

EDUCATION

2020	PhD, Educational Leadership, Policy, and Human Development North Carolina State University
2005	M.A. Liberal Studies University of North Carolina at Greensboro
2004	Certificate, Core Concepts in Public Health University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2004	Certificate, Non-Profit Management Duke University
2000	M.Ed. Early Childhood Intervention and Family Support University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
1998	B.A. Psychology and French University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Education Program Specialist/Data Implementation Team Facilitator, Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education, May 22, 2023 – present.

- Serve as a nationally recognized expert in Part C and B programs of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Facilitate the Results Driven Accountability data implementation team and support the evaluation of state annual plans to inform determinations.
- Provides leadership expertise in improving/evaluating special education programs.
- Develops, tests, and applies new program approaches and innovative techniques to better meet the program's goals.
- Serve as a State Contact and provides leadership through technical assistance and clarification to internal and external customers.

National Science Foundation Research Project Manager, North Carolina State University, March 15, 2024 – present.

- Serve as the primary liaison between the sponsoring agency, the IRB, principal investigator (PI) and research staff.
- Manage the recruitment, communication, and data collection from participants.
- Coordinate, monitor, and facilitate virtual project meetings; including supporting creation and storage of online documents and project website maintenance.
- Ensure IRB and compliance with ethical requirements and standards.
- Draft annual report for funding agency and provide support for research dissemination, particularly journal article publications.

Faculty/Doctoral Mentor, Doctor of Human Services, March 18, 2024 – present.

- Mentor doctoral learners and participate in doctoral committees.
- Guide and coach learners through the doctoral project (dissertation process or Capstone Project) by promoting a positive, collaborative relationship that enhances learner engagement, satisfaction, retention, and success.

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Consultant, Subject Matter Expert, Encompass, LLC, June 2023 – present (ad hoc).

- Serve as a Universal Design for Learning subject matter expert and provide technical guidance and inputs for major deliverables to USAID.
- Work closely with the Data and Evidence for Education Programs (DEEP) project team and attend virtual meetings with DEEP team members, USAID, and USAID's UDL Working Group, other UDL panelists.
- Participate on a lead panelist with USAID staff, missions and implementing partners at UDL workshops.
- Provide review and feedback for a USAID School Screening Tool Brief and suggest revisions, as needed.

Assistant Director, Division of Child and Family Well-Being/Part C Director, Early Intervention Section, January 6, 2020 – May 18, 2023.

- Provided leadership for the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program that serves over 25,000 children with developmental delays, disabilities, and special healthcare needs, birth to three, and their families.
- Guided and administered personnel and program guidance for over 900+ employees and 700 community-based providers.
- Administered funding and allocated human and fiscal resources with an annual budget exceeding \$85 million per year (federal, state, Medicaid funding).
- Managed the federally required State Performance Plan (SPP) and ensure accurate indicator data for the Annual Performance Report (APR).
- Collaborate with state, regional, and/or local early care and education agencies and key state level stakeholders to design, implement, and sustain workforce improvements.
- Provide support for translation of research to practice, systems evaluation, and implementation of evidence-based practices.
- Led proposals and business development activities to advance early childhood initiatives.

Early Childhood Development Consultant, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO), September - December 2023.

- Support the development of a comprehensive and cohesive regional Parenting Support Framework (PSF) and self-assessment tool focused on the early years for the UNICEF ECARO.
- Coordinate and integrate the programming ECD with Social Behavioral Consultant inputs.
- Review existing literature on relevant national, regional, and global frameworks/strategies.

Adjunct Faculty, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health, November 1, 2021 – present.

- Teach PUBH 791: Core Concepts in Public Health Leadership and SPHG 701: Leading from the Inside-Out with the MPH@UNC Program.
- Serve as Course Coordinator and participate in regular instructor meetings to coordinate with other MPH faculty.

Adjunct Faculty, University of Connecticut, Educational Psychology Department, Research Methods, Measurement, and Evaluation, July 1, 2021 – present.

- Redesign and teach master's and doctoral level research methods courses on Blackboard platform.
- Collaborate with Program Faculty, Director, and University of Connecticut to ensure course materials meet academic competencies.

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Adjunct Faculty/Subject Matter Expert, Bay Path University Psychology Program, April 1, 2021 – present.

- Develop and design course curricula for undergraduate psychology courses.
- Teach accelerated online psychology courses (i.e., Early Intervention, Parenting, Abnormal Psychology, Case Management) using Canvas.
- Collaborate with Program Director to ensure course materials meet academic competencies.

Adjunct Faculty, Appalachian State University, Child Development Program, August 9, 2021 – December 31, 2023.

- Teach asynchronous undergraduate and graduate courses in Developmental/Educational Assessment Birth to Five Years, Infant/Toddler Curriculum, and Early Intervention using Moodle.
- Collaborate with Program Faculty to ensure course materials meet academic competencies.

Consultant, UNICEF Thailand Country Office, September 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024.

- Support the commissioning of a national research initiative (including development of a terms of reference, review of proposals, and documentation and submission of recommendation of awarding of the contract) per established UNICEF business processes.
- Manage and coordinate the research (external and internal) from inception to finalization; and facilitate and ensure quality assurance of all deliverables including technical input into study methods, tools, knowledge products (briefings, presentations, and other materials).
- Map, develop, and facilitate a stakeholder engagement strategy.

Cognitive Interviewer, Focus Group Moderator, and Survey Designer, EurekaFacts, LLC, August 19, 2022–August 31, 2023.

- Conduct in-depth interviews and moderate focus groups on critical public health, health messaging, and education issues.
- Perform qualitative analyses of interview/focus group data to identify themes.
- Write findings in research reports to federal funding agencies and private entities.

Educational Researcher, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti, Research on Education And Development (READ) Unit, Early Childhood Education Team, September 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022.

- Conducted a desk review of ECE quality assurance systems (with focus on OECD countries).
- Contributed to UNICEF “What Works in Pre-Primary Education” review report.
- Co-created preschool quality indicators, self-assessment tool, and training manual with UNICEF office and Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Sciences.

Act Early Ambassador, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 1, 2020 - 2022.

- Co-led CDC grant with the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) to improve early identification of development delay and disability.
- Serve as point of contact and promote the adoption and integration of “Learn the Signs. Act Early” (LTSAE) resources into systems that serve young children and their families.
- Facilitate distributions of LTSAE materials to early childhood programs across North Carolina to increase Child Find efforts.

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Consultant/Research Investigator, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC-CH)/NC Department of Public Instruction, November 19, 2018 - January 3, 2020.

- Served as a Research Scientist with the NC PDG Needs Assessment.
- Supported the IDEA Part B 619 Preschool Exceptional Children Program.
- Collaborated with actors from the UNC-Chapel Hill, state and local education agencies.
- Provided training and technical assistance, and facilitated regional and LEA PD, using evidence-based and research-informed strategies, and meaningful stakeholder engagement to build the capacity of teachers and administrators in Part B 619.
- Co-led training events to increase capacity of preschool coordinators' knowledge and skills in program implementation, quality, and compliance with federal indicator reporting.
- Conducted classroom observations to support quality improvement initiatives.

NC Infant-Toddler Program Data Manager and State Systemic Improvement Plan

Lead, North Carolina Early Intervention Branch (EIB)/Infant-Toddler Program (NC ITP), NC Division of Public Health/Department of Health and Human Services, April 27, 2017-November 16, 2018.

- Oversaw federal reporting and compliance of practice and data to ensure consistency with IDEA.
- Collaborated with NC ITP stakeholders and led the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) implementation integrating implementation science principles.
- Supervised data team to analyze data, identify gaps, and enhance system infrastructure to better understand, interpret and utilize data to inform program and policy improvements.
- Reviewed existing federal and state policies, regulations, and program performance in meeting the integrity of policies, and implement changes needed to support program success.
- Managed family engagement efforts to engage family voice/families as leaders.

Project Manager/Director, Marbles Kids Museum, April 2016 - April 2017.

- Managed The Kaleidoscope Project, which aimed to improve places and spaces for young children (0-8 years old) to support their mental health/social emotional wellbeing.
- Built and maintained relationships with Project Steering Committee member organizations (i.e., Lucy Daniels Center, The Salvation Army, North Carolina State University School of Design, Marbles Kids Museum, and The John Rex Endowment).
- Facilitated communications, led meetings, and provided management for overall project.
- Coordinated the hiring and management of the Communications and Evaluation consultants.
- Worked closely with childcare providers and leaders in the transitional housing sectors.

Educational Consultant/Project Coordinator, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute/Division of Child Development & Early Education, September 2013 –April 2017.

- Managed a portfolio of selected projects, including contract management, progress monitoring, reporting, and communications efforts for the NC Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant.
- Collaborated with various government, NGOs, local agencies, providers, and policy makers to support grant activities and interpretation and application of federal and state rules, regulations, and policies, while adhering to project timelines.
- Conducted ongoing desk reviews, analyzing data from multiple sources, and conducted site visits to ensure that projects met federal Scope of Work requirements.
- Collaborated closely with NC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (NC ECIDS) Leadership supporting the establishment and development of the program.
- Provided TA and resources to state, local, and public stakeholders; facilitated and managed work groups around birth to eight-year-old public policy initiatives.

State Implementation Specialist, National Implementation Research Network, November 2012 – September 2013.

- Worked with state and local leaders to apply implementation science principles to support early childhood (EC) system building in rural counties in North Carolina.
- Provided training/coaching to County Implementation teams to build local capacity for high quality implementation of evidence-based practices.
- Facilitated the development of cross-sector teams, advised on program implementation, and co-created program plans.
- Provided leadership in design, implementation, and evaluation of EC programs.

Project Management Specialist, Education Policy and Systems, International Development Group, RTI International, March 2012-November 2012.

- Consulted on health and education system strengthening in Uganda as the Home Office Technical Manager (HOTM) for a USAID Cooperative Agreement.
- Prepared and reviewed SOWs, work plans, budgets, technical, consultant, trip, and other reports.
- Collaborated on technical and strategic planning and assisted with Human Resources efforts (i.e., recruitment, interviewing, hiring) for international staff and consultants.
- Contributed to technical writing efforts for a Nepali national education sector assessment.

Project Manager/Research Associate, Carolina Population Center, July 2008 – March 2012.

- Developed project plans, protocols, and timelines to monitor project progress with investigators, subcontractors, and staff for the National Children's Study.
- Assisted with budget projections, submission, monitoring, and compliance.
- Wrote quarterly and annual reports and prepared updates on study progress.
- Contributed to business proposals, wrote small business statements of work, oversaw the RFP, selection, contracting and oversight of subcontractors.
- Participated in national, state, and local meetings, web casts, workgroups/task forces.
- Oversaw communications and community outreach and engagement efforts, including project Community Advisory Group.
- Hired, trained, and supervised staff on project activities and protocols.

Research Analyst, RTI International, March 2003 - September 2005.

- Oversaw survey research plans and outcome data task for the Legacy for Children project.
- Developed forms, checklists, questionnaires, and protocols to facilitate data collection.
- Managed multiple databases, prepared manuals, and deliverables.
- Hired and trained staff on various child and family assessments.
- Monitored assessment completion, accuracy, currency, and data entry.
- Created subcontractor SOWs, managed activities, and ensured timely invoice payment.
- Created budget projections and Institutional Review Board (IRB) submissions.
- Served as a Delegation Coordinator Egyptian Ministry of Education Officials.

Project Director/Research Study Coordinator, University of Maryland at Baltimore, Center for Families, January 2002-August 2002.

- Managed a community-based health project focused on child maltreatment prevention.
- Responsible for IRB and developed questionnaires, trainings, protocols, and databases.
- Assisted with participant recruitment, home visits, and interviews.

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Genetics Research Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins University, February-October 2001.

- Managed two multi-institution collaborative studies investigating the genetic etiology of hypertension and schizophrenia.
- Liaised for a network of university researchers in a national collaborative study funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).
- Wrote quarterly reports to the NHLBI and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) summarizing network progress.

Research Assistant II, Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Kennedy Krieger Institute, July 2000-February 2001.

- Administered parent interviews and developmental assessments of 6- to 36-month-olds for siblings of children with autism.
- Maintained study database, data entry, and analysis.
- Assisted in the development of study protocol and data forms.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Outlook)

Statistical Software: SAS, SPSS, STATA, NVivo

Bibliographic Citation Tools: EndNotes, Refworks

Online survey and social media tools: Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, WordPress, Facebook, Instagram

GRADUATE/CLINICAL TRAINING AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fellow, National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations, September 2020 – September 2022.

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, Carolina Interdisciplinary Large-Scale Policy Research Training, January - December 2007.

Seminar Coordinator, Education Committee, United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO, Literacy for All Seminar, October 2005 – February 2006.

Early Intervention Intern/Hospital Early Head Start, NICU/UNC Hospitals, 2000.

Student Teacher, Inclusive Preschool Classroom, FPG Development Center, 1999-2000.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES

Infant Mental Health Mentor – Policy Endorsement (IMHM-P®) (2022-2025)

Project Management Professional (In Process - 2024)

Birth-Kindergarten Teacher Licensure – Renewal (2010-2015)

Level I TEACCH Certification (2000)

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

Secretary, National Charity League – Longleaf Pine Chapter, 2024-2025

Former President, NC Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Association, 2017-2022.

Member, Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development Community Engagement Advisory Board, October 2020-2022.

Board Member, Wake County Smart Start, September 2020-2023.

Board Member, IDEA Infant Toddlers Coordinators Association (ITCA), January 2021-2022.

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PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, AND GUEST LECTURES

Barton, E., Fox, L., King, E., Kennerson, D., & Loza, S.E. The Pyramid Model in Part C Systems: State Implementation Approaches. NTI 2022 Annual Conference, April 2022.

Guest Lecturer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Infant Toddler Curriculum and Learning Environment Course, May 2021.

Guest Lecturer, American International College, Pediatric Occupational Therapy Course on Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, February 2021.

Guest Lecturer, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Inclusive Family-Centered Practices in Early Childhood, February 2021.

Colgan, S., Loza, S.E., Taylor, C., & Rogoff, J. Using Data from Families of Young Children to Advance Program Equity. DEC - Division for Early Childhood's 36th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Virtual, January 2021.

Loza, S.E., Earls, M.F., Horen, N., Maslow, G. Farrell, M., Leach, B., Meskil, D., Cloninger, L., Roedersheimer, T. Perspectives of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. 2020 NC Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health, Home Visiting & Parent Education Conference, Virtual, November 2020.

Owenby, M., Loza, S.E., Webster, A., Aparicio, L. Infant Mental Health, Home Visiting, and Parenting Education Core Competencies. 2020 NC Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health, Home Visiting & Parent Education Conference, Virtual, November 2020.

Smith, S. Ferguson, D., Burak, E., Gomm, A., & Loza, S. (2020, November 19). *Supporting Social-Emotional and Mental Health Needs of Young Children Through Part C Early Intervention: Results of a 50-State Survey* [Webinar]. Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center.

Mauzy, D., Argue, S. Bull, B. Harmon, G., Blas, K., Nelson, A.H.N., Loza, S., Meskil, D., Simpson, B. The Power of Data Linking: Increasing Your Capacity to Use Data. the 2020 Improving Data, Improving Outcomes (IDIO) Virtual Convening. October 2020.

Rivest, M., Jennings-Shaffer, J. Loza, S., Roedersheimer, T., Hirsch, S. (2020, May 12). *Think Babies™ NC: How COVID-19 is Impacting Babies and Their Families* [Webinar]. North Carolina Early Education Coalition.

Loza, SE and Kennerson, D. Infusing Early Childhood Mental Health Principles into Early Intervention Systems and Services. North Carolina Infant & Young Child Mental Health Association Conference, Greensboro, NC, November 2018.

Loza, SE. Using Data You Can Trust: Improving Survey Response Rates. Improving Data, Improving Outcomes Conference, August 2018.

Loza, SE, & Rose-Waters, M. "Resilience" Film Screening & Adverse Childhood Experiences: Critical Conversations. North Carolina Infant & Young Child Mental Health Association Conference, Greensboro, NC, November 2017.

PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, AND GUEST LECTURES (cont.)

Fleming, WO, Loza, SE, Louison, LM, Van Dyke, M. Early Childhood Implementation Teams: Applying the Active Implementation Frameworks to enhance local implementation infrastructure in support of improved early childhood outcomes. Global Implementation Conference, Washington, DC, August 2013.

Loza, SE, Panel Presenter. Participant Retention Strategies in Duplin and Durham County, NC. National Children's Study Collaborative Innovation Network Meeting, February 14, 2012.

Loza, SE, Bell, J, Brody, E, Brown, C, Fuller, Gremminger, M, Mayorga, R. Comparison of Communication Strategies in Rural and Suburban Communities: Duplin and Durham, North Carolina. NCS Research Day, Bethesda, MD, February 2011.

Loza, SE, Lane, WG, Dubowitz, H. Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: A Role for Pediatrics. Presented at the First National Conference on Children and Adolescents: Promoting Access to Mental Health Services, Baltimore, MD, June 2002.

PUBLICATIONS

Vindrola, S., Ghawi, G., Baghdasaryan, B., Lata, D., Loza, S., & Nugroho, D., (2023). *What works in pre-primary education provision: A review of evidence on achieving equitable access and quality in low-and-middle income countries*. UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight. Florence, Italy.

Franco, X., Yazejian, N., LaForett, D., Peisner-Feinberg, E., Kasprzak, C. M., Bryant, D. M., Williams, S. B., Loza, S., De Marco, A., Soliday Hong, S., Bratsch-Hines, M., Harradine, C., Reid, K., & Zgourou, E. (2020). *North Carolina statewide birth-5 needs assessment final Report*. Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute.
https://fpg.unc.edu/sites/fpg.unc.edu/files/resource-files/NC%20Statewide%20Birth-5%20Needs%20Assessment%20Report_Final_3.11.20.pdf

Loza, S. E. (2020). *Children with social and behavioral disorders in early intervention: Secondary data analysis using the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study* [Doctoral dissertation, North Carolina State University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCED TRAINING

Positive Parenting Program Level II (2021)	Circle of Security-Parent Facilitator (2021)
North Carolina Public Health Leaders Institute (2021)	Citizen Leadership Academy (2016)
Certificate, M&E Fundamentals, USAID (2013)	

MEMBERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Human Development Intervention Network	International Society on Early Intervention
World Association for Infant Mental Health	Council for Exceptional Children
Society for Research in Child Development	American Psychological Association
Pi Delta Phi-French National Honors Society	Kappa Delta Pi-Honors Society for Education

STATE AND COMMUNITY/PHILANTHROPIC SERVICE

2022- present **Patroness/Parliamentary Committee**, National Charity League
2017-2022 **Member**, Leo M. Croghan Continuing Education and Grants Committee
2018-2020 **Member**, Trauma and Resilience in Early Childhood Committee
2017-2019 **Member**, Wake County Adverse Childhood Experiences Steering Committee
2016-2019 **Member**, 100 Women Who Give a Hoot
2016 **Member**, North Carolina DHHS Suspension and Expulsion Policy Committee
2014-2015 **Member**, Durham Partnership for Children Evaluation Committee
2014 **Member**, Wake County Young Child Mental Health Collaborative
2014 **Team Member**, Stop Hunger Now
2013 **Reader/Reviewer**, 2013 Global Implementation Conference Presenters/Posters