

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Serra Acar, Ph.D.\***

Project Coordinator

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*\*US Citizen*

### **Education**

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|------|-------|--|
| 2013 | Ph.D. | Early Intervention Program, Special Education Department<br>University of Oregon   |
| 2010 | M.Ed. | Birth-Kindergarten: Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development<br>(BK:ISED), Department of Specialized Education<br>University of North Carolina at Greensboro |
| 2003 | B.A.  | Early Childhood Education Program, College of Education<br>Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey   |

### **Professional Experiences**

- |              |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|
| 2014-Present | Adjunct Instructor & Clinical<br>Supervisor                   | Portland State University                                      |
| 2014-Present | Project Coordinator   | The Research Institute, Western<br>Oregon University           |
| 2011-2013    | Graduate Research/Teaching<br>Assistant & Clinical Supervisor | University of Oregon   |
| 2008-2010    | Graduate Assistant  | University of North Carolina at<br>Greensboro                  |
| 2005-2008    | Volunteer Preschool Teacher                                   | American Turkish Association<br>Preschool Cary, North Carolina |
| 2006         | Volunteer Translator  | Tohum Autism Foundation, Istanbul,<br>Turkey                   |
| 2003-2005    | Preschool Teacher   | Joyful House, Istanbul, Turkey                                 |

### **Research Interests**

Culturally and linguistically responsive assessment, bilingualism and executive function, family-centered practices, and personnel preparation in early childhood special education.

### **Other Significant Activities**

2012-2013 Research Assistant, University of Oregon

- 1) Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Recommended Practices Revision Workgroup. Area: Assessment with Dr. Squires in University of Oregon
- 2) Transformation of early intervention master's program to an online format with Dr. Clifford in University of Oregon
- 3) Oregon Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Workgroup with Dr. Squires in University of Oregon. Reviewed tools: Kindergarten Readiness Assessment-Literacy (KRA-L), Qualls Early Learning Inventory (QELI), Early Development Instrument (EDI), and Social Skills Improvement System (SSIS) Rating Scales

### **Refereed Publications**

**Acar, S.** & Blasco, P. M. (2016). Guidelines for collaborating with interpreters in early intervention/early childhood special education. *Young Exceptional Children*, doi: 1096250616674516. (Online first).

Pretti-Frontczak, K., Harjulosa-Webb, S., Chin, M., Grisham-Brown, J., **Acar, S.**, Heo, K., Corby, M., Zeng, S. (2016). Three mistakes made worldwide in “getting children ready” for school. *Young Exceptional Children*, 19(1), 48-51.

Keilty, B., Blasco, P. M., & **Acar, S.** (2016). Re-Conceptualizing developmental areas of assessment for screening, eligibility determination and program planning in early intervention. *Journal of Intellectual Disability-Diagnosis and Treatment*, 3(4), 218-229.

**Acar, S.** & Akamoglu, Y. (2014). Practices for parent participation in early intervention/ early childhood special education. *International Journal of Early Childhood Special Education*, 6(1), 80-101.

**Acar, S.**, Hansen, S., Dolata, J., & Chen, C. (2014). An overview of developmental screening: Implications for practice. *Baskent University Journal of Education*, 1(1), 9-18.

### **Translations**

2015 English to Turkish Translation of “Preschool Motivation Questoinnaire-18” (Morgan, et al., 2015)

2015 English to Turkish Translation of “Essence Glossary” for B2KCoach.com

2014 English to Turkish Translation of “Assure Baby’s Physical Development” for Pathways Organization

### **Presentations at Professional Meetings: Refereed**

Bland, C. & **Acar, S.** (2017, October). Creating early literacy experiences: An interdisciplinary guide for parents and teachers. Poster session. Division for Early Childhood’s Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Portland, OR.

- Danaher, J., **Acar, S.**, & Deris, A. (2017, October). Ta-Da! Celebrating ECTA Center's DEC RP products. Marketplace poster session. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Portland, OR.
- Kemp, P., Beavers, E., **Acar, S.**, Guillen, C., Ruiz, A., Kasprzak, C., & Childress, D. (2017, October). aRPy Ambassadors: Reaching practitioners with the Recommended Practices. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Portland, OR.
- Blasco, P. M., Guy, S., Saxton, S., & **Acar, S.** (2017, October). Longitudinal study of executive function and low birth weight. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Portland, OR.
- Blanchard, S., Vinh, M. E., Cummings-Sangutei, K., Hurley, J., & **Acar, S.** (2017, October). Elevating cultural and linguistic diversity within collaborative assessment considerations for all families. Ignite session. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Portland, OR.
- Sandall, S. Banerjee, R., **Acar, S.**, & Long, T. (2017, July). Division for Early Childhood's Recommended Practices Inform Personnel Preparation. Poster session. Office of Special Education Programs Leadership Conference. Arlington, VA.
- Acar, S.** & Blasco, P. M. (2016, November). Enhancing executive function skills in young children. Poster session. National Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA.
- Acar, S.** & Blasco, P. M. (2016, October). Family-centered practices in single-case research design. Poster session. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Louisville, KY.
- Acar, S.** & Blasco, P. M. (2016, October). Activities and strategies: Strengthening executive function in young children. Marketplace poster session. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Louisville, KY.
- Bland, C. & **Acar, S.** (2016, October). Weaving the DEC Recommended Practices into professional preparation through reflective supervision. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Louisville, KY.
- Chai, Z., **Acar, S.**, & Chen, C. (2016, October). Making your way through graduate study: Advice for international doctoral students. Poster session. Division for Early Childhood's Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Louisville, KY.

Blasco, P. M., Guy, S., & **Acar, S.** (2016, October). Executive function in infants and toddlers born low birth weight and preterm. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Louisville, KY.

Blasco, M. P., Chopra, R., & **Acar, S.** (2016, August). Creating a path toward inclusion for early childhood educators. Presentation. Office of Special Education Programs Project Directors' Conference. Washington, DC.

**Acar, S.** & Blasco, P. M. (2016, February). Translation of developmental screening tools: A perspective of cultural and linguistic appropriateness. Poster session. Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention. San Diego, CA.

Blasco, P. M., Guy, S., & **Acar, S.** (2016, February). Project EF: Executive function in infants and toddlers born low birth weight (LBW) and preterm. Poster session. Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention. San Diego, CA.

**Acar, S.** & Blasco, P. M. (2015, December). Activities and strategies that support components of executive function. Poster session. Zero To Three's 30<sup>th</sup> National Training Institute. Seattle, WA.

Blasco, P. M., Guy, S., & **Acar, S.** (2015, December). Executive function in infants and toddlers born low birth (LBW) and preterm. Presentation. Zero To Three's 30<sup>th</sup> National Training Institute. Seattle, WA.

**Acar, S.** & Bland C. (2015, October). Doing what is right for preservice professionals. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Atlanta, GA.

Stanley, M. & **Acar, S.** (2015, October). Foundation funding to support project work with children and their families. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Atlanta, GA.

Ryerson, A. **Acar, S.**, & Brownell, C. (2015, October). Building meaningful relationship through family engagement. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Atlanta, GA.

Glaserapp, G., Stanley, M. & **Acar, S.** (2015, October). Quality rating improvement systems and inclusive practices: One state's approach. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Atlanta, GA.

Smith, J., Blasco, B., Squires, J., Keilty, B., Frantz, R., & **Acar, S.** (2015, October). Supporting early intervention for infants born early and their families. Panel presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. Atlanta, GA.

- Blasco, P., Ryan, C., & **Acar, S.** (2015, June). Understanding the needs of underrepresented students in a blended program. Presentation. National Association for the Education of Young Children's National Institute for Early Childhood Professionals. New Orleans, LA.
- Acar, S.** (2014, October). Effective data sharing practices with families. Presentation. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. St. Lois, MO.
- Acar, S.** & Batz, R. (2014, October). Situational analysis of early intervention practices in Turkey and Guatemala. Poster session. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. St. Lois, MO.
- Acar, S.** & Batz, R. (2014, April). Multiple perspectives: Being an early childhood special educator in Turkey and Guatemala. Presentation. Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo. Philadelphia, PA.
- Acar, S.** (2014, April). Parents as equal partners in early intervention. Poster session. Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo. Philadelphia, PA.
- Acar, S.** & Sert, N. (2014, April). Developing inclusive education practices in Turkey. Presentation. International Congress on Early Childhood Intervention. Antalya, Turkey.
- Acar, S.** & Batz, R. (2014, April). Early intervention research and policy initiatives in Turkey and Guatemala. Poster session. Society for Research in Child Development Special Topic Meeting: Strengthening Connections Among Child Family Research, Policy and Practice. Alexandria, VA.
- Acar, S.** & Squires, J. (2014, February). Family-Centered Practices Profile: A development and validation study. Poster session. Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention. San Diego, CA.
- Acar, S.** & Squires, J. (2013, December). Identification of social-emotional delays among young children. Poster session. Zero to Three 28<sup>th</sup> National Training Institute. San Antonio, TX.
- Acar, S.** & Hansen, S. (2013, November). Professional and family partnerships during early intervention. Presentation. National Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference. Washington, DC.
- Acar, S.** (2013, October). Strategies for working effectively with interpreters and translators during early intervention. Poster session. Division for Early Childhood's Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families. San Francisco, CA.
- Acar, S.** (2013, May). Partnership opportunities: Working with diverse families in early intervention. Presentation. Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity. Honolulu, HI.

- Acar, S. & Squires, J.** (2013, April). Application of risk factors in predicting Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Third Edition. Poster session. Society for Research in Child Development Conference. Seattle, WA.
- Acar, S.** (2013, April). Early childhood special education training in Turkey: Survey of teacher training programs. Poster session. Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo. San Antonio, TX.
- Acar, S. & Baker, A.** (2013, April). A state analysis of early intervention/early childhood special education programs in Oregon. Poster session. Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo. San Antonio, TX.
- Baker, A. & Acar, S.** (2013, April). Steps toward inclusion: Strategies for early childhood professionals. Poster session. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention and Expo. San Antonio, TX.
- Acar, S.** (2012, November) Strategies for working with vulnerable families. Presentation. 2012 Parents as Teachers Conference for Early Childhood Professionals. St. Lois, MO.
- Acar, S., Baker, A., & Akamoglu, Y.** (2012, September). Family involvement in early childhood special education: Implications for practice. Research paper presentation. 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Early Childhood Education. Adana, Turkey.
- Acar, S., Baker, A., & Akamoglu, Y.** (2012, September). Quality indicators of inclusive early childhood classrooms. Research paper presentation. 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Early Childhood Education. Adana, Turkey.

**Presentations at Professional Meetings: Non-Refereed**

- Acar, S. & Blasco, P.** (2017, August). Linguistically responsive activities to support executive function skills in young children. Presentation. Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute. Monmouth, OR.
- Acar, S.** (2017, May). Linguistically responsive activities to support executive function skills. Presentation. Oregon Parenting Educators Conference. Corvallis, OR.
- Acar, S., Blasco, P., & Stanley, M.** (2017, April). Executive functions: Moving from theory to practice for children with developmental delays including Autism. Presentation. Oregon Head Start Association Specialist Conference. Redmond, OR.
- Blasco, P. M. & Acar, S.** (2017, February). Your brain and executive function (EF): What does that have to do with me? Presentation. Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Conference. Monmouth, OR.
- Acar, S. & Blasco, P. M.** (2016, August). Working with interpreters in early intervention/early childhood special education (EI/ECSE). Presentation. Early Childhood Inclusion Summer

Institute. Monmouth, OR.

Blasco, P. M. & **Acar, S.** (2016, August). Executive function activities for infants, toddlers and their families. Presentation. Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute. Monmouth, OR.

**Acar, S.**, Blasco, P. M., & Stanley, M. (2016, May). Executive function and the promotion of social-emotional competence. Presentation. Oregon Parenting Educators Conference. Corvallis, OR.

**Acar, S.**, Blasco, P. M., & Stanley, M. (2016, April). Executive function and social emotional development: Understanding the relationship. Presentation. Oregon Head Start Association Specialist Conference. Redmond, OR.

**Acar, S.**, Blasco, P. M., Stanley, M. (2016, January). Executive function and social emotional development: Understanding the relationship. Presentation. Oregon Head Start Association Parent Leadership Conference. Salem, OR.

Blasco, P. M., **Acar, S.**, & Stanley, M. (2015, August). Activities and strategies that support executive function in young children. Presentation. Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute. Monmouth, OR.

**Acar, S.** (2014, August). Strategies for increasing family engagement in early intervention/early childhood special education. Presentation. Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute. Monmouth, OR.

**Acar, S.** & Hansen, S. (2013, March). Synthesis of developmental screening tools: Early detection of autism spectrum disorders. Poster session. Graduate Student Research Forum, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR.

**Acar, S.** & Akamoglu, Y. (2012, October). Supporting communication skills of children with autism. Presentation. Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Fall Conference. Portland, OR.

**Acar, S.** & Baker, A. (2012, October). Inclusive classrooms: Organizing space, materials, and time. Presentation. Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Fall Conference. Portland, OR.

**Acar, S.** & Baker, A. (2012, April). An activity-based approach to early intervention. Presentation. The Central Oregon Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Conference. Bend, OR.

Baker, A. & **Acar, S.** (2012, April). Through the looking glass: Observing and documenting children's learning. Presentation. Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Conference. Eugene, OR.

**Acar, S., Bonanomi, B., & Baldwin, N.** (2012, May). Reflections from the field: Effective home visits. Presentation. Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Conference. Eugene, OR.

**Acar, S. & Baker, A.** (2011, October). Promoting father involvement in early childhood education. Presentation. Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Fall Conference. Portland, OR.

Moxley, K., Pribble, L., & **Acar, S.** (2011, April). Using the Social Emotional Assessment Measure (SEAM) to meet the needs of children and families. Training session. Oregon Division for Early Childhood Regional Early Childhood Forum, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR.

**Acar, S., Kaleese, C., & Chen, C.** (2011, April). Working with culturally and linguistically diverse families. Training session. Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Conference. Eugene, OR.

**Guest Lectures and Invited Talks**

**Acar, S.** (2017, February). Introduction to DEC’s Recommended Practices. College of Education. Western Oregon University. Monmouth, OR.

Blasco, P. M., Guy, S., & **Acar, S.** (2016, January). Executive function in children born low birth weight and preterm. Western Oregon University Community Lecture Series. Monmouth, OR.

**Acar, S.** (2015, October). Cultural diversity/competency in early intervention. SPED 63956 Foundations in Early Childhood Intervention, Kent State University. Kent, OH.

**Acar, S.** (2014, October). Cultural diversity in early intervention. SPED 63956 Foundations in Early Childhood Intervention, Kent State University. Kent, OH.

**Acar, S.** (2014, September). Teaching children with autism. Workshop presentation. Albina Head Start Program. Portland, OR.

**Acar, S.** (2011, September). Special education services in Turkey. Global Welcome Luncheon for Special Education Students, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR.

**Teaching, Mentoring and Curricular Achievements**

Teaching at Portland State University

<b>Term</b>	<b>Course Number and Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
Fall 2017	ED 550: Foundations of Inclusive Early Childhood Education, Co-instructor: Dr.Nimmo, (online)	4	24



Spring 2017	ED 552: Issues in Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, Co-instructor: Sarah Guyon, (online)	4	23
Fall 2016	ED 550: Foundations of Inclusive Early Childhood Education, Co-instructor: Dr.Nimmo, (online)	4	26
Spring 2016	ED 552: Issues in Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, Co-instructor: Sarah Guyon, (online)	4	19
Winter 2015	ED 550: Foundations in Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, Co-instructor: Dr.Parnell (online)	4	18
Spring 2015	ED 552: Issues in Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, Co-instructor: Dr. Parnell, (online)	4	19
Winter 2015	SPED 586: Instructional Strategies II: EI/ECSE, (online)	3	23
Fall 2014	SPED 585: Instructional Strategies I: EI/ECSE, (online)	3	20

### Supervision

Fall 2017, Early Intervention Program, Portland State University, (field observation), 3 credits, 3 students

Spring 2017, Early Intervention Program, Portland State University, (field observation), 3 credits, 2 students

Fall 2015, Early Intervention Program, Portland State University, (field observation), 3 credits, 3 students

Spring 2016, Early Intervention Program, Portland State University, (field observation), 3 credits, 4 students

Spring 2017, Early Intervention Program, Portland State University, (field observation), 3 credits, 2 students

### Teaching at Other Institutions

<b>Term</b>	<b>Course Number and Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
Fall 2011	SPED 680: Foundations in EI/ECSE, Supervised college teaching, University of Oregon, (face-to-face)	3	20
Fall 2012	SPED 680: Foundations in EI/ECSE, Supervised college teaching, University of Oregon, (face-to-face)	3	20
Winter 2013	SPED 682: Assessment and Evaluation in EI/ECSE, Supervised college teaching, University of Oregon, (face-to-face)	3	20
Spring 2013	SPED 683: Curriculum in EI/ECSE, Supervised college teaching, University of Oregon, (face-to-face)	3	20

## **Honors, Grants, and Fellowships**

### Honors

- 2008-2010, High Achievement International Degree-Seeking Student Award, four consecutive semesters, University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
2003 Dean's List, Bogazici University, Istanbul Turkey

### External & Internal Grants

- 2017 - Supporting Students to Become Leaders. Diversity Action Council, President's Diversity Mini Grants Program. Portland State University. Role: Principal Investigator.

The goal of this project is to support students who are from underrepresented populations to become members of a professional organization.

- 2014 - Project EF - Executive Function in Infants and Toddlers Born Low Birth Weight (LBW) and Preterm, H133G140244, U S Department of Health and Human Services, (\$600,000).

This project examine whether traditional assessment methods that have components of EF in their structure can discern early indicators of executive functioning in three subgroups of children ages six months to three years. Role: Project Coordinator (.40 FTE).

- 2013 - Davis-Bricker Grant For Student Research, College of Education, University of Oregon, (Internal Research Grant Received; \$1,700).

- 2013 - Boone Conference Travel Grant, College of Education, University of Oregon, (Internal Professional Development Travel Received; \$500).

### Pending

- 2017 - Project EFA: Development and Validation of an Executive Function Assessment for Infants and Toddlers who are High Risk, Spencer Foundation. Role: Co-Principal Investigator (\$500,000-750,000).

The purpose of this proposal is to develop a measurement tool of Executive Function for young children ages 6 months to 3 years.

- 2017 - Supporting Executive Function in Inclusive Settings: Parent-Driven Early Intervention Curriculum (Project PEIC). Topic: Early Intervention and Early Learning in Special Education. Goal Two: Development and Innovation. Institute of Education Sciences. Role: Project Coordinator (.50 FTE).

The Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Department at Stanford University and The Research Institute (TRI) at Western Oregon University (WOU) will collaborate on a four-year investigation to generate and test an intervention on Executive Function (EF) with a parent-driven online curriculum.

Fellowships

2011-2013, Graduate Teaching Fellowship, University of Oregon  
2010-2011, IDEA Scholarship, Project Early, University of Oregon  
2008-2010, Graduate Assistantship, University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
1998-2003, Academic Merit Scholarship, Ministry of Education, Turkey

Ad Hoc Reviewer

2016-Present, Guest reviewer, Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education  
2013-Present, Guest reviewer, Young Exceptional Children  
2014 Reviewer, Young Exceptional Children, Monograph #16 Blending Practices to Strengthen  
Quality Early Learning Programs for All Children  
2013 Guest Reviewer, Developmental Neurorehabilitation

Conference Reviewer

2014-Present, Division for Early Childhood  
2014-Present, Teacher Education Division  
2012-2014, Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo Conference. Strand(s):  
Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners  
2012 Grant Reviewer, Council for Exceptional Children Oregon Division

University Service

Winter 2017-Present, Trained Ally for Western Oregon University  
Fall 2015-Present, Member, Oregon Higher Education Consortium  
Fall 2012-June 2013, Graduate School Advisory Board Member, University of Oregon  
Fall 2012, Orientation planner for Early Intervention Program's International Master's Students,  
University of Oregon  
2011-2012, Alliance of Graduate Students for Diversity Member, University of Oregon  
2009-2010, Master's Program Student Representative in Birth-Kindergarten: Interdisciplinary  
Studies in Education and Development Program Committee, University of North  
Carolina at Greensboro, NC  
2009-2010, Program Representative in Faculty-Student Liaison Committee, University of North  
Carolina at Greensboro, NC

Community Service

2016-Present, Member-at-Large, DEC  
2016-Present, aRPy Ambassador for Oregon, Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA)  
Center  
2015-Present, President, Oregon DEC  
2015, Co-Chair, Marketplace, DEC 2015 Conference  
2014-2015, Lead Academy Program Committee Member, DEC  
2013-2014, Treasurer, Oregon DEC  
2014, Planning Committee Member, Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute, Western  
Oregon University  
2014, Co-Chair, Family Stipend Committee, DEC 2014 Conference

2013-2014, Team Leader, marketing current and future Young Exceptional Children Monograph series

2013, DEC Nominations Committee Member for executive board and member at large positions

2012-2013, Membership Chair, Oregon DEC

Fall 2012, Planning Committee Member, Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Conference

2000-2003, Volunteer, Mother Child Education Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey

**Professional Membership**

Council for Exceptional Children

Division for Early Childhood, Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse  
Exceptional Learners, & Teacher Education Division

National Association for the Education of Young Children

Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children

International Society of Early Intervention