
Curriculum Vitae
Laci Watkins, Ph.D.

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CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

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| 2017-present | The University of Alabama
Assistant Professor
Department of Special Education & Multiple Abilities
Collaborative Education Program |
| 2018-present | The University of Alabama Autism Cluster
Faculty Researcher |

EDUCATION

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|-----------|--|
| 2013-2017 | The University of Texas at Austin
Ph.D. in Special Education
Autism & Developmental Disabilities concentration
Doctoral Dissertation: Improving social interaction between students with autism spectrum disorder and their peers in inclusive settings |
| 2007-2009 | Mercy College
Master of Science with honors in Urban Education, dual certification in Special Education and General Education, New York City Teaching Fellows |
| 2005-2006 | University of St Andrews
Master of Letters with distinction in English & Writing |
| 2000-2004 | Barnard College of Columbia University
Bachelor of Arts in English Literature |
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RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

Peer social interaction interventions for children and youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), interventions for students with ASD in inclusive settings, trends and issues in inclusive education, teacher training in evidence-based practices, collateral effects of social communication interventions for children with ASD, autism and social motivation, meta-analysis of single-case experimental design research

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Watkins, L.,** Ledbetter-Cho, K., O'Reilly, M., Barnard-Brak, L., & Garcia-Grau, P. (accepted). Interventions for students with autism in inclusive settings: A best-evidence synthesis and meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin*.

- Watkins, L.,** O'Reilly, M., Kuhn, M., & Ledbetter-Cho, K. (2018). An interest-based intervention package to increase peer social interaction in young children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 52*, 132-149.
- Gevarter, C., O'Reilly, M. F., Sammarco, N., Ferguson, R., **Watkins, L.,** Kuhn, M., & Sigafoos, J. (2018). Comparison of schematic and taxonomic speech generating devices for children with ASD. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities, 53*, 222-238.
- Ledbetter-Cho, K., O'Reilly, M., Lang, R. **Watkins, L.,** & Lim, N. (2018) Meta-analysis of tablet-mediated interventions for teaching academic skills to individuals with autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 48*, 3021-3036.
- Watkins, L.,** Kuhn, M., Ledbetter-Cho, K., Gevarter, C. & O'Reilly, M. (2017). Evidence-based social communication interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Indian Journal of Pediatrics, 84*, 68-75.
- Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lang, R. **Watkins, L.,** O'Reilly, M., & Zamora, C. (2017). Systematic review of the collateral effects of focused interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Autism and Developmental Language Impairments, 2*, 1-22.
- Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lang, R., Moore, M., Murphy, C., Davenport, K., Lee, A., O'Reilly, M., & **Watkins, L.** (2017). Effects of video-enhanced activity schedules on academic skills and collateral behaviors in children with autism. *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities, 63*, 228-237.
- Watkins, L.,** O'Reilly, M., Kuhn, M., Lang, R., van der Burg, T., & Ledbetter-Cho, K. (2017). Incorporation of restricted interests reduces stereotypy and facilitates play and social engagement between a preschooler with autism and peers in inclusive setting. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders, 1*, 37-41.
- Gevarter, C., O'Reilly, M. F., Kuhn, M., **Watkins, L.,** Ferguson, R., Sammarco, N., Rojeski, L., & Sigafoos, J. (2017). Assessing the acquisition of requesting a variety of preferred items using different SGD formats for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Assistive Technology, 29*, 150-160.
- Watkins, L.,** O'Reilly, M., Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lang, R., Sigafoos, J., Kuhn, M., Lim, N., Gevarter, C., & Caldwell, N. (2017). A meta-analysis of school-based social interaction interventions for adolescents with autism spectrum disorder. *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 4*, 277-293.
- Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lang, R., Davenport, K., Moore, M., Lee, A., O'Reilly, M., **Watkins, L.,** & Falcomata, T. (2016). Behavioral skills training to improve the abduction-prevention skills of children with autism. *Behavior Analysis in Practice, 9*, 266-270.
- Gevarter, C., O'Reilly, M.F., Kuhn, M., Mills, K., Ferguson, R., **Watkins, L.,** Sigafoos, J., Lang, R., Rojeski, L., & Lancioni, G.E. (2016). Increasing the vocalizations of individuals with autism during speech generating device intervention. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, 49*, 17-33.
- Gevarter, C. Bryant, D. P., Bryant, B., **Watkins, L.,** Sammarco, N., & Zamora, C. (2016). Mathematics Interventions for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Systematic Review. *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 3*, 224-238.
- Gonzales, H. K., O'Reilly, M., Lang, R., Sigafoos, J., Lancioni, G., Kajian, M., ... & **Watkins, L.** (2016). Research involving anxiety in non-human primates has potential implications for the assessment

and treatment of anxiety in autism spectrum disorder: A translational literature review. *Developmental Neurorehabilitation*, 19, 175-192.

Watkins, L., O'Reilly, M., Kuhn, M., Gevarter, C., Lancioni, G.E., Sigafoos, J., & Lang, R. (2015). A review of peer-mediated social interaction interventions for students with autism in inclusive settings. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 45, 1070-1083.

In Review and In Progress

Barnard-Brak, L. Richman, D., & **Watkins, L.** Examining the effects of outlier “burst” data on quantitative estimates of treatment effect sizes from published single case design treatment studies: A Bayesian *N* of 1 analysis. Revise and resubmit in *Behavior Modification*.

Watkins, L., Tomeny, T., O'Reilly, M., Gurecky-Sillis, K., & Zamora, C. Replication and extension of an interest-based intervention package to increase social interaction between siblings with and without ASD. Manuscript in review.

Harbour, K., McDaniel, S., & **Watkins, L.** Self-monitoring during conceptual mathematics instruction for improving regulation for students with challenging behavior. Manuscript in review.

Pustejovsky, J. & **Watkins, L.** Organizing, archiving, and sharing raw data from single-case designs. Manuscript in progress.

McDaniel, S., **Watkins, L.**, Chow, J., & Fedewa, M*. A meta-analysis of the differential effects and moderating variables of the coping power program. Manuscript in progress.

Barnard-Brak, L., Richman, D., & **Watkins, L.** Does sensory sensitivity help explain the relationship between symptoms of ASD and willingness to communicate? Manuscript in progress.

Watkins, L. & Fedewa, M.* Training practitioners to implement evidence-based strategies for students with autism. Study in progress.

Morett, L. & **Watkins, L.** A pilot study examining the neural effects of social skills training for children with ASD. Study in progress.

Hu, X. & **Watkins, L.**, Using preferred interests and script training to improve social interaction between Chinese students with and without ASD in inclusive classrooms. Study in progress.

Fedewa, M.*, **Watkins, L.**, & Fedewa, M.V. A meta-analysis of exercise-based interventions for students with autism spectrum disorder. Meta-analysis in development.

Book Chapters

Watkins, L., Ledbetter-Cho, K., & O'Reilly, M. (2018). Self-stimulatory behaviors. In E. Braaten (Ed.) *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Intellectual and Developmental Disorders*. London: Sage.

Watkins, L., Kuhn, M., O'Reilly, M., Lang, R., Sigafoos, J., & Lancioni, G. (2016) Social skills interventions across the lifespan. In N. Singh (Ed.) *Clinical Handbook of Evidence-Based Practices for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities*. New York: Springer.

O'Reilly, M., Sammarco, N., Kuhn, M., Gevarter, C., **Watkins, L.**, Gonzales, H., Rojeski, L., Sigafoos, J., Lancioni, G., & Lang, R. (2015). Inborn and acquired brain and physical disabilities. In H. Roane, J. Ringdahl, & T. Falcomata (Eds.), *Clinical and Organizational Applications of Applied Behavior Analysis*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Invited Commentary

Gevarter, C. B., & **Watkins, L.** (2015). Study presents a promising assistive technology intervention for individuals with Rett syndrome. Replication and extension is warranted to explore its generality for enabling choice making. *Evidence-Based Communication Assessment and Intervention*, 9, 15-20.

Other Publications

Watkins, L. (2019). Wrote companion site materials in Bryant, D.P., Bryant, B.R., & Smith, D.D. *Teaching students with special needs in inclusive classrooms*. Thousands Oak, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

McDaniel, S., **Watkins, L.**, & Chow, J. (2018). Differential effects and moderating variables of the coping power program. PROSPERO 2018: CRD42018093637.

Watkins, L. & O'Reilly. (2016). A meta-analysis of the efficacy and social validity of interventions for students with autism spectrum disorder in inclusive classroom settings. PROSPERO 2016: CRD42016053517

Watkins, L., O'Reilly, M., Lang, R., Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lim, N., Kuhn, M. . . ., Sigafos, J. (2016). A meta-analysis of school-based social interaction interventions for adolescents with autism spectrum disorder. PROSPERO 2016: CRD42016049713

Watkins, L. (2016). Wrote companion site materials in Bryant, D.P., Bryant, B.R., & Smith, D.D. *Teaching students with special needs in inclusive classrooms*. Thousands Oak, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lang, R., **Watkins, L.**, O'Reilly, M. (2015). Collateral effects of interventions targeting core skill deficits of young children with autism: a systematic review. PROSPERO 2015: CRD42015032301

GRANTS SUBMITTED

Barnard-Brak, L., Richman, D., & **Watkins, L.** (2019). The interaction of health care provider response, service receipt, and symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) Submitted to Health Resources & Services Administration (Co-PI). \$100,000. (in review)

Watkins, L. (2018). A Pilot Study Examining Effects of Social Skills Training for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder across Multiple Outcomes (UA RGC). Submitted to Research Grants Committee Social and Behavioral Sciences Small Grant Program (PI). \$6,000. (funded)

INVITED TALKS

The ABCs of Challenging Behavior (December 2018). Parent presentation to the Pickens County Autism Resource Group.

Practical Intervention Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (June 2018). Presentation at the Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, Savannah, GA.

The ABCs of Challenging Behavior (May 2018). Parent presentation to the Pickens County Autism Resource Group.

Preparing for the Academic Job Market (May 2018). Guest lecture in *College Teaching*, UT.

Educating Students with ASD in Inclusive Classrooms: Current Trends and Future Directions (September 2017). Presentation to the Developmental Psychology Department, UA.

What We Are Learning About Autism (April 2017). Lecture with Q&A for Explore UT community event.

Developing Single Case Design Research Proposals (October 2016). Guest lecture in *Intervention Research in Learning Disabilities*, UT.

Transition Planning for Individuals with Autism and Developmental Disabilities (November 2016). Guest lecture in *Teaching Individuals with Autism & Developmental Disabilities*, UT.

What We Are Learning About Autism (April 2016). Lecture with Q&A for Explore UT community event.

Supporting Students with Autism in General Education Classrooms (March 2015). Guest lecture in *Individual Differences*, UT.

Transition Planning for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (March 2015). Guest lecture in *Teaching Individuals with Autism & Developmental Disabilities*, UT.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Watkins, L., O'Reilly, M., Tomeny, T., Gurecki-Sillis, K., & Zamora, C., (September 2019). A *replication and extension of an intervention package to increase interaction between siblings with and without autism*. Presentation submitted to the 10th Association for Behavior Analysis International Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.

Watkins, L. (January 2019). *Linking research to practice for students with autism spectrum disorder in inclusive classrooms*. Presentation accepted to the Council for Exceptional Children International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, Maui, HI.

Watkins, L. & Garcia-Grau, P. (February 2018). *Interventions for students with autism spectrum disorder in inclusive classroom settings: A best-evidence synthesis*. Poster presentation at the Alabama Autism Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Watkins, L. & Ledbetter-Cho, K. (January 2018). *Interventions for students with autism spectrum disorder in inclusive classroom settings*. Presentation at the Council for Exceptional Children International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, Clearwater, FL.

Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lang, R., Moore, M., Davenport, K., Lee, A., Murphy, C., **Watkins, L.**, & O'Reilly, M. (May 2017). *Effects of Visual Activity Schedules with Embedded Video Modeling on the Academic Skills and Challenging Behaviors of a Child with Autism*. Symposium presented at the Association for Behavior Analysis International 42nd Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

Kuhn, M., O'Reilly, M., **Watkins, L.**, Sammarco, N., & Ledbetter-Cho, K. *A Review of Interventions for Increasing Parallel, Associative, and Cooperative Play in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. (January 2017). Poster presentation at the Association for Behavior Analysis International Autism Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Sammarco, N., O'Reilly, M., Kuhn, M., & **Watkins, L.** *A Review of Interventions to Teach Motor Imitation in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.* (January 2017). Poster presentation at the Association for Behavior Analysis International Autism Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Watkins, L., O'Reilly, M., & Ledbetter-Cho, K., (May 2016). *Analyses of antecedent variables related to improved academic and social behavior.* Symposium presented at the Association for Behavior Analysis International 42nd Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Ledbetter-Cho, K., Lang, R., Davenport, K., Moore, M., Lee, A., O'Reilly, M., **Watkins, L.**, & Falcomata, T. (May 2016). *Recent advances in health, recreation, and safety interventions for individuals with developmental disabilities.* Symposium presented at the Association for Behavior Analysis International 42nd Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Watkins, L. & O'Reilly, M., (April 2016). *Using preferred interests to increase peer social interaction in preschoolers with ASD in inclusive classroom settings.* Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention, St Louis, MO.

Ledbetter-Cho, K. & **Watkins, L.**, (April 2016). *Effects of script training on the peer-to-peer communication of children with autism spectrum disorder.* Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention, St Louis, MO.

Watkins, L., *Social interaction interventions in ASD.* (May 2015). Chair of paper session at Association for Behavior Analysis International 41st Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Watkins, L., O'Reilly, M., Kuhn, M., Sammarco, N., Gevarter, C., Gonzales, H., & Rojeski, L. (May 2015). *Social interaction interventions for adolescents with autism spectrum disorder: A meta-analysis of single case research studies.* Paper presented at Association for Behavior Analysis International 41st Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Gevarter, C., O'Reilly, M.F., **Watkins, L.**, Kuhn, M., Ferguson, R., Sammarco, N., Gonzales, H., Rojeski, L. (May 2015). *Teaching discriminated requests to individuals with autism spectrum disorder using different iPad[®] AAC displays.* Poster presented to the Association for Behavior Analysis International 41st Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Gevarter, C., O'Reilly, M., Sammarco, N., Ferguson, R., Kuhn, M., **Watkins, L.**, Rojeski, L., Gonzales, H., Sammarco, N. (May 2015). *A comparison of schematic and taxonomic iPad[®] AAC systems for teaching multistep navigational AAC requests to children with ASD.* Symposium presented at Association for Behavior Analysis International 41st Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Gevarter, C., O'Reilly, M.F., Rojeski, L., **Watkins, L.**, Kuhn, M., Gonzales, H., Sammarco, N. (July, 2014). *Teaching discriminated requests to an individual with autism spectrum disorder using grid, scene, and hybrid displays on an iPad AAC application.* Poster presented at International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication 16th Biennial Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, July 2014.

Watkins, L., Kuhn, M., Gevarter, C., Gonzales, H., Longino, D., Rojeski, L., Sammarco, N., & O'Reilly, M.F. (May 2014). *Social interaction interventions for individuals with autism: A review of the literature.* Poster presented at Association for Behavior Analysis International 40th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Gonzales, H.G., O'Reilly, M.F., Lang, R., Sigafos, J., Lancioni, G., Kajian, M., Kuhn, M., Longino, D., Rojeski, L., **Watkins, L.** *Anxiety presentation and assessment in nonhuman primates: Implications for autism spectrum disorder.* Poster presented at Association for Behavior Analysis International 40th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. May 2014.

Rojeski, L., O'Reilly, M.F., Gevarter, C., Gonzales, H., Sammarco, N., Kuhn, M., **Watkins, L.**, & Kajian, M., (May, 2014). *Mand training satiation procedures to reduce challenging behavior in instructional environments for children with autism*. Symposium. Paper presented at Association for Behavior Analysis International 40th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

UNIVERSITY LEVEL PROFESSIONAL & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Alabama

SPE 304: *Instructional Strategies in Special Education* (Fall 2017-present). Course Instructor

SPE 500: *Exceptional Children and Youth* (Spring 2018). Course Instructor

SPE 531: *Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Course Creator

SPE 532: *Evidence-Based Practices for Individuals with ASD*. Course Creator

SPE 533: *Assessing Behavior Change in Individuals with ASD*. Course Creator

SPE 596: *Master's Practicum in ASD*. Course Creator

The University of Texas at Austin

ALD 322: *Individual Differences* (Summer 2016). Course Instructor

Field Supervisor (Fall 2014-Spring 2017). Supervised undergraduate and masters level pre-service special education teachers.

Graduate Research Assistant (Summer 2014). Dr. Pustejovsky, Department of Educational Psychology

SERVICE

Professional Service

2019 Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities
Editorial Board

2017-present Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
Editorial Board

Ad hoc Reviewer

- Autism: International Journal for Research and Practice
- Exceptional Children
- Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities
- Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities
- Behavior Modification
- Journal of Behavioral Education
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Developmental Neurorehabilitation
- Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Journal of Child and Family Studies
- JADD 2015 Special Issue ASD in Adulthood: Comorbidity and Intervention

Department/College/University Service

Developed coursework and plan of study for Master of Arts degree in Special Education with Certification in Autism, University of Alabama College of Education

Autism Cluster Faculty Selection Committee, Departments of SPEMA and Communicative Disorders, 2017-2018

18th Annual Alabama Autism Conference, planning committee

Provide staff development on ASD, IEPs, and evidence-based practices in special education at Brewer-Porch Children's Center, a University of Alabama affiliated school within the College of Arts and Sciences

Graduate Student Training

Kimberly Resua, dissertation committee member
Ph.D. anticipated Spring 2019

Elizabeth Stewart, dissertation committee member
Ph.D. anticipated Summer 2019

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

Austin, TX	ADOS-2 Training Workshop, WPS, November 2018
State of Texas	Special Education Teacher Certificate (Early Childhood – Grade 12)
State of New York	Professional Teaching Certificate, Special Education (Grades 1-6)

PROFESSIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

2016-2017	IDEA Charter Schools Austin, TX Special education consultant supporting the training and development of teachers of students with ASD and intellectual disabilities in life skills classrooms
2012-2013	PS 138 @ School of the Future New York, NY Special education teacher support services (SETSS) provider supervising IEPs and providing instruction to middle school students with ASD, learning disabilities, and emotional and behavioral disorders in general education settings
2011-2012	PS 138 @ P.O. Michael J. Buczek School New York, NY SETSS provider supervising IEPs and providing instruction to elementary school students with ASD, learning disabilities, and emotional and behavioral disorders in general education settings
2009-2011	Carnegie Hall Musical Explorers Program New York, NY Special education liaison collaborating with Carnegie Hall to pilot inclusive music education program for NYC public school students with ASD
2008-2011	PS 138 @ PS 30 Harlem New York, NY Special education teacher serving kindergarten through 5 th grade students with ASD and related disabilities in a self-contained classroom setting

2007-2008 PS 79 Dr. Horan School
New York, NY
Special education teacher serving 9th-12th grade students with multiple disabilities
in a self-contained classroom setting

AWARDS

2018 Recipient of Springer-Nature's Change the World Research Initiative for the
article "Evidence-based social communication interventions for children with
autism spectrum disorder"

2017 University of Texas Long Graduate Continuing Fellowship

2016 Office of Graduate Studies Professional Development Award

2016 University of Texas at Austin Dual Presentation Travel Award

2015-2016 University of Texas College of Education Graduate Continuing Fellowship

2015 University of Texas at Austin Dual Presentation Travel Award

2014 University of Texas at Austin Dual Presentation Travel Award

2013-2014 University of Texas at Austin Graduate Recruitment Fellowship

2006 University of St Andrews Dissertation of Distinction

2004 Ida and William Rosenthal Foundation Scholarship

2003 Barnard College of Columbia University Class of 1931 Scholarship

2001 National Society of Collegiate Scholars

2000 National Merit Commended Scholar

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Applied Behavior Analysis International
Council for Exceptional Children
CEC Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities
CEC Teacher Educator Division
Columbia University Teachers College Inclusive Classroom Project