SOPHIA BETAR

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EDUCATION

Tufts University Expected 2029
Ph.D. Child Study and Human Development
Advisor: Dr. Christine McWayne

The University of Texas at Austin May 2022
B.S. Human Development and Family Sciences
Concentration in Early Childhood; GPA 3.70

PUBLICATIONS

Aviles, A. I., Betar, S. K., Cline, S. M., Tian, Z., Jacobvitz, D. B., & Nicholson, J. S. (2024). Parenting young children during COVID-19: Parenting stress trajectories, parental mental health, and child problem behaviors. *Journal of Family Psychology, 38*(2), 296-308. https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0001181.

Vasilyeva, M., Laski, E., Casey, B., Ban, J., Betar, S., Cho, H. Y., … Wang, M. (in press). Recruiting spatial-numerical representations to increase arithmetic fluency in low-income students. *Developmental Psychology.*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Boston College August 2022 – July 2024
Lab Manager, Math Learning Lab
Principal Investigators: Dr. Marina Vasilyeva and Dr. Elida Laski
- Upkeep a well-organized and efficient research lab conducting a large, multi-year, IES funded project
- Assist in and create intervention and assessment design and materials
- Contribute to several manuscripts
- Coordinate and train 13 undergraduate and 6 graduate students
- Recruit and correspond with 17 schools in the greater Boston area and build strong relationships with teachers and administrators
- Keep up to date on IRB protocol
- Administer and oversee in-school testing and intervention sessions of over 350 first grade students
- Code participant assessments with coding scheme and train others on how to accurately code data
- Maintain, clean, and contribute to multiple data sets
- Run preliminary analyses and convert results into easily digestible graphs and tables
- Organize and participate in lab meetings and trainings

The University of Texas at Austin January 2021 – June 2022
Research Assistant
Principal Investigators: Dr. Nancy Hazen-Swann and Dr. Deborah Jacobvitz
- Direct Supervisor: Dr. Ashleigh I. Aviles
- Worked on projects including (1) meta-analysis on child psychological abuse and somatization (2) the effects of childhood psychological maltreatment on coparenting ability and perception of relationships and (3) independent research paper on the effects of parenting stress on child behavioral issues during COVID-19
- Conducted literature reviews
- Maintained project sources through citation manager software

- Strategically narrowed down the most relevant studies, and accurately coded selected articles
- Analyzed, cleaned, and managed large datasets
- Concluded semesters with capstone projects presented at conferences

Harvard University   June 2021 – August 2021
Research Assistant
Principal Investigator: Dr. Elizabeth Spelke
- Summer member of the Spelke Lab working with Dr. Elizabeth Spelke and graduate students
- Engaged in research focused on the learning differences between infants and non-human primates
- Accurately coded preferential looking and single stimulus videos on Datavyu, jHab, and R
- Collaborated with graduate mentor on research topics and ideas
- Conducted literature reviews
- Compiled questions for an empirical survey
- Efficiently recruited children for studies
- Maintained an accurate database using FileMaker Pro
- Shadowed mentor while running studies
- Created and presented a research poster on infant laughter in response to surprising events and parents repeating actions

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The University of Texas at Austin   August 2021 – June 2022
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant of Research Methods
- Oversaw classes of 50 students over the course of two semester
- Collaborated with professor in the development of activities and assignments
- Assisted professor in clerical work such as emails, uploading data, and grading assignments
- Clarified material and answered questions from students
- Guided students through running Excel tests including regression, T test, and ANOVA
- Facilitated and upheld a positive learning environment
- Summarized student performance and engagement to instructor

Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory   August 2021 – December 2021
Student teacher
- Assisted in a kindergarten class with 17 children ages 5 and 6
- Led small group activities to promote literacy and math skills
- Used positive guidance strategies to solve issues and encourage development
- Participate in pre- and post-conferences and contributed valuable anecdotes
- Brainstormed solutions to classroom issues with lead teacher
- Contribute to an encouraging and comfortable learning environment
- Maintained a clean and efficient classroom

The University of Texas at Austin   August 2020 – June 2021
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant of Child Development
- Oversaw two classes over the course of two semesters: one of 30 students and one of 80
- Collaborated with professors in the development of activities and assignments
- Directed review sessions
- Assisted professors in clerical work such as emails, uploading data, and grading assignments
- Clarified material and answered questions from students
- Facilitated and upheld a positive learning environment

- Summarized student performance and engagement to instructor

Earthplace Preschool   May 2018 – June 2018
Intern
- Classroom included 15-20 children ages 3-5
- Assisted classroom teachers in day-to-day tasks
- Guided activities such as arts and craft, reading, writing, snack time, and outdoor play
- Mediated conflicts between children through growing communication skills
- Fostered problem solving and social skills in a play environment

Staples Playschool   August 2017 – December 2017
Student Teacher and Observer
- Lab school with a focus on play-based learning
- Classroom consisted of 12 children ages 4-6
- Developed engaging and educational lesson plans in reading, writing, math, and art
- Facilitated productive conflict resolution between children
- Collaborated with other teachers to create a safe and happy learning environment
- Conducted formal observations of students throughout semester

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Data Science: R Basics Course   July 2021-August 2021
- Online edX course taught by Dr. Rafael Irizarry of Harvard Applied Statistics
- Learned R basics, functions, and datatypes, vectors and sorting, indexing, data manipulation and plots, and the basics of programming
- Practiced reading, extracting, and creating datasets in R
- Performed a variety of operations and analyses on datasets

NYU Psychology Summer Research Program   July 2021
- Invited to attend multiple workshops, panels, and conferences geared towards development of research and graduate school skills
- Networked and discussed future plans and current skills with other students, professors, and graduate students
- Learned and considered the issues of racial discrimination in academia and the importance of diversity

Harvard Women in Psychology: Advanced Crash Course in R   June 2021
- Attended virtual R crash course focusing on tidyverse and language perspective
- Learned general functions of R, R Markdown and ggplot 2, Text Analysis, Data collection, R Shiny applications, and writing reproducible codes

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Betar, S.K. (2021, April). *Child maltreatment & psychosomatic symptoms: A meta-analysis* [Conference poster]. Poster presented at The University of Texas Undergraduate Research Forum. Austin, Texas.

Betar, S.K. (2022, March). *The effects of parenting stress on child behavioral issues during the COVID-19 pandemic* [Conference poster]. Poster presented at Capital of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference. Austin, Texas.

INVITED LECTURES

Betar, S.K. (2020, December & 2021, May). The Cost of Raising a Child. Child Development, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

Betar, S.K. (2021, December & 2022, May). Undergraduate Research Experience. Research Methods in Human Development and Family Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students Expanding Austin Literacy (SEAL)   September 2019 – March 2020
Member and Volunteer
● University organization aiming to assist elementary school students with necessary reading skills
● Worked with students grades 1st through 6th
● Assisted and guide students through homework
● Maintained student engagement in reading and learning
● Fostered trusting relationships with students

Odyssey School   January 2019 – June 2019
Volunteer
● Assisted teachers with general classroom procedures such as distributing work and facilitating transitions
● Answered student questions
● Guided students through problem solving
● Facilitated development of emotion regulation and academic skills
● Discussed students' needs and progress with teacher

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Computer Skills: Microsoft Office, jHab, Datavyu, Filemaker Pro, Canvas, and Zotero
                        Beginner knowledge of Quickbooks, SPSS, and R