

Serra Acar, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Degree	Year Awarded	Program of Study
Ph.D.	2013	Special Education, University of Oregon Focus: Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education
M.Ed.	2010	Birth-Kindergarten: Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development Program, Department of Specialized Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
B.A.	2003	Early Childhood Education Program, Primary Education Department, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Family-centered practices in early childhood special education (ECSE), screening and assessment, personnel preparation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2015 June-Present ***Project Coordinator***, The Research Institute, Western Oregon University
- 1) Project Preparing Early Childhood Professionals for Inclusion (PEPI), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
Responsibilities: Provide technical assistance to Oregon community college instructors and evaluate the project.
 - 2) Project Executive Functioning (EF), National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
Responsibilities: Assist implementation of the project, manage data collection, and assess child development.
- 2014 November-Fall 2015 ***Adjunct Faculty & Clinical Supervisor***, Portland State University
Curriculum Instruction: Early Childhood Education
Special Education Program
- 2014 November-2015 June ***Evaluation Specialist***, The Research Institute, Western Oregon University
- 1) Project PEPI, OSEP
 - 2) Project EF, NIDRR
 - 3) Project Promoting Inclusion in Early Childhood Educators (PIECE), OSEP
 - 4) Oregon Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) at the Center on Research, Evaluation & Analysis (CREA)

Fall 2011-June 2013 **Co-Instructor** (Supervised College Teaching), Early Intervention Program, University of Oregon

June 2011-June 2013 **Clinical Supervisor** (Graduate Teaching Fellow), Early Intervention Program, University of Oregon

June 2011-June 2012 **Building on Opportunities for Summer Teaching (BOOST) Supervisor**, Early Intervention Program, University of Oregon

2008-2010 **Graduate Assistant**, Birth-Kindergarten: Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development Program, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina

2005-2008 **Volunteer Preschool Teacher**, American Turkish Association Preschool Cary, North Carolina

2006 **Volunteer Simultaneous Interpreter/Translator**, Tohum Autism Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey

2003-2005 **Preschool Teacher**, Joyfull House, Istanbul, Turkey

TRANSLATIONS

2015 English to Turkish Translation of “Preschool Motivation Questionnaire-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

PUBLICATIONS

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.

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.

PRESENTATIONS

Acar, S. & Blasco, P. M. (February, 2016). Translation of developmental screening tools: A perspective of cultural and linguistic appropriateness. Poster presentation:

- Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention (CRIEI). San Diego, CA.
- Blasco, P. M., Guy, S., & **Acar, S.** (February, 2016). Project EF: Executive function in infants and toddlers born low birth weight (LBW) and preterm. Poster presentation: Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention (CRIEI). San Diego, CA.
- Acar, S.**, Blasco, P. M., Stanley, M. (January, 2016). Executive function and social emotional development: Understanding the relationship. Presentation. Oregon Head Start Association Parent Leadership Conference. Salem, OR.
- Acar, S.** & Blasco, P. M. (December, 2015). Activities and strategies that support components of executive function. Poster presentation. Zero To Three's 30th National Training Institute (NTI) in Seattle, WA.
- Blasco, P. M., Guy, S., **Acar, S.** (December, 2015). Executive function in infants and toddlers born low birth (LBW) and preterm. Presentation. Zero To Three's 30th National Training Institute (NTI) in Seattle, WA.
- Acar, S.** & Bland C. (October, 2015). Doing what is right for preservice professionals. Presentation. DEC's 31st Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families, Atlanta, GA.
- Stanley, M. & **Acar, S.** (October, 2015). Foundation funding to support project work with children and their families. Presentation. DEC's 31st Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families, Atlanta, GA.
- Ryerson, A. & **Acar, S.**, (October, 2015). Presentation. Building meaningful relationship through family engagement. Presentation. DEC's 31st Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families, Atlanta, GA.
- Glasenapp, G., Stanley, M. & **Acar, S.** (October, 2015). Quality rating improvement systems and inclusive practices: one state's approach. Presentation. DEC's 31st Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families, Atlanta, GA.
- Smith, J., Blasco, B., Squires, J., Keilty, B., Frantz, R., & **Acar, S.** (October, 2015). Supporting early intervention for infants born early and their families. Panel Presentation. DEC's 31st Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families, Atlanta, GA.
- Blasco, P. M., **Acar, S.**, & Stanley, M. (August, 2015). Activities and strategies that support executive function in young children. Presentation: Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute. Monmouth, OR.
- Blasco, P., Ryan, C., & **Acar, S.** (June, 2015). Understanding the needs of underrepresented students in a blended program. NAEYC'S 2015 National Institute for Early Childhood Professionals. New Orleans, LA.

- Acar, S.** (October, 2014). Effective data sharing practices with families. Workshop presentation: DEC's 30th Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families. St. Lois, MO.
- Acar, S. & Batz, R.** (October, 2014). Situational analysis of early intervention practices in Turkey and Guatemala. Poster presentation: DEC's 30th Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families. St. Lois, MO.
- Acar, S.** (September, 2014). Teaching Children with Autism. Workshop presentation: Albina Head Start Program, Portland, OR.
- Acar, S.** (August, 2014). Strategies for increasing family engagement in early intervention/early childhood special education. Workshop presentation: Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute. Monmouth, OR.
- Acar, S. & Batz, R.** (April, 2014). Multiple perspectives: Being an early childhood special educator in Turkey and Guatemala. Paper presentation: Council for Exceptional Children 2014 Convention and Expo. Philadelphia, PA.
- Acar, S.** (April, 2014). Parents as equal partners in early intervention. Poster presentation: Council for Exceptional Children 2014 Convention and Expo. Philadelphia, PA.
- Acar, S. & Sert, N.** (April, 2014). Developing inclusive education practices in Turkey. Training session: International Congress on Early Childhood Intervention. Antalya, Turkey.
- Acar, S. & Batz, R.** (April, 2014). Early intervention research and policy initiatives in Turkey and Guatemala. Poster presentation: Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Conference 2014 Special Topic Meeting: Strengthening Connections Among Child Family Research, Policy and Practice. Alexandria, VA.
- Acar, S. & Squires, J.** (February, 2014). Family-Centered Practices Profile: A development and validation study. Poster presentation: Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention (CRIEI). San Diego, CA.
- Acar, S. & Squires, J.** (December, 2013). Identification of social-emotional delays among young children. Poster presentation: Zero to Three 28th National Training Institute Conference. San Antonio, TX.
- Acar, S. & Hansen, S.** (November, 2013). Professional and family partnerships during early intervention. Workshop: National Association for the Education of Young Children's 2013 Annual Conference and Expo. Washington, DC.
- Acar, S.** (October, 2013). Strategies for working effectively with interpreters and translators during early intervention. Poster presentation: DEC's 29th Annual International Conference on Young Children With Special Needs & Their Families. San Francisco, CA.

- Acar, S. & Hansen, S.** (March, 2013). Synthesis of developmental screening tools: Early detection of autism spectrum disorders. Poster presentation: Graduate Student Research Forum, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR.
- Acar, S.** (May, 2013). Partnership opportunities: Working with diverse families in early intervention. Workshop: Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity. Honolulu, HI.
- Acar, S. & Squires, J.** (April, 2013). Application of risk factors in predicting Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Third Edition. Poster presentation: Society for Research in Child Development Conference (SRCD). Seattle, WA.
- Acar, S.** (April, 2013). Early childhood special education training in Turkey: Survey of teacher training programs. Poster presentation: Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention and Expo. San Antonio, TX.
- Acar, S. & Baker, A.** (April, 2013). A state analysis of early intervention/early childhood special education programs in Oregon. Poster presentation: Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention and Expo. San Antonio, TX.
- Baker, A. & Acar, S.** (April, 2013). Steps toward inclusion: Strategies for early childhood professionals. Poster presentation: Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention and Expo. San Antonio, TX.
- Acar, S.** (November, 2012) Strategies for working with vulnerable families. Training session: 2012 Parents as Teachers Conference for Early Childhood Professionals. St. Lois, MO.
- Acar, S. & Akamoglu, Y.** (October, 2012). Supporting communication skills of children with autism. Training session: Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Fall Conference. Portland, OR.
- Acar, S. & Baker, A.** (October, 2012). Inclusive classrooms: Organizing space, materials, and time. Training session: Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Fall Conference. Portland, OR.
- Acar, S., Baker, A., & Akamoglu, Y.** (September, 2012). Family involvement in early childhood special education: Implications for practice. Research paper presentation: 3rd International Congress of Early Childhood Education. Adana, Turkey.
- Acar, S., Baker, A., & Akamoglu, Y.** (September, 2012). Quality indicators of inclusive early childhood classrooms. Research paper presentation: 3rd International Congress of Early Childhood Education. Adana, Turkey.
- Acar, S. & Baker, A.** (April, 2012). An activity-based approach to early intervention. Workshop: The Central Oregon Chapter of the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Conference. Bend, OR.
- Baker, A. & Acar, S.** (April, 2012). Through the looking glass: Observing and documenting children's learning. Workshop: Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Conference. Eugene, OR.

- Acar, S., Bonanomi, B., & Baldwin, N.** (May, 2012). Reflections from the field: Effective home visits. Training session: Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Conference. Eugene, OR.
- Acar, S. & Baker, A.** (October, 2011). Promoting father involvement in early childhood education. Training session: Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Fall Conference. Portland, OR.
- Acar, S.** (September, 2011). Special education services in Turkey. Global Welcome Luncheon for Special Education Students, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR.
- Moxley, K., Pribble, L., & **Acar, S.** (April, 2011). Using the Social Emotional Assessment Measure (SEAM) to meet the needs of children and families. Training session: Oregon DEC Regional Early Childhood Forum, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR.
- Acar, S., Kaleese, C., & Chen, C-I.** (April, 2011). Working with culturally and linguistically diverse families. Training session: Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Conference. Eugene, OR.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- ED 550: Foundations in Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, Co-teacher: Dr. Parnell, Portland State University
- ED 552: Issues in Early Childhood and Inclusive Education, Co-teacher: Dr. Parnell, Portland State University
- SPED 585: Instructional Strategies I: EI/ECSE, Portland State University
- SPED 586: Instructional Strategies II: EI/ECSE, Portland State University
- SPED 680: Foundations in EI/ECSE, University of Oregon
- SPED 682: Assessment and Evaluation in EI/ECSE, University of Oregon
- SPED 683: Curriculum in EI/ECSE, University of Oregon

GRANT EXPERIENCE

- Acar, S.** (2015). *Personnel Preparation in Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services*. Focus Area A: Training Personnel to Serve Infants, Toddlers and Preschool-Age Children with Disabilities, OSEP (CFDA 84.325K). Role: Project Coordinator (Submitted).
- Acar, S.** (2013). Davis-Bricker Grant For Student Research, College of Education, University of Oregon, (Internal Research Grant Received; \$1,700). Spring, 2013.
- Acar, S.** (2013). Boone Conference Travel Grant, College of Education, University of Oregon, (Internal Professional Development Travel Received; \$500). Spring, 2013.
- Acar, S.** (2011). *Identification and Referral of Premature Infants Project (IR-PIP)*. A validity and reliability study of Ages and Stages Questionnaires-Third edition (ASQ-3) for preterm infants. Institute of Education Sciences, Early Intervention

and Early Learning in Special Education Research Grants, Goal: Measurement (CFDA NUMBER: 84.324A). (\$ 345,239 for 2011- 2013). (Not submitted, supervised by Dr. Kame'euni.). Role: Co-Investigator.

RESEARCH EXPERINCE

Fall 2011-Fall 2013, **Principal Investigator**, University of Oregon

- 1) Development, Validity, and Utility of Family-Centered Practices Profile Dissertation research, University of Oregon
- 2) A State Analysis of Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Programs in Oregon
- 3) Early Childhood Special Education Training in Turkey: Survey of Teacher Training Programs
- 4) Prediction of Ages and Stages Questionnaire-Third Edition's scores based on the maternal risk factors and family demographics by performing multiple regression methodology

Summer 2012-Winter 2013, **Research Assistant**, University of Oregon

- 1) Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Recommended Practices Revision Workgroup. Area: Assessment
- 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
- 4) Group video feedback to promote teacher mediated language intervention with Dr. Machalicek

EDITORIAL BOARD

2015, Proposal reviewer, Division for Early Childhood Conference Strand(s): Research and Policy

2014-2015, Proposal reviver, Teacher Education Division

2014, Guest reviewer, Young Exceptional Children

2014, Reviewer, Young Exceptional Children Monograph #16 Blending Practices to Strengthen Quality Early Learning Programs for All Children

2014, Proposal reviewer, Division for Early Childhood Conference Strand(s): Practice

2013-2014, Guest Reviewer, Developmental Neurorehabilitation

2013-2014, Student Editorial Board Member, Young Exceptional Children

2012-2014, Proposal reviewer, 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

Fall 2012-June 2013, **Graduate School Advisory Board Member**, University of Oregon

Fall 2012, **Orientation planner** for Early Intervention 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

2015-Present, **Member-At-Large**, DEC

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

AWARDS

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

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

1998-2003, **Academic Merit Scholarship**, Turkish Ministry of Education

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Council for Exceptional Children: DEC, Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL), & Teacher Education Division (TED)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children (OAEYC)

International Society of Early Intervention