity

**2024** Lorry I. Lokey Science Award, University of Oregon,  
University of Oregon, Department of Special Education and Clinical Sciences  
Selected for this prestigious award, funded by a generous donation from Mr. Lorry I. Lokey to recognize excellent graduate students in science fields. Allocated annually by the UO Division of Graduate Studies. Year Awarded: [2024].

### **b. University Participation**

**Doctoral Student Representative September 2024 - Present** University of Oregon

Doctoral student representative for the ABA Master's program

Attend and actively participate in new student orientation as well as monthly program meetings.

Lead group advising sessions with current master's students.

Assist in efforts to revise curriculum and develop data systems for ongoing program evaluation.

Supporting research projects to evaluate teaching procedures within the Master's program

**Co-Director of Nontraditional Student Union September 2024 - Present** University of Oregon

Responsible for keeping up with ASUO business, planning and initiating events, purchasing materials and managing NSU budget.

Hold office hours weekly for NSU members.  
Create goals to improve the NSU for the academic year.

**Participation in Mobility International USA (MIUSA) events** University of Oregon,  
Accessible Education Center

Participated as a panelist for the Vietnam study and Bahrain study, spoke to delegates about special education policy, support, and services in the United States from the perspective of a clinician, educator, and disabled adult.

**c. Professional Service**

**Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee July 2024 - Present** *Standard Celeration Society*

Volunteer role involving the review and scoring of scholarship applications to promote equitable access to the annual conference for the Standard Celeration Society. Participate in planning meetings to support the committee's initiatives aimed at fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Society and its programs. Contribute insights to improve scholarship processes and create inclusive opportunities for underrepresented groups.

**d. Volunteer Experiences**

**Lead Illustrator August 2022 - August 2024** *ELLA! Entre Las Latina's de ABA*

Attend monthly professional learning community meetings.

Develops infographic displays and slides for mutual use of dissemination by members of the professional learning community.

**Reading Tutor January 2023 – May 2023** *St. HOPE Public School 7, Oak Park, CA*

Provided Orton-Gillingham aligned reading interventions in 1:1 or group settings

**Reading Tutor August 2020 – August 2022** *St. Elizabeth School, Mother Pia Special Needs Program, Oakland, CA*

Provided Orton-Gillingham aligned reading interventions in 1:1 or group settings

**Reading Tutor February 2018 – August 2020** *Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, Sacramento, CA*

Provided Orton-Gillingham aligned reading interventions in 1:1 or group settings

**e. Professional Development**

Morningside Teachers Academy. (2022). Training and Practicum in the Morningside Model of Generative Instruction. Workshop conducted at Morningside Summer Institute, Seattle, WA.

Collins, L. M., & Guastaferro, K. (2024). The Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST) from a Conceptual Perspective. Coursera. Retrieved from <https://www.coursera.org/learn/most-conceptual-perspective>

Data Science for Dynamic Intervention Decision Making Center. (2024). D3C Online training modules: Introduction to Adaptive Interventions; Introduction to Sequential, Multiple Assignment Randomized Trial Designs (SMARTs); SMART Case Studies; Intervention Analyses using SMART Data, Part I: Main Effects; Intervention Analyses using SMART Data, Part II: Comparing Adaptive Interventions; Pilot Studies in Adaptive Intervention Research; Intervention Analyses Using SMART Data, Part III: Moderators & Tailoring Variables; Repeated Outcome Measures in SMARTs; Clustered SMARTs; Beyond SMARTs. Retrieved from <https://d3c.isr.umich.edu/online-courses/>

Disability Rights Oregon (2024). Partners in Policymaking Leadership Series. Portland Oregon. A leadership training program designed to equip family members of children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities with skills in advocacy, policymaking, and systems change. Completed intensive training on disability history, inclusive education, person-centered planning, community organizing, and the legislative process. Developed and implemented a Personal Advocacy Project, engaging with policymakers to improve services and supports for people with disabilities. Gained practical experience in advocating for inclusive policies and systems, strengthening communication with legislators, and fostering community belonging for individuals with disabilities.

#### **f. Professional Memberships**

Standard Celeration Society (SCS)

Applied Behavior Analysis International (ABAI)

Global Implementation Society (GIS)

Society for Implementation Research Collaboration (SIRC)

#### **g. Credentials Held**

Board Certified Behavior Analyst (Certification number 1-22-60541) July 2024 - July 2026

Mild/Moderate Education Specialist Preliminary Credential July 2022- July 2027

TESOL Certification, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages September 2020