

Leah Battillo

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EDUCATION

Masters; Applied Behavior Analysis with an emphasis in Autism
Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana: July 2017 **GPA 3.88**

Bachelor of Science; Elementary Education and Linguistics; concentration in Special Education
Gordon College, Wenham, MA: May 2014 **GPA 3.78**

AWARDS

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges (2015)

- Selected through a nomination process by Gordon College faculty and staff.

President's Award (2014)

- Chosen by Gordon College's presidential cabinet.
- Awarded to one student annually who has made significant contributions to the college and the community through the creation of new programs and diverse participation in campus events and positions.

Presidential Honors (6 semesters)

- Maintaining a 3.75 and above

Leadership Scholarship (2010)

CERTIFICATIONS

Autism, NJ (July 2017)

Applied Behavior Analysis, NJ (July 2017)

CPI's Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, NJ (January 2015- current)

Elementary (1-6), NJ & MA (June 2014)

Teacher of Students with Disabilities (PreK-8), NJ & MA (June 2014)

Endorsed in English Language Learning (K-12), MA (June 2014)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Special Education Teacher, Grade 4, Self-Contained Robertsville Elementary, Marlboro NJ *Sept. 2017 - Present*

- Oversee support staff (2).
- Utilize technology and computer programs to support learning goals: Achieve 3000, RazKids, IXL, ST Math, & Google Classroom.
- Participate in social & emotional programs: Language Lab, Robertsville Bistro, & Robertsville Garden.
- Selected to be a POWER coach for the district's title 1 students.

Special Education Teacher, Grade 3, Self-Contained Robertsville Elementary, Marlboro NJ *September 2016 - Present*

- Supervised support staff (4).
- Used applied behavior analysis principles in classroom routines and rules.
- Analyzed data from FBAs to develop behavior plans and interventions and administered state assessments.
- Developed scope and sequence for all subjects, developed and used individual goals to modify curriculum.
- Incorporated Project Read, EdMark, Framing Your Thoughts, Envision, and Story Form in daily lessons.
- Collaborated with parents, therapists, behaviorists, consultants, and other professionals to meet learning goals.
- Worked with the special education team to apply for school grants and kid contests.
- Collaborated with special education team to implement social skills programs such as Robertsville Bistro, Circle of Friends, Peer Buddies, a social skills class, and field trips.
- Presenter at the Parent Power Night and selected to participate in the Summer Curriculum Math Writing Committee.
- Selected to be on a committee to revise the district's ELA units of study for Grades 1-5 and to help update resources for Making Meaning.
- Danielson Observation summative average for the year: 3.84 = Highly Effective

Special Education Teacher, Grade 4, Resource Room/ICR, Robertsville Elementary, Marlboro NJ *Sept. 2015-July 2016*

- Modified curriculum and assessments for students of all abilities for all subjects in the general education classroom, developed individualized goals, wrote IEPs, participated in Child Study team meetings, and collected data for the district's inclusion specialist.
- Planned the scope and sequence for Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies, developed resources and lesson plans that incorporated technology and principles from the Universal Design of Learning, collaborated with colleagues and administration to rewrite district's common assessments, and administered state and standardized assessments (PARCC and Brigance).

- Co-directed Peer Buddies- a weekly program that promotes social skills and friendships between children with autism and peers in the general education class.
- Participated in the Special Education Curriculum Writing Committee for ELA and Math.
- Presented at Parent Power Night and helped plan Disability Awareness month activities.
- Danielson Observation summative average for the year: 3.74 = Highly Effective

Special Education Teacher, Grade 4, In Class Resource, Robertsville Elementary, Marlboro NJ *Sept. 2014-June 2015*

- Incorporated Universal Design and technology in lesson plans for all subjects, modified curriculum and assessments.
- Participated in Special Education Curriculum Writing Committee for ELA, presenter at a parent forum and helped plan an assembly.
- Participated in over 100 hours of professional development: PARCC, Google Classroom, Google forms, Achieve 3000, Dyslexia, ADHD, Project Read, NJ Ask, Social Skills, and Data Analysis.
- Taught after-school home instruction.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Team Member, The Accessible Icon Project, Triangle Inc., Malden, MA *July 2013 - Present*

- Responsible for organizing the direction of an internationally-recognized disability project that focuses on changing the handicapped sign to an active and engaged image. Project featured on *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, *BBC*, *NPR*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and the *Boston Globe*.
- Individuals in over 35 states and 12 countries are in partnership with the project and are using the icon.
- New York State legally adopted the icon as their new symbol of access.

Writer and Commentator, Teachertalk4all Blog *Spring 2012 - Present*

- Manage personal blog and twitter account that shares lesson ideas, resources, and international disability projects and research.

CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

Grade 4, General Education Teacher, Salisbury Elementary School, Salisbury, MA *Sept – June 2014*

- Conducted action research on student motivation; piloted new reading programs: Journey's and Making Meanings, participated in Keys to Literacy professional development, interpreted assessment results from GRADE, DRA, and DIBELS.

Grade K-5, Special Education Resource Teacher, Beeman Elementary School, Gloucester, MA *Sept. – June 2014*

- Used reading programs: Lively Letters, Foundations, Reading Street, and Project Read. Administered Wilson's fluency test, analyzed test results of Woodcock Johnson, and AimsWeb; participated in IEP and Child Study Behavior meetings.

Grade 3rd-5th, Inclusive Autism Classroom: Captain Samuel Brown Elementary, Peabody, MA. *Spring 2012*

Grade 3, Winthrop Elementary, Hamilton, MA. Taught math lessons focused on manipulative use. *Fall 2012*

Teacher Assistant, Department of Natural Science, Gordon College, Wenham MA. *Spring 2012*

Grade 1, Peabody West Memorial, Peabody, MA. Taught reading and phonics. *Fall 2011*

Grade 3rd-5th, Harrington Elementary School, Lynn MA. Taught in an inclusion class. *Spring 2011*

Grade 7th-12th, New England Academy, Beverly MA. Focused on students on the spectrum. *Spring 2011*

After School Tutor, La Vida Yes: served underprivileged student in an urban setting, assisted in homework and mentorship. *Fall 2010*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

Special Needs Program Consultant, Mount Bethel Church, Mt. Bethel, PA *Winter 2017- Present*

- Meet with families in their homes to observe students and develop an individualized program for participation in church events.
- Wrote individualized curriculum incorporating PECS and assistive technology.

Special Needs Buddy, Liquid Church, Edison, NJ *August 2016- Present*

- Support students with various disability participate in Sunday School and church events such as Night to Shine.

Job Coach, Triangle Inc. Malden, MA *Summer, August 2014*

- Resume and interview training for high school students with disabilities.
- Partnered with local community to create college and job opportunities.

Founder and Director of Beyond Disabilities Week, Gordon College, Wenham MA *March 2013 - February 2014*

- Envisioned, planned, and implemented a week focusing on the topic of disabilities, which included 19 events, two movies, 23 speakers, three panel discussions, and a technology and art forum.
- Collaborated with over 100 people, raised \$13,000, and managed a team of 25 students with and without disabilities.
- Hired Temple Grandin, world-renowned author, speaker and expert on animal behavior and autism, as keynote speaker.

Curriculum Organizer, Maputo, Mozambique

Summer 2012

- Developed curriculum, resources, and collected materials for local orphanages in English studies.

Resident Advisor, Gordon College, Wenham MA

August 2011 - May 2012

- Responsible for the well being of 130+ residents and oversaw a floor of 26 girls.

Founder and Director of E-lift, Gordon College, Wenham MA

February 2011 - January 2012

- Envisioned and organized a forum for students to encourage one another and community members through various mediums, such as letters and emails.

PUBLICATIONS

Serao, L (2017) "10 Google Slides Projects for Students". Whoosreading. N.p.,n.d. Web.

Serao, L (2016) "The Story of the Accessible Icon Emoji: iOS 10 Update". *Disabled World*. N.p., n.d. Web.

Serao, L. & Walsh, T. (2013) "Paternity Leave: The Next Frontier in Evolving Notions of Parenthood". *Vox Populi*. Volume VI, Issue 3 (Summer), Gordon College, Wenham, MA.

Serao, L. (2013). "Moving Forward From a Less-Than-Ideal Icon: Ideas and Monuments". *Vox Populi*. Volume VI, Issue 2 (Spring), Gordon College, Wenham, MA.

Serao, L. (2013). "A Modern Day Facelift: Changing the way we see people with disabilities with the Accessible Icon Project". July 15, Neighborhood Writing Alliance, Chicago, IL.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

"Using Script Fading to Increase the Participating of Students with Autism in Morning Meeting", Literature Review and Research Study. Robertsville Elementary School and Ball State University (2016). Advisor: Annemarie Hanley (MA, BCBA & Speech and Language Therapist).

"Self-Ability, Value, and Success: What motivates students to do well in school", Action Research, Education Department, Gordon College (2014). Advisor: Ballock, E (PhD).

"Seeing the World Through a Lens of Signs and Symbols: Comparing the Original International Symbol of Access and the Accessible Icon", Senior Thesis, Linguistics Department, Gordon College (2014). Advisor: Bird, G (PhD).

"Semiotics, Symbols and Signs", Independent Study, Philosophy and Psychology Lab, Gordon College (2013). Advisor: Glenney, B (PhD).

"Bilingual Education and the English Only Movement: Enhancing Learning through Cultural and Linguistic Diversity", Independent Study, Linguistics Department, Gordon College (2012). Advisor: Thuswaldner, G (PhD).

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Serao, L "Interactive Journals: How to get students to write", Marlboro Township, NJ (March 2017).

Serao, L. "Don't Get Stung: Interactive Games at Home that Promote Math and Reading Fluency", Marlboro Township, NJ (March 2015 & 2016).

Senator Carlucci, Assemblywoman Galef, Harris, D., Serao, L. "NYC Adoption of the Accessible Icon," New York State Assembly, NY (June 2014).

Serao, L. "Introduction to Temple Grandin: Thinking in Pictures-The Ability in Disability", Gordon College, Wenham MA (February 2014).

Bauer, C., Darko, D. (PhD), Harris, D., Glenney, B. (PhD), Serao, L. "What Makes Us Human", Gordon College. Wenham, MA (February 2014).

Ferguson-Sauder, T., Gentry, J., Glenney, B. (PhD), Serao, L. "From Art to Advocacy: The Accessible Icon Project", Gordon College, Wenham MA (February 2014).

Serao, L. "Introduction to Beyond Disabilities Week: It's a Gift", Gordon College, Wenham MA, (February 2014).

Serao, L. "Moving Forward From a Less-Than-Ideal-Icon," Paper presented at the annual Literatures and Linguistics Undergraduate Colloquium at Gordon College Wenham, MA. (April 2013).

Glenney, B. (PhD) & Serao, L. "The Accessible Icon Project," Boston Convention and Exhibit Center: Architecture Expo, Boston MA. (November 2013).

Serao, L. "Art to Advocacy: The Accessible Icon Project," The Disabilities Experience: State of the Arts in Research, Scholarship and the Arts, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. (October 2013).

Serao, L. "The Accessible Icon Project," Boston Convention and Exhibit Center: Abilities Expo, Boston MA. (September 2013).

Serao, L. "Moving Forward: Activating and Evolving the International Symbol of Access. Co-Authored with Dr. Brian Glenney, *Disability Issues and Advocacy*, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. (November 2012).