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College of Education
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Education

Ph.D., University of California, Riverside, 2010
Education

Dissertation: Elementary School Education of Children with Characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders:
Predictors of the Student Teacher Relationship

M.S. California State University, Fullerton, 2005
Special Education

B.S. California State University, Fullerton, 2002
Psychology

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor, Department of Special Education, 2008-present
College of Education
CSU Fullerton

Graduate Student Researcher, 2007-2009
Graduate School of Education
University of California, Riverside

Special Education Teacher, 2004-2008
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District
Golden Elementary

Lecturer, Fall 2006
Department of Special Education
California State University, Fullerton

Special Education Teacher, 2002-2004
Fremont Unified School District
Maloney Elementary

Special Education Teacher, Summer 2003
Fullerton School District
Woodcrest Elementary

Credentials

Education Specialist, 2005

Faculty and Administrative Load

Fall 2012	SPED 496	Senior Educational Practicum	(3)
Fall 2012	SPED 463	Characteristics of Mild/Moderate Disabilities	(3)
Fall 2012	SPED 463	Characteristics of Mild/Moderate Disabilities	(3)
Fall 2012	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Fall 2012	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Fall 2012	SPED 599	Independent Graduate Research	
Summer 2012	SPED 371	The Exceptional Individual	(3)
Spring 2012	SPED 463	Characteristics of Mild/Moderate Disabilities	(3)
Spring 2012	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Spring 2012	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Spring 2012	SPED 496	SPED 496 Senior Educational Practicum	(3)
Spring 2012	SPED 531	Advanced Seminar: Individuals with Moderate/Severe Disabilities	(3)
Spring 2012	SPED 599	Independent Graduate Research	
Fall 2011	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Fall 2011	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Fall 2011	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Fall 2011	SPED 496	Senior Educational Practicum	(3)
Spring 2011	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Spring 2011	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Spring 2011	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Spring 2011	SPED 496	Senior Educational Practicum	(3)
Fall 2010	SPED 463	Characteristics of Mild/Moderate Disabilities	(3)
Fall 2010	SPED 496	Senior Educational Practicum	(3)
Fall 2010	SPED 502	Teaching Students with Autism	(3)
Fall 2010	SPED 599	Independent Graduate Research	
Summer 2010	SPED 401	Introduction to Autism	(3)
Spring 2010	SPED 401	Introduction to Autism	(3)
Spring 2010	SPED 482b	Curriculum and Methods for Students with Moderate/Severe Disabilities	(3)
Spring 2010	SPED 496	Senior Educational Practicum	(3)
Fall 2009	SPED 463	Characteristics of Mild/Moderate Disabilities	(3)
Fall 2009	SPED 482b	Curriculum and Methods for Students with Moderate/Severe Disabilities	(3)
Fall 2009	SPED 496	Senior Educational Practicum	(3)

Scholarly and Creative Activities

Refereed journal articles

Total: 4

Lauderdale, S., Howell, E., & Blacher, J. (in preparation). Educational placement for children with autism spectrum disorders: Social skills, behavior problems, and autistic characteristics as predictors.

Howell, E., & Rodriguez, T. (in preparation). Teacher perspectives on the effectiveness of social stories for students with autism spectrum disorder.

- Blacher, J., Laugeson, L., Howell, E., Lauderdale, S., & DiGennaro, F. (Rejected August 2012 from *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*. Under preparation to submit to *Teacher Education Special Education* October 2012). Student-teacher-relationships in non-public school settings for children with autism spectrum disorder.
- Howell, E., Lauderdale, S., & Blacher, J. (Submitted September 2012 to *Autism*). Family impact of children with high functioning autism and Asperger syndrome: Building a case for attention and intervention.
- Alehina, S.V., Cote, D., Howell, E., Jones, V., & Pierson, M.R. (submitted September 2012 to *The Review of Disability Studies- An International Journal*). Inclusive education in Russia: Issues and trends.
- Pierson, M., & Howell, E. (Submitted June 2012 to *International Journal of Special Education*). Two high schools and the road to full inclusion.
- Howell, E., & Pierson, M.R. (March, 2011). From seclusion to integration: One high school's journey. *Russian-American Education Forum: An Online Journal*, 3(1).
- Robinson, R., Howell, E., & Karge, B. (Summer, 2010). Training veteran teachers for the new autism authorization. *California Teachers Corps Quarterly Report*.
- Blacher, J., Kraemer, B.R., & Howell, E.J. (March, 2010). Syndrome specificity in young adults with intellectual disability: Relationship to transition outcomes and family experiences. *Advances in Mental Health and Learning Disabilities*, 4, 3-16.
- Howell, E.J., & Pierson, M.R. (April-June, 2010). Parents' perspectives on the participation of their children with autism in Sunday school. *Journal of Religion and Disability*, 14, 153-166.
- Pierson, M.R., & Howell, E.J. (2006). Pre-service teachers' perceptions of inclusion. *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, 103(3), 169-173.

Book Chapters

Total: 2

- Howell, E. (In Press). Teacher perceptions and efficacy ratings of comic strip conversations for students with autism spectrum disorder. In Basinska, A., Krauze-Sikorska, H., Klichowski, M., & Kuszak, K. (Eds.), *A Child's World. Development-Education-Therapy*. Poznan: Wydawnictwo UAM.
- Schenkoske, L.J., & Howell, E. (In Press). Self management of problem behaviors for students with autism spectrum disorders. In Basinska, A., Krauze-Sikorska, H., Klichowski, M., & Kuszak, K. (Eds.), *A Child's World. Development-Education-Therapy*. Poznan: Wydawnictwo UAM.

Peer reviewed presentations at international and national conferences

Total: 21

- Howell, E., & Lauderdale, S. (submitted). *Building a Case for Attention and Intervention: High Functioning Autism and the Family*. Paper submitted to Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo: San Antonio, Texas.
- Pierson, M., & Howell, E. (2013, January). *Peer Perceptions of Social Skills in Friendship Building: Implications for Students with Disabilities Across Grade Level*. Paper presented at the meeting of the 14th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disabilities & Other Developmental Disabilities (Council for Exceptional Children- Division of Developmental Disabilities): Kona, HI.

- Howell, E., Lauderdale, S., & Blacher, J. (2013, January). *Determining educational placement for students with ASD: The impact of behavior problems and social skills*. Paper presented at the meeting of the 14th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disabilities & Other Developmental Disabilities (Council for Exceptional Children- Division of Developmental Disabilities): Kona, HI.
- Howell, E., & Rodriguez, T. (2012, November). *Teacher use and efficacy ratings of social stories for students with autism*. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children-Teacher Education Division conference: Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Leger-Rodriguez, T., & Howell, E. (2012, November). *I hated high school: Bullying and autism*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of TASH: Long Beach, California.
- Howell, E.J. (2012, November). *Parent perspectives on the participation of their children in church communities*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of TASH: Long Beach, California.
- Howell, E., & Leger-Rodriguez, T. (2012, March). "My mom wants me to be normal." Voices from adults with high-functioning autism and Asperger syndrome. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities: Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Leger-Rodriguez, T., & Howell, E. (2012, March). *Preparing teachers as leaders: Working with paraprofessionals in special education*. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities: Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Howell, E., & Pierson, M.R. (2012, March). *Transitioning to a full inclusion model at the secondary level*. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities: Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Howell, E. (2012, March). *Setting up international partnerships: How to promote the needs of people with disabilities around the world*. Paper presented at the 28th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities: Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Howell, E., McClure, A., McClure, M., & McClure, A. (2011, October). *The importance of the student-teacher-relationship in inclusion-based education*. Kids Included Together National Conference on Inclusion: San Diego, California.
- Howell, E., & Pierson, M. (2011, April). *Faith Communities and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Paper presented at the 27th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities: Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Weiner, J., & Howell, E.J. (2010, December). *Research and practice of including individuals with disabilities in faith-based settings*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of TASH: Denver, Colorado.
- Lauderdale, S., Howell, E.J., Blacher, J., Laugeson, L. & DiGennaro, F. (2010, March). *Student-teacher relationships in children with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, and typical development*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Gatlinburg Conference on Research & Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Annapolis, MD.
*Stacy Lauderdale presented
- Howell, E.J. & Pierson, M.R. (January, 2010). *Religious education for children with autism spectrum disorder: Perspectives of families and religious leaders*. Poster session presented at the meeting of the 12th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disabilities & Other Developmental Disabilities (Council for Exceptional Children- Division of Developmental Disabilities): Maui, HI.
*Dr. Pierson presented
- Lauderdale, S., Howell, E.J., & Blacher, J. (2009, August). *Predictors of student teacher relationships in young children with autism spectrum disorder*. Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association Convention: Toronto, Canada.

- Howell, E.J., Kaladjian, A., & Blacher, J. (2009, March). *Social performance in children with autism: The relationship to child-teacher interactions*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gatlinburg Conference on Research & Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: New Orleans, LA.
- Lauderdale, S., Howell, E.J., & Kaladjian, A. (2009, March). *Children with autism in school: A new measure of parent perceptions*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Gatlinburg Conference on Research & Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: New Orleans, LA.
- Howell, E.J. & Pierson, M.R. (2008, October). *Autism and inclusive Sunday school practices: Family perspectives*. Poster session presented at the International Conference on Cognitive Disabilities/Mental Retardation, Autism, and Other Developmental Disabilities (CEC-DDD): San Diego, CA
- Blacher, J., & Howell, E.J. (2008, August). *Meeting the needs of families and children with high functioning autism and Asperger syndrome in schools: The importance of student-teacher interactions*. Paper presented at the 13th World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disability (IASSID): Capetown, South Africa.
*Dr. Jan Blacher Presented
- Pierson, M.R., Glaeser, B.C., & Howell, E.J. (2004, October). *Comic strip conversations and social stories: Positive behavioral support strategies*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division Developmental Disabilities: Las Vegas, Nevada.

Peer reviewed presentations at state and regional conferences

Total: 12

- Robinson, S., Howell, E., & Walker, A. (2011, April). *Evidence-based practices for learners with autism spectrum disorders*. Paper presented at the CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.
- Lauderdale, S., Howell, E., & Blacher, J. (2011, April). *Investigating high functioning autism and Asperger syndrome: Parent perspectives and family impact*. Paper presented at the CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.
- Weiner, J., & Howell, E. (2011, March). *Inclusion in faith-based communities*. Paper presented at the Cal-TASH Conference: Irvine, CA.
- Howell, E., McClure, A., McClure, M., & McClure, A. (2011, March). *The student-teacher-relationship for students with autistic-like characteristics: Research, parental, and student perspectives*. Paper presented at the Cal-TASH Conference: Irvine, CA.
- Robinson, R., & Howell, E. (2011, March). *Evidence-based practices in autism spectrum disorder*. Paper presented at the Cal-TASH Conference: Irvine, CA.
- Howell, E.J. (2010, April). *Structuring successful inclusion for individuals with autism in church settings*. Paper presented at the CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.
- Howell, E.J., Hutchinson, C., & Hutchinson, J. (2010, March). *Inclusion in faith-based communities: Research, implementation, and personal experience*. Paper presented at the Cal-TASH Conference: Burlingame, CA.
- Robinson, S., Howell, E.J., Cote, D., & Karge, B. (2010, March). *Autism Authorization*. Paper presented at the Cal-TASH Conference: Burlingame, CA.

Howell, E.J. (2008, May). *Social functioning for high-functioning autism and Asperger syndrome*. Paper presented at the CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.

Howell, E.J. (2008, March). *Comic strip conversations and social stories*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Association of Christian Special Educators: Azusa, CA.

Howell, E.J., & Pierson, M.R. (2008, March). *Sunday school inclusion*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Association of Christian Special Educators: Azusa, CA.

Pierson, M.R., & Howell, E.J., (2004, May). *Social skills and problem behaviors: Student differences in general and special education*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Learning Disabilities Association of Northern California State Conference: San Mateo, California.

Invited Presentations

Total: 5

Howell, E. (November, 2012). *Social communication and autism spectrum disorders*. Invited presentation for the Santa Ana Community College Road to Teaching Conference: Santa Ana, CA.

Howell, E. (November, 2011). *Teaching students with autism: What every teacher should know*. Invited presentation for the Santa Ana Community College Road to Teaching Conference: Santa Ana, CA.

Howell, E. (November, 2010). *Teaching students with autism: What every teacher should know*. Invited presentation for the Santa Ana Community College Road to Teaching Conference: Santa Ana, CA.

Howell, E.J. (January, 2010). Lecture Panel Member at the 4th Annual UC Conference for Research in Special Education, Disabilities, and Developmental Risk Conference (SPEDDR).

Howell, E.J. (November, 2009). *Teaching Students with Disabilities*. Invited presentation for the Santa Ana Community College: Road to Teaching Conference: Santa Ana, CA.

Pragmatic Publications

Total: 2

Blacher, J.B., & Howell, E.J. (2008). Becoming social: Interventions for youth who have high-functioning autism and Asperger syndrome. *Exceptional Parent*, 38, 56-57.

Blacher, J.B., & Howell, E.J. (2007). Unlocking the mysteries of social deficits in autism: Theory of mind as key. *Exceptional Parent*, 37(8), 96-97.

Funded Grants

Total: 3

2012: Faculty-Student Research and Creative Activities Grant: *Peer Assisted College Support (PACS)*. Principal Investigator: Dr. Erica Howell

2011: HPRI Mini-Grant Award: *Inclusion of Individuals with Disabilities in Church-Based Settings*. Principal Investigator: Dr. Erica Howell.

2011: CSUF Special Fund for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity mini-grant: *Post School Outcomes of Individuals with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome: Quality of Life, Reflections, and Recommendations*. Principal Investigator: Dr. Erica Howell.

Grants Applications Not-Funded

May, 2012: Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs grant application submitted, “Undergraduate Study Abroad in Education” (USA-ED), Principal Investigator: Dr. Melinda Pierson, Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Erica Howell.

August, 2011 Federal Funding Appropriations Request submitted, “Center for Autism/Asperger Research, Education, & Support” (CSUF CARES), Principal Investigator: Dr. Erica Howell, Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Suzanne Robinson.

October, 2010: University Missions and Goals Initiative proposal submitted, “CSU Fullerton’s Center for Autism/Asperger Research and Education”. Principal Investigator: Dr. Erica Howell, Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. Suzanne Robinson.

August, 2010: US Department of Education- Teacher Incentive Fund grant application submitted, “Teacher Excellence for Autism Mentoring” (TEAM), Principal Investigators: Dr. Belinda Karge, Dr. Frank Tocco, Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Debra Cote, Dr. Erica Howell, and Dr. Suzanne Robinson, CSU Fullerton.

SERVICE

Professional

2012: Journal of Christian Institute of Disability, Consulting Editor

2012: SAGE Open, Manuscript Reviewer

2012: Council for Exceptional Children-Teacher Education Division Conference Proposal Reviewer

2011: Journal of Intellectual Disability Research, Manuscript Reviewer

2011: Invited proposal reviewer for 2011 Council for Exceptional Children, Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities

2009: Journal of Intellectual Disability Research, Manuscript Reviewer

2003-2009: Academic Exchange Quarterly, Editorial Intern

University

2013: Co-Director, Cal State University Fullerton’s Center for Autism

2012: Director, Peer Assisted College Support (PACS) Program

2012: Autism Speaks U Student Club, Co-Advisor

2011-2012: Member, Autism/Developmental Disabilities Faculty Networking Group

2011-2012: Steering Committee Member, Health Promotion Research Institute

2011-2012: Faculty Member, Health Promotion Research Institute

2011: Presenter Facilitator at CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.

2011: Focus Group Session Leader at CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.

2011-2012: Committee Member, Disability Task Force

2009-2012: Member, Untenured Faculty and Lecturers Organization

2009-2012: Conference Planning Committee Member, CSU Fullerton Autism General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice

2010: Focus Group Session Leader at CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.

2010: Presenter Facilitator at CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.

2009: Presenter Facilitator at CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.

2009: Focus Group Session Leader at CSU Fullerton General/Special Education Collaborative: Autism, Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practice: Fullerton, CA.

College

2013: Education Core Leader, CSUF's Center for Autism

2012: Member, Scholarship Review Committee

2010: Speaker Facilitator, 7th Annual CSUF/Community Colleges Teacher, Educators, Partners and Collaborators Conference

Department

2012: Committee Member, Accreditation Workgroup

2011-2012: Committee Member, Graduate Program

2011-2012: Qualtrics Representative

2010: Faculty Representative, Irvine Campus Recruitment Fair

2009-2012: Credential Advisory Board Member

Community

Howell, E. (November, 2012). *Social strategies to encourage friendships for college-aged students with and without autism*. Invited Speaker to Autism Speaks U Student Chapter, California State University, Fullerton.

Howell, E. (November, 2012). *Bullying the student with autism: An ugly picture*. Invited Speaker to the Association of University Women Fullerton Branch.

2012: Presenter, Honor an Educator

2012: Provider, meals for people who are homeless at the El Dorado motel once a month

2012: Discussion Panel Speaker, Autism Speaks U CSU Fullerton Community Lecture

Howell, E. & Robinson, S. (November, 2012). *Social Facilitation Strategies to Enhance Peer Interaction for Children with Autism*. Invited Speaker to the Fall Education Series sponsored by CM School Supply.

Howell, E. (September, 2012). *Social Communication and Autism*. Invited speaker to the Fall Education Series sponsored by CM School Supply .

2011-2012: Sunday School Teacher/Volunteer, First Evangelical Free Church Fullerton

Howell, E. (May, 2011). *Parenting a child with disability: Tips for success*. Saddleback Church Community Forum on Disabilities: Irvine, CA.

2009-2010: UC Riverside Family Autism Resource center SEARCH Associate

2010: Inclusion Consultant to First Evangelical Free Church Fullerton, CA

Howell, E.J. (April, 2010). Whole-church inclusion training for children with disabilities. Invited Presentation for the Alliance Evangelical Church: Anaheim, CA.

Howell, E.J. (May, 2009). *Autism: What Next?* Lecture panel member for the Riverside Medical Clinic Foundation: Riverside, CA

Howell, E.J. (April, 2009). Invited lecture panel member for the World Autism Day Presentation for the Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled.

Howell, E.J. (September, 2008). *Autism: What Now?* Invited lecture panel member for the Riverside Medical Clinic Foundation: Riverside, CA

Howell, E.J. (June, 2008). *Social Functioning for High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome*. Invited Presentation for the Community Awareness for Special Kids Parent Task Force: Chino, CA.

2008: Royal Family Kids Camp Volunteer for children in foster care settings, San Marcos, CA

2007: World Relief Team Leader: Musanze District, Rwanda

2006: World Relief Volunteer: Musanze District, Rwanda,

Professional Associations and Development

TASH

Council for Exceptional Children

Council for Exceptional Children: Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities

Council for Exceptional Children: Teacher Education Division

Council for Exceptional Children: Division of International Special Education and Service

