

Nicole B. Adams, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of Special Education, Early Childhood, and Prevention Science

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AREAD OF SPECIALIZATION

High-quality, inclusive early childhood education; culturally responsive family practices; family-professional partnerships; refugee and immigrant families' experiences in special education; family empowerment; school and community collaboration

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Special Education, 2021

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

Dissertation: *Special educators' use of culturally responsive family-professional partnership practices with refugee families*

Chair: Dr. Rosa Milagros Santos

M.Ed., Early Childhood Special Education, 2010

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Thesis: *Increasing preschoolers' literacy behaviors through environmental modifications and teacher engagement strategies*

B.A., Psychology, 2004

University of North Carolina, Asheville, NC

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

Published

McGuire, S. N., Folkerts, R., Meadan, H., **Adams, N. B.**, Lee, J., & Kaza, M. (Accepted). Cross cultural caregiver perceptions of challenging behaviors and responses. *Early Childhood Education Journal*

Adams, N. B., & Santos, R. M. (2021). A call for more support for refugee families and their children with disabilities. *Exceptionality*, 1-15.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09362835.2021.1938059>

Adams, N. B., & Santos, R. M. (2021). Resettlement education case managers' roles supporting refugee families with children with disabilities. *Journal of Special Education*, 00(0), 1-10.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00224669211018861>

Braun, M. T., **Adams, N. B.**, O'Grady, C. E., & Miller, D. L. (2020). An exploration of physical restraints used in youth mental health residential treatment facilities. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 110. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2020.104826>

- Chung, M., Meadan, H., Snodgrass, M., Hacker, R., **Adams, N.**, Sands, M. (2020). Assessing the social validity of a telepractice training and coaching intervention. *Journal of Behavioral Education: Special Issue*, 29, 382-408. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10864-020-09372-8>
- Meadan, H., **Adams, N. B.**, Hacker, R., Ramos-Torres, S., & Fanta, A. (2020). Supporting Spanish speaking families: Evaluating a training and coaching program. *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities* 32, 489-507. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10882-019-09704-1>
- Haines, S. J., Francis, G. L., Kyzar, K. B., Aldersey, H. M., & **Adams, N. B.** (2018). Family-professional partnerships with refugee families whose children have disabilities. *International Review of Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 54, 35-70.

Under Review

- Adams, N. B.**, McGuire, S. N., Meadan, H., Martin, M. R., Terol, A. K., Seidman, B., & Fanta, A. S. *Impact of challenging behavior on immigrant and U.S. caregivers of children with disabilities* [Manuscript under review].
- McGuire, S. N., Martin, M. R., Meadan, H., **Adams, N. B.**, Haidar, B., Griffin, C., & Folkerts, R. *Black, Mexican American, and White caregiver practices to prevent challenging behavior*. [Manuscript under review].

In Preparation

- Adams, N. B.**, & Santos, R. M. *Barriers and facilitators resettlement education case managers' experiences when supporting refugee families* [Manuscript in preparation].
- Miller, D., **Adams, N. B.**, Hacker, R. E., & Santos, R. M. *Special education evaluations: Social workers and psychologists' likelihood of using trauma-informed practices* [Manuscript in preparation].

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Conference Presentations

- Adams, N. B.**, O'Grady, C. E., & Santos, R. M. (2021, September 20-25). *Practices to support refugee families with young children with disabilities* [Conference session]. Division for Early Childhood 37th International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families (Virtual).
- McGuire, S. N., Folkerts, R., **Adams, N. B.**, & Meadan, H. (2021, March 17-19). *Culturally and ethnically diverse caregivers' experiences with challenging behavior* [Poster presentation]. Association for Positive Behavior Support 18th International Virtual Conference on Positive Behavior Support (Virtual).
- Adams, N. B.**, & Santos, R., M. (2021, January 25-29). *How refugee resettlement staff support families of youth with disabilities* [Conference session]. Division for Early Childhood 36th International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families (Virtual).
- McGuire, S., N., **Adams, N. B.**, Lee, J. D., Fanta, A. S., & Meadan, H. (2021, January 25-29). *Challenging behavior: Immigrant families' perceptions and responses* [Conference session]. Division for Early Childhood 36th International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families (Virtual).

- Di-Pietro-Wells, R., Krippel, M., **Adams, N. B.**, Schraml-Block, K., Santos, R. M., Ostrosky, M. M. (2021, January 25-29). *Promoting advocacy for families facing unique circumstances* [Conference session]. Division for Early Childhood 36th International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families.
- Adams, N. B.**, & Santos, R. M. (2020, Apr 17 – 21) *How education case managers from resettlement agencies assist refugee families to access special education* [Paper Session]. AERA Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. <http://tinyurl.com/s6wtcet> (Virtual).
- Adams, N. B.**, & Santos, R. M. (2020, February 27-29). *Role of resettlement education case managers in supporting refugee children with disabilities* [Poster presentation]. Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention (CRIEI). San Diego, CA.
- Adams, N. B.**, Meadan, H., Hacker, R., Ramos-Torres, S., Frantz, R. (2019, January 29-February 2). *Coaching Latino Parents with Children with Communication Delays: Lessons Learned* [Multi-group presentation]. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention and Expo. Indianapolis, IN.
- Meadan, H., **Adams, N. B.**, Hacker, R., & Ramos-Torres, S. (2019, January 16-18). *Partnering with Spanish-speaking caregivers: Training and coaching on social-communication strategies* [Poster presentation]. Council for Exceptional Children's Division of Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) 20th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families. Maui, HI.
- Meadan, H., Chung, M., Sands, M., Hacker, R., **Adams, N.**, Snodgrass, M., Akamoglu, Y. (2019, January 16-18). *Telepractice professional development program: Coaching professionals and caregivers to nurture children's communication skill* [Conference session]. Council for Exceptional Children's Division of Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) 20th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families. Maui, HI.
- Adams, N. B.** (2018, October 23-26). *Refugee families' experiences with special education: What we know and need to know* [Poster presentation]. Council for Exceptional Children's Division of Early Childhood (DEC) 34th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families. Orlando, FL.
- Miller, D., Santos, R. M., Corr, C., & **Adams, N. B.** (2018, October 23-26). *The space between: Current practices regarding trauma-informed supports and special education services*. Presented at Division of Early Childhood (DEC) 34th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families. Orlando, FL.
- Snodgrass, M. R., Meadan, H., Chung, M. Y., **Adams, N. B.**, & Sands, M. (2018, October 23-26). *Exploring generalization and maintenance in caregiver-implemented intervention: Lessons from four years later*. Poster presented at Division of Early Childhood (DEC) 34th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families. Orlando, FL.
- Adams, N. B.**, Meadan, H., Hacker, R., & Fanta, A. (2018, October 23-26). *Training and coaching Latina caregivers to use social-communication strategies*. Presented at Division of Early Childhood (DEC) 34th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families. Orlando, FL.
- Sands, M., Meadan, H., Chung, M., **Adams, N. B.**, Frantz, R., & Snodgrass, M. (2018, June 25-28). *CoCare professional development program: Supporting professionals, families, and children with developmental disabilities* [Poster presentation]. American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) 142nd Annual Meeting, St. Louis,

MO. https://www.aaidd.org/docs/default-source/annual-meeting/2018final-program.pdf?sfvrsn=150f3021_2

Chung, M. Y., Snodgrass, M. R., Meadan, H., **Adams, N. B.**, Sands, M., & Hacker, R. (2018, June 25-28). *Supporting an early intervention service provider to coach caregivers of young children with disabilities via telepractice* [Poster presentation]. American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) 142nd Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO. https://www.aaidd.org/docs/default-source/annual-meeting/2018final-program.pdf?sfvrsn=150f3021_2

State and Local Presentations

Adams, N. B. (2020, September 25). *Education case managers' support for refugee families with children with disabilities* [Online presentation]. Illinois Chapter- American Academy of Pediatrics, Refugee and Immigrant Child Health Initiative, IL.

Beitler¹, N. (2011). *I think in pictures: Using video modeling as an instructional strategy*. Workshop presented at Charlottesville City Schools, Charlottesville, VA.

Meeker, K., & **Beitler¹, N.** (2009). *I can relate! Tips for developing relationships with children, families, and coworkers*. Workshop presented at National Metropolitan Action Commission (Head Start) annual conference, Nashville, TN.

Invited Panelist

Adams, N. B. (2017, March 15). *Innovators in Education*. Panel presentation conducted at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Project Coordinator

Special educators' use of culturally responsive family-professional partnership practices with refugee families: National multiple methods research project [internally funded]. PIs: Nikki Adams & Dr. Amy Santos, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign (UIUC) [2020-2021].

- Designed multiple methods study and coordinated data collection
- Coordinated 5 student research assistants (undergraduate, master's, doctoral)
- Trained research assistants on data analysis

Investigating caregivers' perceptions and responses to young children's challenging behavior: National multiple methods research project [internally funded]. PI: Dr. Hedda Meadan, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) [2020-2020].

- Designed multiple methods study and coordinated data collection
- Coordinated 13 graduate student research assistants
- Collected data for analysis and comparison

Increasing employment for immigrants in Champaign-Urbana: Participatory action research project [unfunded]. Run by Gloria Yen, New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA, Champaign, IL [Summer-Fall 2019].

- Designed sequential mixed methods research

¹ Name changed from Beitler to Adams

- Coordinated data collection, analysis, and presentation

Family group training project: Local, multiple methods project [internally funded]. PI: Dr. Hedda Meadan, UIUC [Fall 2017-Fall 2018].

- Designed group study
- Coordinated data collection and analysis
- Coordinated team of 14 graduate and undergraduate student research assistants

Graduate Research Assistant

Research on Academic eMpowerment of Students (RAMS) Lab. PIs: Drs. Chin Chih Chen and Yaoying Xu, Virginia Commonwealth University [2020-2020].

- Collaborated to write methods of a study using the National Survey of Children's Health 2017-2018 data
- Collaborated to write methods of a study using the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-K:2011 data set

A long-distance parent-implemented interventions for children with disabilities/delays: a pilot study. PI: Dr. Hedda Meadan, UIUC [Spring-Summer 2020].

- Coded implementation of coaching behavior

Military Family Learning Network. PIs: Drs. Michaelene Ostrosky & Rosa Milagros Santos, UIUC [2018-2020].

- Developed 4-part professional development modules for early interventionists' about parent and practitioner advocacy. <https://militaryfamilieslearningnetwork.org/advocacy/>

Well-being collABorative meeting. PI: Dr. Catherine Corr, UIUC [2017-2019].

- Conducted scoping literature reviews on mixed methods in special education and trauma in special education
- *The space between: Current practices, perceptions, and preparation regarding trauma-informed supports and pediatric medical care*
 - Conducted semi-structured interviews with medical professionals

Internet-based Parent-implemented Communication Strategies (iPiCS). PI: Dr. Hedda Meadan, UIUC [2017-2018].

- Collaboratively developed coaching fidelity checklist
- Coded video data of coaching behavior and social validity of coaching caregivers about naturalistic communication strategies

The space between: Current practices and perceptions regarding trauma-informed supports and special education. PI: Dr. Deserai Miller, UIUC [2017-2018].

- Analyzed qualitative focus group data

The Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT). PI: Dr. Mary Louise Hemmeter, Vanderbilt University [2008-2010].

- Collected classroom data and coded videos on challenging behavior, teachers' implementation of Pyramid model practices, and teacher-child relations (CLASS)

Writing performance. PI: Dr. Steve Graham, Vanderbilt University [2008-2009].

- Conducted systematic literature review on handwriting, writing, and spelling

Death penalty litigation: Ed Chapman. PI: Dr. Pamela Laughon, University of North Carolina at Asheville [2002-2004].

- Analyzed longitudinal trends and patterns of NC capital litigation cases
- Analyzed 25 years of capital murder litigation briefs

Research Mentor

- *James Scholar Undergraduate Research Mentor*, Juliana Friedland, Morgan Kang, Emilie Peterson, Special educators' use of culturally responsive family-professional partnership practices with refugee families, UIUC [Spring 2021].
- *James Scholar Undergraduate Research Mentor*, Yailin Benitez, Challenging behavior across cultures, UIUC [Spring 2020].
- *James Scholar Undergraduate Research Mentor*, Alexis Chandler and Trey Harris, Family group training project, UIUC [Spring 2018].

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- SPED 585: Individual Differences: Birth to 6, UIUC [Spring 2021], (ICES score: overall teaching effectiveness 4.3/5; overall quality of course 4.4/5).

Co-Instructor

- SPED 465: Curriculum and Methods in ECSE, UIUC [Fall 2020], (ICES score: overall teaching effectiveness 4.3/5; overall quality of course 4.3/5).
- SPED 405: The General Educator's Role in Special Education (Elementary), UIUC [Fall 2018], (ICES score: overall teaching effectiveness 4.2/5; overall quality of course 4.1/5).

Graduate Student University Supervisor

- Master's Early Childhood Special Education Practicum Supervisor, UIUC [2019-2020].
- Community Placement Coordinator, UIUC [Spring 2020].
- Undergraduate Practicum Supervisor, Vanderbilt University [Spring 2009].

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- SPED 414: Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education, UIUC [Fall 2017], (ICES score: overall teaching effectiveness 4.5/5; overall quality of course 4.6/5).

Guest Lecturer

- SPED 317: Characteristics and Eligibility: Autism and communication disorders, UIUC [Spring 2020].
- SPED 517: Disability Issues in Special Education: Qualitative methods and coding, UIUC [Fall 2019].

- SPED 517: Disability Issues in Special Education: Early Childhood Special Education (Panel presentation), UIUC [Fall 2018].
- SPED 405: General Educator's Role in SPED Strategies Conference: Compare and Contrast, UIUC [Fall 2018].

Related Professional Experience

- Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Charlottesville City Schools, Charlottesville, VA [2013-2017].
- Early Childhood Special Education Itinerant and Preschool Evaluator, Charlottesville City Schools, Charlottesville, VA [2010-2013].
- Educational Consultant, Children, Youth, and Family Services, Charlottesville, VA [Spring-Summer 2011].
- Student Teacher, Walnut Grove Elementary, Nashville, TN [Spring 2010].
- Early Childhood Behavior Specialist, Child Care Resource and Referral, Hendersonville, NC [2007-2008].
- Early Childhood Education Teacher, Mountain Area Child and Family Center, Asheville, NC [2005-2007].
- Early Childhood Education Teacher, First Baptist Child Development Center, Asheville, NC [2003-2004].

EDUCATIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

Awards

- Fellowship, Project Family Individualization, Mobility, Poverty, Adversity, Culture and Trauma (IMPACT): Federally funded personnel leadership grant, UIUC [2017-2021].
- Hardie Dissertation Award (\$1,617), College of Education, UIUC [2021].
- Kay Reeves Meginnis Special Education Scholarship (\$3,000), Department of Special Education, UIUC [2020-2021].
- University Fellowship (\$1,000), College of Education, UIUC [2019-2020].
- Kay Reeves Meginnis Special Education Scholarship (\$3,000), Department of Special Education, UIUC [2019-2020].
- Department of Special Education Travel Award (\$400), Department of Special Education, UIUC [Fall 2019].
- Hardie Conference Travel Award (\$500), College of Education, UIUC [Fall 2018].
- Robert Bruce Reinhold Award (\$1,000), Department of Special Education, UIUC [2018-2019].
- Department of Special Education Travel Award (\$500), Department of Special Education, UIUC [Fall 2018].
- Special Education Block Grant (\$1,125), Department of Special Education, UIUC [2017-2018].
- Research Award (\$250), Department of Special Education, Vanderbilt University [Fall 2009].
- Fellowship, Leadership Training Grant, Federally funded personnel leadership grant, Vanderbilt University [2008-2010].

Grants

- Literacy for All, Venable Elementary School PTO (\$375), Charlottesville City Schools [2017].
- Number Ninjas Pre-Kindergarten Grant, Edgar and Eleanor Shannon Foundation for Excellence in Public Education: Charlottesville/Albemarle (\$5000), Charlottesville City Schools [2015-2016].
- Pets in the Classroom Grant, Pets in the Classroom (\$50), Charlottesville City Schools [2015].
- Early Childhood Special Education Family Outreach Grant (\$500), Charlottesville City Schools [2013-2014].

Honors

- Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC) Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Leadership Cohort [2020-2021].
- List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent (Teaching Assistant), SPED 414 [Fall 2018].

SERVICE

National

Conference Proposal Reviewer

- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention and Expo conference [2017-present].
- Council for Exceptional Children's Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families conference [2017-present].
- The Administration for Children and Families National Research Council on Early Childhood conference [2017-2019].

Guest Journal Reviewer

- *Co-reviewer*
 - Children and Youth Services Review with Dr. Catherine Corr, UIUC [Fall 2020]
 - Topics in Early Childhood Special Education, with Dr. Hedda Meadan, UIUC [Spring 2018].
 - Topics in Early Childhood Special Education, with Dr. Deserai Miller, UIUC [Spring 2018].
 - Psychological Services with Dr. Catherine Corr, UIUC [Fall 2017].

State

- *Secretary*, Virginia Division of the Division of Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children [2016-2017].
- *Committee Member*, Family FUNdamentals Calendar. Virginia Department of Special Education, Office of Special Education Programs [2012-2013].

Local

- *Co-Chair*, Early Intervention Team. Venable Elementary, Charlottesville City Schools, VA [2013-2016].

Department

- *Secretary*, Special Education Graduate Student Association, UIUC [2018-2020].
- *Member*
 - Special Education Graduate Student Association, UIUC [2020-2021].
 - Admissions and Recruitment Committee, UIUC [2019-2020].
 - Special Education Graduate Student Association, UIUC [2016-2017].

College

- *Member*, Social Justice & Diversity Graduate Student Council [2020-2021].

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Educational Research Association [2019-present]

Division K- Teaching and Teacher Education

Division G- Social Context of Education

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) [2010-present]

Division of Early Childhood (DEC)

Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL)

Division of Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD)

Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC)