**Tiantian Sun, M.A.E.**

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(352)-283-9869

**RESEARCH INTEREST**

My research interests are in supporting communication, language, and literacy development for children with disabilities, specifically, children with complex communication needs. I am focusing on three areas of research: (1) identifying and evaluating evidence-based intervention strategies supporting communication, language, and literacy development of young children with disabilities; (2) understanding how to provide culturally responsive intervention to children and their families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; (3) measuring language and communication skills of children with disabilities.

**EDUCATION**

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| 08/2018-Present | Doctoral Candidate, Human Development and Families Studies, College of Social Science, Michigan State University  Major: Child Development  **Advisor:** Rayn Bowles, Ph.D.  **Committee:** Sarah Douglas, Ph.D; Lori Skibbi, Ph.D.; Joshua Plavnick, Ph.D. |
| 08/2016-08/2018 | Master’s of Art in Education, School of Special Education, School Psychology, & Early Childhood Studies, University of Florida  Major: Early Childhood Education  **Advisor:** Patricia Snyder, Ph.D.  **Committee:** Mary McLean, Ph.D.; Maureen Conroy, Ph.D.; Brian Reichow, Ph.D.; Crystal Bishop, Ph.D. |
| 09/2011-07/2015 | Bachelor of Education, Beijing Normal University  Major: Early Childhood Education  **Advisor:** Xiaowei Li, Ph.D. |

**HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS**

***Grants***

Family Perspectives of the Experience of Bilingual Children with Complex Communication Needs Who Use AAC. **Sun, T. (PI)** Research Grant of Corey & Thompson Fellowship. College of Social Science, Michigan State University, 02/2020-10/2020, ($1,800.00)

The Perspectives of Preschool Teachers on the Preschool Safety Education in Beijing. **Sun, T. (PI)**, Huang, J., & Suo, A. Grant of Department Sponsered Research Project,Department of Education, Beijing Normal University, 2013-2014, (¥1,000.00)

***Granted Honors and Awards***

**Sun, T.** AAC Think Tank Traveling Award, Penn State University, 06/2022, ($300.00)

**Sun, T.** Scholarship from the Estate of Mary Lewi, the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University, 05/2022, ($2,500.00)

**Sun, T.** Council of Graduate Students (GSOC) Professional Development Award, Michigan State University, 03/2022, ($500.00)

**Sun, T.** Traveling Funds, Graduate School, Michigan State University, 02/2022, ($200.00)

**Sun, T.** Scholarship from the Estate of Mary Lewi, the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University, 05/2021, ($3,000.00)

**Sun, T.** Graduate Student Research Funding Award from the Estate of Mary Lewi, the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University, 05/2020, ($845.00)

**Sun, T.** Scholarship from the Estate of Mary Lewi, the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University, 04/2020, ($4,000.00)

**Sun, T.** Traveling Funds, Graduate School, Michigan State University, 03/2020, ($350.00)

**Sun, T.** Scholarship from the Estate of Mary Lewi, the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University, 03/2019, ($6,000.00)

**Sun, T.** Traveling Funds, Graduate School, Michigan State University, 10/2018, ($59.00)

**Sun, T.** The CSS Recruitment Enhancement Scholarship, Michigan State University, 07/2018, ($2,900.00)

**Sun, T.** Scholarship from the Department of Education, Beijing Normal University, 02/2015, (¥500.00)

**PUBLICATIONS**

***Manuscripts Under Review***

**Sun, T.**, Bowles, R. P., & Douglas, S. N. (R&R). Chinese-English speaking family perspectives of AAC use with their children who have complex communication needs.\* This project was funded by the **Research Grant of Corey & Thompson Fellowship**. College of Social Science, Michigan State University, 02/2020-10/2020.

**Sun, T.**, Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., & Plavnick, J. (R&R). Response Time of Children with Complex Communication Needs Following a Communication Opportunity.

Douglas, S. N., Bowles, R. P., Plavnick, J., **Sun, T**., Dunkel-Jackson, S., & Bagawan, A. (under review). Development of an online training program to support young children with complex communication needs.

***Peer-reviewed Journal Publicaitons***

Lu, Y., Erickson, K., **Sun, T.**, Douglas, S., & Hauck, J. (in press). Perspectives of primary caregivers and neurotypical siblings on a prospective sibling-guided motor intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities.*

Douglas, S. N., Dunkel-Jackson, **Sun, T.** & Owusu, P.(2022). A Review of Research Related to the POWR Intervention: A Communication Partner Intervention to Support Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders. *Current Developmental Disorders Reports.*

Douglas, S. N., Dunkel-Jackson, S., Bagawan, A, & **Sun, T.** (2022). Five tips for implementing telepractice interventions with family members of young children with autism spectrum disorders. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*.

**Sun, T**., Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., & Gerde, H. K. (2021). Supporting AAC Use for Preschoolers with Complex Communication Needs. *Young Exceptional Children.*

Tang, C., Xie, H., & **Sun, T.** (2015).Status and inspiration of the professional training in Finnish early childhood education. *Journal of Shaanxi Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sience Edition), 96,* 83-88. [Translated journal title from Chinese].

***Manuscripts in Preparation***

**Sun, T.**, Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., Lu, Y., & Bagawan, A. (in preparation). A systematic literature review of communication and language measurement systems of children with complex communication needs.

**Sun, T.**, Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N. & Bagawan, A. (in preparation). Systematic Review of Interventions Supporting Language and Literacy Development of Children with Complex Communication Needs.

Bagawan, A., Douglas, S. N., **Sun, T.** & Lu, Y. (in preparation). Stay-play-talk intervention via telepractice for typically developing siblings of children with disabilities.

***Selected Nonpeer-reviewed Publications***

Liu, W., Wang, S., **Sun, T.** & Bao, Q. (Illistrator). (2018). *Well Behaved Monkey King*. Beijing Normal University Publish Group: Beijing.

Liu, W.,Liu, S., & **Sun, T**. & Bao, Q. (Illistrator). (2018). *The Birth of New Life*. Beijing Normal University Publish Group: Beijing.

**Sun, T.** &Liu, W. (01.21.2019). Comprehensive sexuality education at home: How early should we get started? WeChat article published by Play and Early Childhood Development.

**Sun, T.** &Liu, W. (11.21.2018). Home Literacy Practice in the U.S. Family. WeChat article published by Play and Early Childhood Development.

**Sun, T.** &Liu, W. (11.19.2018). How to Help Preschool Children Develop Pre-literacy Skills? WeChat article published by Play and Early Childhood Development.

**Sun, T.** &Liu, W. (11.19.2018). Talk to Your Children! WeChat article published by Play and Early Childhood Development.

**Sun, T.** & Liu, W. (05.21.2018). How to Support Your Children Learn a Secondary Languge? WeChat article published by Play and Early Childhood Development.

**Sun, T.** & Liu, W. (04.22.2018). How to Help Your Children Improve Their Languge Skills through Dialogic Reading? WeChat article published by Play and Early Childhood Development.

**CONFERENCE**

**Sun, T.** (2022, August). Supporting children with complex communication needs: Research implications to preschool inclusion education [Title translated from融合教育视角下高质量学前教育实施与展望]. *Online Symposium Celerating 70th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Department of Early Childhood Education, in Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University. [*北京师范大学教育学部学前教育学院70周年庆线上圆桌会议]. Online.

**Sun, T.,** Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., & Plavnick, J. (2022, April). *Response time of children with complex communication needs following a communication opportunity*. Oral presentation at the Doctoral Student AAC Research Think Tank 2022 at Penn State University. University Park, PA.

Douglas, S. N., **Sun, T**., Meadan, H., & Lee, J. (2022, Feburary). *Culturally responsive practices* *to support young children with disabilities: What we know and where we should go*. Panel presentation at the 2022 Biennial Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention. San Diego, CA.

**Sun, T.,** Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., & Plavnick, J. (2022, Feburary). *Response time of children with complex communication needs following a communication opportunity*. Poster presentation at the 2022 Biennial Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention. San Diego, CA.

**Sun, T**., Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N. & Bagawan, A. (2022, January). *A systematic review of interventions supporting language and literacy development of young children with complex communication needs*. Presentation at the 2022 International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, Division on Autism & Developmental Disabilities (DADD) of the Council for Exceptional Children. Clearwater, FL.

**Sun, T**., Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., & Goodwin, S. (2022, January). *The perspectives and experience of AAC communication in Chinese-English speaking families*. Presentation at the 2022 International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, Division on Autism & Developmental Disabilities (DADD) of the Council for Exceptional Children. Clearwater, FL.

Bagawan, A., Douglas, S. N., **Sun, T.** & Lu, Y., (2022). Stay-play-talk intervention via telepractice for typically developing siblings of children with disabilities. Presentation at the 2022 International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, Division on Autism & Developmental Disabilities (DADD) of the Council for Exceptional Children. Clearwater, FL.

**Sun, T.** (2021, August). Naturalistic developmental and behaviroal intervention in preschool children with complex communication needs. [Title translated from融合教育第一步：基于自然游戏的幼儿园早期干预]. *Online Symposium on Early Children Education held by Peking University* *[北京大学学前教育线上国际研讨会].* Online.

Lu, Y., Erickson, K., **Sun, T.**, Douglas, S., & Hauck, J. (2021, May). *Perspectives of Primary Caregivers and Neurotypical Siblings on a Prospective Sibling-guided Motor Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Oral presentation at the 20th International Society for Autism (INSAR) Annual Meeting. Online.

**Sun, T.**, Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., & Goodwin, S. (2021, April). *Chinese-English Speaking Family Perspectives of AAC Use with Their Children Who Have Complex Communication Needs*. Poster presentation at the 2021 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). Online.

**Sun, T.**, Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., & Plavnick, J. (2021, April). *Response Time of Children with Complex Communication Needs Following a Communication Opportunity*. Poster presentation at the 2021 Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). Online.

**Sun, T.**, Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N., & Goodwin, S. (2021, August). *Family Perspectives of the Experience of Bilingual Children with Complex Communication Needs Who Use AAC*. Poster presentation at the 2021 Biennial Conference of International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Online.

**Sun, T.**, Bowles, R. P., Douglas, S. N. & Bagawan, A. (2021, August). *Systematic Review of Interventions Supporting Language and Literacy Development of Children with Complex Communication Needs*. Poster presentation at the 2021 Biennial Conference of International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Online.

Douglas, S. N., Bowles, R. P., & **Sun, T.** (2021, August). *Development of an Online Training Program to Support Young Children with Complex Communication Needs*. Oral presentation at the 2021 Biennial Conference of International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Online.

Lu, M., Liu, W., **Sun, T.,** & Bai, L. (2018, November). *Preschool Comprehensive Sexuality education practice in China*, Beijing. Poster presented at the 2018 Annual Conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Washington D.C.

**Sun, T.** & Snyder, P., (2018, October). *Supporting Preschool Teachers to Use Embedded Instruction to Teach Emotional Vocabulary.* Poster presentation (*Cancelled*) at the Annual Conference of the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children. Orlando, FL.

Hur, J., Snyder, P., & **Sun, T.** (2018, March). *Systematic Review of the Effects of Early Literacy Instruction on the Early Literacy Outcomes of Preschool Children who are or are not Dual Language Learners*. Poster presented at the 2018 Biennial Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention. San Diego, CA.

Hur, J., Snyder, P., Reichow, B., **Sun, T.,** & the DEC Evidence Synthesis Group (2017, October). *Evidence Synthesis of DEC Recommended Practices: Assessment 4.* Poster presented at the 2017 Annual Conference of the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children. Portland, OR.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Sun, T.** & Liu, J. (2022, Janurary). Play and Child Development: *Supporting Self-regulation Development of Young Children Through Play Activities*. Invited online presentation to Chinese pediatricians and clinical child health care workers, China.

Liu, J& **Sun, T.** (2022, Janurary). Play and Child Development: *Supporting Emotional Development Through Play Activities*. Invited online presentation to Chinese pediatricians and clinical child health care workers, China.

**Sun, T.** & Liu, J. (2021, December). Play and Child Development: *Supporting Social Skills of Young Children Through Play Activities*. Invited online presentation to Chinese pediatricians and clinical child health care workers, China.

**Sun, T.** & Liu, J. (2021, November). Play and Child Development: *Supporting Language Development Through Play Activities*. Invited online presentation to Chinese pediatricians and clinical child health care workers, China.

**Sun, T.** (2021, September). Play and Child Development: *Providing Early Intervention Through Free-Play Activities*. Invited online presentation to Chinese pediatricians and clinical child health care workers, China.

**Sun, T.** (2021, August). Play and Child Development: *Supporting Child Development Through Play-Theoritical Background*. Invited online presentation to Chinese pediatricians and clinical child health care workers, China.

**Sun, T.** (2020, May). *Building healthy parent-child relationship with your preschoolers*. Invited online presentation to Chinese parents and preschool teachers at Beijing Shuiyun Hadun Preschool, Beijing, China.

**Sun, T.** (2020, May). *Strategies You Can Use During Shared Book Reading: Dialogic Reading*. Invited online presentation to Chinese parents and preschool teachers at Beijing Shuiyun Hadun Preschool, Beijing, China.

**Sun, T.** (2020, March). *Strategies You Can Use During Shared Book Reading: Dialogic Reading*. Invited online presentation to Chinese parents (225 parents) at Chongqing, China.

**Sun, T**. & Liu, J. (2019, August). *Supporting Secondary Language Learning at Home Settings*. Online presentation to Chinese Parents (230 parents) at Wenzhou, China.

**Sun, T**. & Liu, J. (2019, July). *Using AAC to support language and literacy development for children with autism spectrum disorders*. Invited online presentation to Chinese Parents (120,000 hits until 2021, Feburary), China.

**Sun, T**. & Liu, J. (2019, July). *Using AAC to support social communication for children with autism spectrum disorders*. Invited online presentation to Chinese Parents (120,000 hits until 2021, Feburary), China.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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| --- | --- |
| 08/2018-Present | **Graduate Research Assistant**  Human Development and Families Studies, College of Social Science, Michigan State University   * Work on *Online Training for Paraeducators to Improve Communication Supports for Young Children with Complex Communication Needs*. Funded by the Institute for Educational Sciences, Department of Education (Project Number: R324A180122).   + Trained to be a reliable video coder for the Paraeducator POWR coding system.   + Conducted coding training to undergraduate research assistants to be realible coder of the Paraeducator POWR coding system.   + Work on coding system revision, video coding, data collection, and data reporting. |
| 08/2016-07/2018 | **Graduate Research Assistant**  School of Special Education, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies, College of Education  University of Florida   * Work on *Impact of Professional Development on Preschool Teachers’ Use of Embedded-Instruction Practices: An Efficacy Trial of Tools for Teachers.* Goal 3 efficacy trial funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, Department of Education (Project Number: R324A150076).   + Trained to be a reliable video coder of the Embedded Instruction Observation System (EIOS);   + Contributed to data processing, including CLASS, ABILITIES, PKBS, and Battelle score checking and data entry. |
| 01/2015-07/2016 | **Research Assistant**  Lab of Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Children, School of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Beijing Normal University   * Work on *Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Preschool Children – A Pilot Project.*    + Designed comprehensive sexuality education teaching manual of social norms unit and conducted teacher training;   + Designed child assessment materials for all 8 units and conducted child assessment including class observation and interviews to assess children’s progress and evaluate the effectiveness of the research project;   + Coordinated with colleges to conduct parent interview to evaluate the social validity data for the pilot project. |

**TEACHING & GUEST LECTURING EXPERIENCE**

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| 10/12/2021 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “translating research to practice and communicating with families”, HDFS 414 Parenting |
| 04/02-05/2021 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “sexual development of young children”, HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 11/18-20/2020 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “sexual development of young children”, HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 04/02/2020 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “sexual development of young children”, HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 08/2018-05/2019 | **Graduate Teaching Assistant,** Human Development and Families Studies, College of Social Science, Michigan State University |
| 01/2019-11/2019 | **Volunteering preshool teaching,** Child Development Laboratories,Michigan State University |
| 11/20/2019 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “sexual development of young children”, HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 04/24/2019 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “sexual development of young children”, HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 04/10/2019 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “sexual development of young children”, HDFS 212 Child Growth and Development |
| 11/19/2018 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “sexual development of young children” (part 1), HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 11/21/2018 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “sexual development of young children” (part 2), HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 11/26/2018 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “children with special needs” (part 1), HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 11/28/2018 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “children with special needs” (part 2), HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |
| 11/30/2018 | Guest Lecture in the topic of “children with special needs” (part 3), HDFS 211 Child Growth and Development |