

Kerri Kannengieser

Inclusive Education Leader

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Professional Summary

Passionate advocate for children with 20+ years of broad and complex experience, including program & project management, professional development and technical assistance, managing school wide special education programs and compliance, ensuring the quality and consistency of programming at a U.S. Army Child Development Center, building strong relationships & community partnerships, serving children with disabilities in urban communities, training educators, and supervising staff. Experienced leader, educator, teacher-mentor, and technical assistance provider who inspires fellow team members and is highly competent, dedicated, flexible, and well-spoken. Thrives in an environment that promotes reflection, growth, and continuous learning.

Education

M.S. Ed Special Education

Summa Cum Laude
Manhattan College
September 2009

B.A. Psychology/Special Education

Magna Cum Laude
Marist College
May 2005

Core Competencies

- Training & professional development
- Program & project management
- Leadership & advocacy
- Strategic planning
- Relationship building
- Evidence-based inclusive early childhood practices

Professional Skills

- Collaborative nature
- Organized, efficient, & reliable
- Strong written & oral communication
- Motivated & self-directed
- Creative problem solver

Professional Experience

South Carolina Partnerships for Inclusion // Columbia, SC //

Program Director & Co-Principal Investigator October 2021-Present

- Oversee day-to-day operations of the program
- Facilitate strategic planning for the program including assigning priorities, developing & maintaining collaborative relationships with community partners, and determining staffing needs
- In coordination with the Principal Investigator (PI), provide management of grant compliance & reporting requirements
- Make budgetary decisions with the PI to ensure contract deliverables are met with the funds allocated by the funder
- Facilitate the development and delivery of all professional development activities provided by the team to meet the scope of work outlined in the contract
- Provide direct supervision to the Technical Assistance Coordinator, Pyramid Model Coordinator, and Communications Coordinator
- Spearheaded the development and oversight of the annual South Carolina Early Childhood Inclusion Conference; manage conference program and related logistics

Program Coordinator October 2016-October 2021

- Responsible for designing & implementing all aspects of the project
- Facilitated strategic planning with school districts to increase the implementation of inclusive practices & expand inclusive early childhood opportunities
- Planned & coordinated professional development related to needs identified by district leadership teams
- Provided onsite support, training, and coaching to teachers, administrators, & staff
- Developed training materials related to evidence-based practices in early childhood/early childhood special education
- Organized training events and conference strands for regional & statewide functions
- Oversaw the design & development of program website, electronic communications, and social media
- Supervised Graduate Research Assistant
- Developed and maintained collaborative relationships across sectors in early childhood in South Carolina and other partners
- Provided timely reporting of data collected & production of annual report
- Assisted the PI with budget preparation & fiscal decisions as needed

Computer Skills

- Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, Teams)
- Web-based software applications (Blackboard, Zoom, Mailchimp, Google Suite, Umbraco, Canva)
- Social media (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram)
- Document creation (reports, flyers)

Licenses, Certifications, & Professional Memberships

- Professional Teaching Certificate in Special Education (1-6) NY
- Certified Trainer & Technical Assistance Provider through SC Endeavors
- SC Pyramid Model Inaugural Master Cadre of Trainers
- Member, SC Advisory Council for Educating Students with Disabilities (ACESD)
- Co-Chair, Preschool Committee—ACESD Executive Team
- Member, Council for Exceptional Children & Division for Early Childhood
- Member, Pyramid PIECES State Leadership Team

Completed Coursework

EDLP 806: Theories of Educational Leadership

Volunteer Experience

Hope for Tomorrow Guatemala, July 2023

- Collaborated with the PI to successfully propose an expansion of our program, which significantly increased our budget and allowed for the addition of 7 new positions

Preschool Trainer/Coach March 2016-October 2016

- Under the SC Gateways Personnel Development Grant, developed & implemented a framework of support for early childhood education specialists to increase the use of inclusive practices & improve school readiness outcomes for preschool children with disabilities (known as the SC Preschool Inclusion Initiative project)
- Collaborated with the PI to propose a scope of work to continue & expand the support provided under this grant
- Was awarded a 5-year contract by the SCDE Office of Special Education Services for our program, South Carolina Partnerships for Inclusion

University of South Carolina // Columbia, SC //

Adjunct Instructor August 2021-December 2021

August 2020-December 2020

- Provided asynchronous online instruction via Blackboard for Educational Procedures for Early Childhood Special Education (EDEX 630), a methods course in educational procedures focusing on intervention strategies for serving young children with disabilities in inclusive environments
- Successfully prepared, managed, and delivered course content in order to achieve course objectives, accommodate diverse learning styles, and meet administrative requirements
- Actively engaged students and provided prompt feedback in an objective, respectful, and effective manner

U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services // Fort Polk, LA //

Training Specialist April 2015-March 2016

- Ensured the quality & consistency of programming at NAEYC accredited Department of Defense Child Development Center, including: program structure, environment, equipment, materials, developmentally appropriate curriculum & activities, inclusion, risk management procedures, supportive interactions & positive social emotional development, and oversight & coordination of activity/program schedules
- Analyzed results of inspections, reviews, and rating scales; interpreted results & worked with management personnel to prepare and implement corrective action plans
- Reviewed lesson plans to ensure developmental program supported children's needs; ensured that all mandated programs were incorporated into plans
- Spent at least 60% of time in classrooms training, observing, evaluating, modeling appropriate techniques, and providing feedback
- Trained staff to promote social & emotional development using evidence-based Pyramid Model practices
- Designed, administered, and conducted the organization's Foundation and Annual training requirements based on course outlines for staff

- Evaluated staff/provider competence & conducted quarterly training reviews to discuss progress; ensured program assistants completed training within the prescribed timelines
- Co-facilitated significant purchase for the 2015 fiscal year center-wide. Led an organized process that included inventory of current materials, needs assessment, multiple purchase orders, and inventory & distribution of new materials

Achievement First East NY Elementary Charter School // Brooklyn, NY //

Special Services Coordinator July 2011-July 2014

- Facilitated all aspects of special education & the 504 process and ensured that school policies & procedures were in compliance with federal laws and regulations
- Led systematic improvement & expansion of special education services, including building the knowledge, skills, and mindsets of colleagues & staff
- Built & maintained strong family partnerships, including providing knowledge & support to demystify the special education process
- Managed strong professional relationship with the local district liaisons and acted as school administrator when meeting with district partners
- Contracted, coordinated, and oversaw team of related service providers
- Hired & supervised paraprofessionals
- Coached team of special education teachers
- Designed & implemented professional development sessions for staff to improve effectiveness of special education services
- Supervised the English Language Learner identification process, services, and testing protocols
- Collaborated with colleagues to plan & conduct Functional Behavioral Analyses (FBAs) and create, implement, and evaluate Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)
- Delivered small group at-risk intervention and Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS) in literacy & math for kindergarten—fourth grade

NYC Department of Education // Bronx, NY //

Lead Special Education Teacher September 2008-June 2010

- Collaborated with school leaders to improve the special education program and implement changes to positively impact student outcomes
- Partnered with Literacy & Math Coaches to expand instructional programs
- Oversaw the NYS Alternative Assessment Datafolio process
- Mentored and provided coaching to new special education teachers
- Facilitated weekly common planning meetings
- Conducted professional development sessions
- Member of the School Leadership Team—worked collaboratively to conduct data analysis & develop annual Comprehensive Education Plan

Special Education Teacher September 2005-June 2011

- Provided special education services in grades 6-8 in a variety of settings: general education, Collaborative Team Teaching, & self-contained classrooms (12:1 and 12:1:1)

- Developed & implemented IEPs based on student data, observations, and parent/teacher input
- Planned and executed differentiated lesson plans with the use of technology to enhance student engagement & understanding
- Created & implemented PBIS checking account system for positive, proactive classroom management
- Collaborated with paraprofessionals & families and participated in team meetings

Teach for America // Philadelphia, PA & NY, NY //

Corps Member/Teacher June 2005-June 2007

- Participated in intensive summer training program focused on making significant gains in student achievement
- Taught in summer school program run by TFA for students in Philadelphia public schools
- Engaged in full schedule of professional development activities
- Honored commitment to teach for two years in under-resourced public schools

Eastern Suffolk BOCES // Long Island, NY //

Paraprofessional July 2001-August 2003

- Participated in various summer school programs over the course of 2 summers to provide special education services to students with disabilities
- Substitute Teacher’s Assistant & classroom paraprofessional at multiple BOCES locations—supported children with disabilities from ages 5-15
- Experience as a 1:1 paraprofessional

Conference Presentations

Division for Early Childhood’s 39th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families Minneapolis, MN

Hope for Literacy Conference Guatemala City, Guatemala

SC TEAMS Summer University Columbia, SC

Frank Porter Graham International Early Childhood Inclusion Institute Chapel Hill, NC

National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior Tampa, FL

Oral Presentations

Beyond the Classroom: A Focus on State Systems that Foster Inclusion with Jani Kozlowski & Dr. Heather Googe November 29, 2023

Keynote: *An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure: Strategies for Improving Behavior in the Classroom* July 27, 2023

Some Assembly Required: Building the Foundation for High-Quality Inclusive Early Childhood Programs with Melissa Griffin & Tanya Hutchinson July 11, 2023

Beyond the Classroom: A Focus on State Systems that Foster Inclusion with Jani Kozlowski May 17, 2023

Beyond the Classroom: A Focus on State Systems that Foster Inclusion with Jani Kozlowski & Dr. Heather Googe April 13, 2023

South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Conference Charleston, SC

Preschool LRE: Resources in SC to Help You Expand Your Continuum of Placements with Dr. Heather Googe February 17, 2023

Family Connection SC's Hopes & Dreams Conference Columbia, SC

Pyramid PIECES: Statewide Partnerships to Support Children's Social & Emotional Development with Carrie Trivedi, Madalina Tudora, & Beth Reilly April 7, 2022

South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research (SCEPUR) Conference: Cultivating Equitable Education Systems in South Carolina Virtual

Addressing the Needs of Preschool Children with Disabilities: Using a Collaborative Partnership to Support a Continuum of Placements panel with Dr. Heather Googe, Dr. Kate Ascetta, & Lucie Bingham March 18, 2022

First Step's 2021 Summit on Early Childhood Columbia, SC

Including Children with Disabilities from the Start panel with Dr. Heather Googe, Dr. Kate Ascetta, Kerri Wikel, Kate Chappell, Victoria Davis, & Mary Reaves December 3, 2021

Division for Early Childhood's 37th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families Virtual

Tiered Supports for Young Children with Low Incidence Disabilities with Dr. Jennifer Grisham, Dr. Donna Carpenter, & Tracy Evans-Luiselli September 24, 2021

South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Conference Myrtle Beach, SC

Teaming in South Carolina to Increase Successful Outcomes: From Preschool to Post-Secondary with Dr. Jane Everson & Frank Gause February 29, 2020

Social Emotional Toolkit for Families with Amy Holbert February 29, 2020

Pyramid Model Practices to Support Young Learners who are Deaf-Blind with Dr. Jenny May, Robert Hill, Dr. Donna Carpenter, & Dr. Jennifer Grisham-Brown February 27, 2020

Family Connection SC's Hopes & Dreams Conference Columbia, SC

Social Emotional Toolkit for Families with Dr. Heather Googe February 25, 2020

Champions for Young Children Symposium Columbia, SC

Social Emotional Toolkit for Families with Carrie Trivedi August 2, 2019

South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Conference Myrtle Beach, SC

Lessons from the Field: How to Make Preschool Inclusion Work! March 2, 2019

Classroom Strategies for Successful Preschool Inclusion with Dana Bennett March 2, 2019

SC First Steps Chairman's Summit Columbia, SC

Pyramids in SC! Building Practice to Eliminate the Use of Preschool Suspension and Expulsion panel with Dr. Jenny May December 7, 2018

South Carolina Office of Special Education Services Research to Practice Institute Columbia, SC

Classroom Strategies for Successful Preschool Inclusion with Dana Bennett July 19, 2018

Using Tier 2 Strategies from the Pyramid Model to Teach Social-Emotional Skills in an Early Childhood Classroom with Nichole Hudgens July 17, 2018

Family Connection SC's Hopes & Dreams Conference Columbia, SC

South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Conference Myrtle Beach, SC

South Carolina Department of Education Office of Special Education Services Research to Practice Institute Columbia, SC

South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Conference Myrtle Beach, SC

National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior Tampa, FL

Council for Exceptional Children's Conference & Expo Portland, OR

Division for Early Childhood's 33rd Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and their Families Portland, OR

Enhancing Social and Emotional Skills in an Early Childhood Classroom: Intro to the Pyramid Model and Tier 1 Strategies with Nichole Hudgens July 16, 2018

Parent Partnerships for Preschool Inclusion with Amy Holbert March 20, 2018

Using the Pyramid Model to Connect Social-Emotional Strategies and Literacy Development with Dr. Jenny May February 2, 2018

Using Tier 2 Strategies from the Pyramid Model to Teach Social-Emotional Skills in an Early Childhood Classroom with Dr. Heather Googe July 25, 2017

Enhancing Social and Emotional Skills in an Early Childhood Classroom: Intro to the Pyramid Model and Tier 1 Strategies with Dr. Heather Googe July 24, 2017

Early Childhood Education: A Crash Course for Special Education Administrators February 25, 2017

Poster Presentations

South Carolina Pyramid Model Implementation 2.0 (State Day)
Jennifer Harrist, Ashley Davies, Carletta Isreal April 19, 2022

Do Community Demographics and Team Development Variables Impact Team Effectiveness? Dr. Jane Everson, Leah Cordoni, Franklin Gause February 8, 2020

Facilitating Cross-Sector Collaboration to Increase Inclusive Opportunities for Preschool Children with Disabilities Dr. Heather Googe October 6, 2017