

# Student Summer Scholar Program Application Examples

## A4. Project Feasibility

### Example 1

#### A. Goals

The primary purpose of this project is to support the resiliency of young children with communication disorders through (a) exploring differences in attitudes and interactions of caregivers and their children with and without communication disorders and (b) a caregiver-led bibliotherapy intervention study. We propose to complete an ongoing longitudinal study that has been following young children with and without communication disorders and their primary caregivers and to pilot a study in which the primary caregiver is trained to provide a bibliotherapy intervention to target improved resiliency in their child.

Goal 1: Evaluate child and caregiver attitudes and interactions for children with and without communication disorders.

We will continue conducting a study entitled "[REDACTED]" in which we have been following young children, between the ages of 2.5 and 6 years old, and their primary caregiver for six months and evaluating the child's speech and language skills, attitudes toward the child's communication, and parent-perceived responses and stress related to their child's communication. Study procedures include speech-language evaluations conducted at study entry, three months later, six months later, and monthly caregiver surveys. Currently, 14 child-caregiver dyads have completed the study, and an additional 6 are enrolled in the study. We expect to reach our participant goal of 30 dyads by the Spring semester and have approximately 15 visits to complete during S3. Whereas [REDACTED] primarily observes study visits and enters data at present, [REDACTED] will take on additional responsibilities as part of [REDACTED] S3 project, such as scheduling visits, consenting and collecting data from the caregivers, and helping to write the evaluation reports. This experience will contribute to her knowledge and confidence in working with caregivers and young children and writing evaluation reports that are similar to the ones she will write as a speech-language pathologist. Dr. [REDACTED] will help at each visit and review all reports.

Goal 2: Pilot an intervention study to improve the resilience and coping of children with communication disorders and their primary caregivers.

[REDACTED] and I have been developing a bibliotherapy study that we expect to conduct, following IRB approval, during the Spring/Summer semester. This bibliotherapy study will include individual, weekly caregiver coaching sessions in which the caregiver is introduced to a children's book targeting improved resilience and activities to complete with their child. Study participation includes a comprehensive speech and language evaluation for the child and a four-week intervention period; the weekly parent coaching will be completed via zoom or phone. Our target is to enroll 6-8 children-caregiver dyads. The children must be 5-8

years, present with speech-sound and/or stuttering disorders, and currently be receiving speech-language services.

To reach our recruitment target, we will invite previous participants of studies within Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab and reach out to local pediatric speech and language clinics. We believe our target is reasonable given (a) that several families that have participated in previous studies are eligible for participation and (b) the virtual nature of the study, which lessens the burden on participants to drive to campus on a regular basis.

[REDACTED] has helped develop this study, including book selection and activity development. [REDACTED] has also worked closely with Dr. [REDACTED] to identify measures to measure both child and parent change. We plan to submit our completed IRB application in late March/Early February to allow time for revisions prior to the start of S3. Conducting this study will help [REDACTED] gain valuable experience coaching caregivers to use the activities [REDACTED] developed with their children. [REDACTED] will help them troubleshoot any issues and gather pre- and post-intervention data.

Goal 3: Explore differences in attitudes of caregivers of children with stuttering and speech sound disorder related to their child's communication skills

As we conduct study visits for the previously-mentioned two goals, we will also spend time analyzing extant data from the longitudinal study. [REDACTED] will be given the opportunity to develop and answer 2-3 research questions related to attitudes toward stuttering and/or their child's communication using extant data from participants' first visit. [REDACTED] has expressed an interest in analyzing data and reported [REDACTED] greatly enjoyed the previous STATS course [REDACTED] completed at GVSU. This goal will allow [REDACTED] to use statistical analysis to answer [REDACTED] research questions without being dependent on the other objectives. I will support [REDACTED] through this goal and we will meet with the GVSU Stats Center as needed. The expected outcome is a research poster appropriate for an academic conference.

#### B. Area of Expertise

The proposed studies build upon work from us both. Dr. [REDACTED] has extensive experience conducting longitudinal studies with young children and their caregivers (e.g., [REDACTED], 2020; 2021). [REDACTED] has also published a measure that will be used in both studies to explore caregiver responses to their child's communication ([REDACTED] et al., 2022). Together, we have been working on a bibliotherapy study that targets emotional coping in young children, which informed the proposed bibliotherapy study. We are also both comfortable with REDCap, which will be used to collect and store data for both proposed studies.

### C. Project Timeline

	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Wk8	Wk9	Wk10	Wk11	Wk12
Goal 1	Conduct Three-month visits for participants who begin the study in February and March 2023								Conduct Six-Month Visits for participants who began in January 2023			
Goal 2	Target Recruitment		Conduct Study: Initial Evaluations with 4-week intervention						Analyze Data and begin Manuscript			
Goal 3	Develop Research Questions		Complete Statistical Analyses			Develop Figures and Tables		Develop Academic Poster		Develop conference submission		
	S: 35 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15	S: 28 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15	S: 28 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15	S: 35 M: 15

### D. Budget

The budget will be used to purchase the set of books that will be used for the bibliotherapy intervention as well as equipment to improve the quality of the parent coaching sessions. We will purchase 9 copies of each of the four books. One set will be used by the researchers and a set will be provided to each of the 8 participating families. We will also purchase a large desktop monitor with webcam and an external multi-directional microphone so that both researchers can be seen and heard during the virtual parent coaching sessions.

### E. Responsible Conduct of Research

We are both up-to-date on our CITI Training. The study targeted in Goals 1 and 3 has been approved by the Institutional Review Board ([20-337-H-GVSU](#)). As of February 2023, we are currently writing the IRB application for the study targeted in Goal 2. We expect to submit our application by late February/early March and have approval prior to the start of the summer semester.