

**Serra Acar, Ph.D.**

[acars@wou.edu](mailto:acars@wou.edu)

**EDUCATION**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Year Awarded</b>	<b>Program of Study</b>
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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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