

## **Sophia R. D'Agostino, Ph.D., BCBA-D**

Utah State University, Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling

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### **EDUCATION**

|      |       |   |
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| 2019 | Ph.D. | Michigan State University, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, emphasis in Child Development      |
| 2011 | M.Ed. | Grand Valley State University, College of Education, Special Education  |
| 2007 | B.S.  | Western Michigan University, College of Education and Human Development, Elementary and Early Childhood Education |

### **CERTIFICATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS**

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| 2020 | BCBA-D                                    | Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral, Behavior Analyst Certification Board (1-20-41260)                         |
| 2020 | ABA Graduate Certificate                  | Applied Behavior Analysis, Michigan State University, Counseling, Education Psychology, Special Education            |
| 2013 | Autism Endorsement                        | Autism Spectrum Disorder K-12, Grand Valley State University, Autism Collaborative Endorsement, MI                   |
| 2011 | Special Education Teaching                | Michigan Special Educator, Learning Disabilities K-12, Early Childhood Special Education B-K                         |
| 2007 | Elementary, Early Childhood Certification | Michigan Educator Certification, Elementary K-5 all subjects (K-8 all subjects self-contained), Early Childhood PK-K |

### **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

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|--------------|--|
| 2021-current | Assistant Professor of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, tenure track, Utah State University, Logan, UT |
| 2018-2021    | Assistant Professor of Education, tenure track, Hope College, Holland, MI  |

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| 2018-current | Consultant for Michigan Department of Education and Clinton County RESA  |
| 2015-2018    | Research and Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University, Human Development and Family Studies, East Lansing, MI |
| 2017-2018    | Early Childhood Inclusion Consultant, Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, Holland, MI                        |
| 2015-2017    | Early Childhood Specialist, Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, Holland, MI                                  |
| 2015-2020    | Statewide Autism Resources and Training (START) Presenter and Consultant, Michigan                                 |
| 2010-2015    | Special Education Teacher, Autism Spectrum Disorder Preschool, Jenison Public Schools, MI                          |
| 2009-2010    | Special Education Teacher, Early Childhood Special Education, Saranac Community Schools, MI                        |
| 2007-2008    | General Education Teacher, Young Fives, Hamilton Community Schools, MI   |

#### PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **D'Agostino, S.** & Douglas, S. (2021). Preparation experiences of pre-service inclusive preschool teachers: A qualitative metasynthesis. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10901027.2021.1902435>
2. Duenas, A., **D'Agostino, S.**, & Plavnick, J. (2021). A bid to play: Peer mediated instruction utilizing video models in inclusive preschool classrooms. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F10883576211023326>
3. Douglas, S. N., Uitto, D., & **D'Agostino, S.** (in press, 2021). Where is the paraeducator content in introductory special education textbooks? *Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals*.
4. **D'Agostino, S.** & Douglas, S. (2020). Early childhood educators' perceptions of inclusion for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. 49(4), 725-737. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-020-01108-7>

5. **D'Agostino, S.**, Douglas, S. N., & Horton, E. (2020). Inclusive preschool practitioners' implementation of naturalistic developmental behavioral intervention using telehealth training. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*. 50, 864-880. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-019-04319-z>
6. **D'Agostino, S.**, Duenas, A., & Plavnick, J. (2020). Increasing child initiations during shared reading experiences: An intervention for preschoolers with autism spectrum disorder. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*. 39, 213-225. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121418816422>
7. Oldenstadt, R., Douglas, S.N., Meadan, H., Sanda, M., Bhana, N., & **D'Agostino, S.** (2020). Exploring the professional development needs of early childhood paraeducators and supervising teachers. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121420921237>
8. Walker, V.L., Douglas, K. H., Douglas, S.N., & **D'Agostino, S.** (2020). Paraprofessional-implemented systematic instruction for students with disabilities: A systematic literature review. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities*. 55(3), 303-317.
9. **D'Agostino, S.**, Douglas, S.N., & Duenas, A. (2019). Practitioner implemented naturalistic developmental behavioral interventions in early childhood: A systematic review of social validity prevalence and practice. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*. 39, 170-182. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121419854803>
10. Douglas, S.N., Uitto, D., Reinfelds, C., & **D'Agostino, S.** (2019). A systematic review of paraprofessional training materials. *Journal of Special Education*. 52, 195-207. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022466918771707>
11. Douglas, S. N., Kammes, R., Nordquist, E., & **D'Agostino, S.** (2018). A pilot study to teach siblings to support children with complex communication needs. *Communication Disorders Quarterly*. 39, 346-355. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1525740117703366>

#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

1. Duenas, A. & **D'Agostino, S.** (revise and resubmit). *Experiences of service providers in the expedited delivery of ABA therapy via telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic: "It was not easy."*
2. **D'Agostino, S.** & Horton, E. (revise and resubmit). *Examining inclusive preschool teacher's perspectives and practices.*

3. Horton, E., Brigham, F., **D'Agostino, S.**, & Finn, J. (revise and resubmit). *Closing the reading achievement gap for ELs with disabilities at the high school level.*
4. **D'Agostino, S.**, Douglas, S.N., & Meadan, H. (under review). *Compassionate Care Within Early Intervention Caregiver Coaching: "They Won't Care What You Know Until They Know That You Care".*
5. Scogin, S., **D'Agostino, S.**, Dykstra, J., Veine, & Schuen. (under review). *The Effects of a Short-Term, Nature-Based Preschool Experience on Kindergarten Readiness and Environmental Attitudes*
6. Knowles, C., **D'Agostino, S.**, Kunze, M., Uittio, D., & Douglas, S. (under review) *Asynchronous Online Learning Opportunities for Paraeducators: A Systematic Review*

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

1. **D'Agostino, S.**, Douglas, S. N., Meadan, H. *Compassionate Care Competencies within Caregiver Coaching: A Mixed Methods Investigation.*
2. **D'Agostino, S.** & Maye, M. *Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions: Considerations for Implementation Within Preschool and Childcare Settings.*

#### AWARDED GRANTS

*Compassionate Care Practices within Caregiver Coaching.* Early On Michigan Faculty Grant. (2020-2021). Role: PI. \$7,000

*Metasynthesis of Preservice Preparation for Preschool Inclusion.* Nyenhuis Faculty Development Grant. Hope College. (2020). Role: PI. \$4,000

*An Investigation of Outdoor Programming Associated with the Outdoor Discovery Center.* Outdoor Discovery Center (2019-2020). Role: Co-PI. \$27,273

*An Investigation of the Start School Ready Program.* Start School Ready and Outdoor Discovery Center (2019). Role: Co-PI. \$16,326

*Dissertation Research Grant.* Michigan State University (2018). Role: PI. \$1,000

#### PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

**D'Agostino, S.** (2021, November). *Compassionate Care Competencies Within Caregiver Coaching.* 2021 Virtual Early On® Michigan Conference: *Strong Foundations for*

*the Future of Early Intervention*

- D'Agostino, S. & Douglas, S.** (2021, January). *Early Childhood Teacher Preparation for Including Children with ASD: Perceptions and Recommendations*. 22nd International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities (DADD)
- D'Agostino, S.** (2021, January). *Application of Social Validity Measures for Early Intervention Practice*. Conference Session, Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Virtual International Conference
- D'Agostino, S.** (2020, May). *Inclusive Preschool Practitioners' Implementation of Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention Using Telehealth Training*. Symposium, Applied Behavioral Analysis International (ABAI) Virtual Convention
- Horton, E. & **D'Agostino, S.** (2020, May). *Closing the reading achievement gap for English Learners with disabilities*. Poster presented at Applied Behavioral Analysis International (ABAI) Virtual Convention
- D'Agostino, S. & Douglas, S.** (2020, March). *Coaching practices in early childhood contexts*. Workshop at Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC). Grand Rapids, MI
- D'Agostino, S.** (2020, February). *Practitioner implemented naturalistic developmental behavioral interventions: Systematic review of social validity Practices*. Presentation at Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Portland, OR.
- Horton, E. & **D'Agostino, S.** (2020, February). *Closing the reading achievement gap for English learners with disabilities*. Presentation at Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Portland, OR.
- D'Agostino, S.** (2019, March). *Coaching Practitioners to Use Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Interventions*. Workshop presented at Michigan Council for Expectational Children Conference (MCEC). Grand Rapids, MI.
- Douglas, S. N., Kammes, R., **D'Agostino, S.**, Frantz, R. (2019, January). *Paraeducators: What we know and where we should go*. Presentation at the Division for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Annual Conference (DADD), Maui, HI.
- D'Agostino, S. & Douglas, S.N.** (2018, October). *Perceptions of inclusion of young children with autism: Pre-service teachers, practitioners and administrators*. Poster presented at Division for Early Childhood Conference (DEC). Orlando, FL.
- D'Agostino, S. & Plavnick, J.** (2018, May). *Increasing child initiations during shared*

- reading experiences: An intervention for preschoolers with autism spectrum disorder.* Symposium, Applied Behavioral Analysis International (ABAI) Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.
- Walker, V. L., Douglas, K. H., Douglas, S., **D'Agostino, S.**, & Kammes, R. (2017, December). *A literature review of studies involving paraprofessional-implemented systematic instruction.* Poster presented at the TASH Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Douglas, S., Kammes, R., Nordquist, E., & **D'Agostino, S.** (2017, January). *Teaching siblings to support the communication of young children with disabilities.* Poster presented at the International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, Clearwater, FL.
- Douglas, S., Nordquist, E., Kammes, R., & **D'Agostino, S.** (2016, November). *POWR: A communication strategy of professionals working with parents of children with a disability.* Presentation given the Parenting Awareness Michigan Conference, East Lansing, MI.
- D'Agostino, S.** (2016, October). *Early screening and diagnosis of autism: What's in the research?* Poster presented at the Division of Early Childhood Conference (DEC), Louisville, KY.
- Douglas, S., Nordquist, E., Kammes, R., & **D'Agostino, S.** (2016, October). *POWR: A communication strategy of professionals working with parents of children with a disability.* Presentation given at the Division of Early Childhood Conference (DEC), Louisville, KY.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Utah State University, Special Education Department Instructor**

Teaching Infants and Young Children with Disabilities (Blended Fall 2021)

### **Hope College, Education Department Instructor**

Theories of Child Development and Early Childhood Practices (Traditional Fall 2018, 2019; Online Fall 2020)

Observation and Assessment Early Childhood and Special Education (Traditional Spring 2019; Flipped Classroom Spring 2020, Online Spring 2021)

Planning and Implementing Curriculum and Instruction for Early Childhood (Traditional Spring 2019)

Early Childhood Student Teaching Seminar (Traditional Fall 2019, 2020; Online Spring 2020; Online Spring 2021)

Introduction to Assessment in Special Education (Traditional Fall 2019; Online Fall 2020;

Online Spring 2021)  
 Perspectives in Education (Traditional Fall 2019, Traditional Spring 2020)

**Grand Valley State University, College of Education Adjunct**

Language and Communication Assessment and Instruction for Autism  
 (Graduate; Online Spring/Summer 2020; Online Spring 2021)

**Michigan State University, Human Development and Family Studies Instructor**

Child Growth and Development (Online Summer 2018)  
 Curriculum for Early Childhood Programs (Traditional Spring 2018)  
 Special Needs Child and Family (Guest Lecture, Online Spring 2016, 2017)  
 Current Issues in Human Development and Family Studies (Guest Lecture, Traditional,  
 Spring 2016)

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

**Professional Organizations**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2021-current | Early Childhood Utah, Subcommittee Member   |
| 2021-current | Promise Partnership Regional Council (PPRC)<br>Kindergarten Readiness Group   |
| 2020-current | Naturalistic Developmental Behavioral Intervention<br>Special Interest Group of Applied Behavior Analysis<br>International (ABAI), President and Co-Founder |
| 2020-2021    | West Michigan Association for Behavior Analysis,<br>Member  |
| 2018-2020    | Michigan Division of Early Childhood (MIDEC),<br>Board Member, Member at Large  |
| 2016-current | Inclusion Stakeholders Committee of Michigan  |
| 2016-2018    | Autism Council of Michigan  |

**Reviewer for Refereed Journals**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2020-current | <i>Focus on Autism and Developmental Disabilities</i><br><i>Journal of Early Intervention</i><br><i>Early Childhood Education Journal</i> |
|--------------|---|

**UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENT SERVICE**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2021-current | Safety Committee, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling Department, Utah State University   |
| 2021-current | Special Education Department Hiring Committee, Utah State University  |
| 2020-2021    | Academic Computing Committee, Hope College  |
| 2020-2021    | Early Childhood and Elementary Certification Restructuring, Hope College  |
| 2020-2021    | Education Department Hiring Committee, Hope College   |
| 2019-2021    | Education Appeals Committee, Hope College   |
| 2018-2021    | Coordinator of the Great Start Readiness Program Hope College Lab Preschool in partnership with Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and Outdoor Discovery Center |
| 2018-2021    | Elementary Education and Early Childhood Team, Hope College   |
| 2018-2021    | Accreditation Committee, Hope College   |
| 2017         | Graduate Student Advisory Council, Michigan State University  |

**SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2020 | Careers in Applied Behavior Analysis, West Michigan ABA, Allendale, MI               |
| 2019 | Toddler Behavior Caregiver Training, Herrick District Library, Holland, MI           |
| 2019 | Early Writing Instruction for Area Educators, The Little Read Lakeshore, Holland, MI |



**ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2021       | Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT) Reliable Rater Training, Virtual, Florida State University |
| 2020, 2021 | National Early Childhood Inclusion Virtual Institute  |
| 2020       | AERA Virtual Research Learning Series   |
| 2020       | Teaching Works Virtual Summer Institute, University of Michigan                                     |
| 2020       | Conference on Autism and Related Disorders: Research Based Solutions, Online Live Conference        |
| 2018       | Inclusive Classroom Profile (ICP) Reliable Rater Training, Chapel Hill, North Carolina              |
| 2018       | Introduction to Pivotal Response Training (PRT), Saint Mary's University                            |
| 2016       | National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior (NTI), Florida  |

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2020-current | Division of Autism and Developmental Delays (DADD)     |
| 2017-current | International Association for Behavior Analysis (ABAI) |
| 2016-current | Division of Early Childhood (DEC)                      |
| 2016-current | Council of Exceptional Children (CEC)                  |