



Global Perspectives: Family Experiences for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



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Introduction

The Autism, Family, Culture and Communication Education Lab (ACCEL) is a team of students and faculty focused on early intervention and education for autism and developmental delays promoting culturally relevant practices for language, communication, and daily skills.

University of Maryland, College of Education

Site Supervisor(s): Dr. Veronica Kang, Shehzad Iqbal Awasi

Activities

In my role as a research assistant at the ACCEL Lab, I conducted a thorough literature review, assessing recent global scientific articles on family outcomes for children with developmental or intellectual disabilities. I reviewed lab transcripts and videos to ensure the progress and effectiveness of interventions on autistic youth, as well as analyzing family reactions and progress to interventions. Additionally, I conducted research on previous grants awarded to similar projects, gathering valuable insights into successful approaches.

Discussion:

I was inspired to work with the ACCEL lab in 2023. In my time, I have learned so much about developmental disabilities, family impacts, and the importance of culturally inclusive research in these fields.

Autism, Family, Culture, and Communication Education Lab



Above are the ACCEL lab and its partners and organizations!



Myself, Dr. Kang, and many other members of the ACCEL lab together at the end of the year to celebrate our work!

My Experience

Literature Review

Though sometimes tedious, literature analysis and review is the foundation of research. Through the hundreds of articles I have examined in my work, I have learned so much about the family structure of youth with disabilities, as most articles examined family outcome internationally. Articles also examined the effectiveness of interventions and current education for developmentally delayed youth, and provided insight on how to change practices and mindsets globally.

Intervention Review

Another large part of my work was analyzing intervention videos and ensuring that intervention processes were running smoothly, that the interventionist and caregiver of the autistic youth were adhering to the proper methods. In this, I had the privilege of observing different family dynamics, parenting techniques, and social interactions.

Lab Activities:

Dedicated to assisting individuals and families with autistic and developmentally delayed youth, the ACCEL Lab has reached out to many to offer education and support.

- The Program for Meaningful Interaction and Social Engagement (PROMISE) – Connecting families to exchange resources and stories.
- PROMISE Summer Camp – Examining and developing social skills for Asian immigrant children and youth with developmental delays or disabilities
- Caregiver Training of Autism Intervention – Training caregivers to use evidence-based, culturally adapted autism intervention strategies at home

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