

# EKENE AZUKA

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## EDUCATION

**AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**, BERKELEY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Program: School Psychology; Ph.D.

Fellowships: Chancellor's Fellowship

GPA: 4.0

**AUGUST 2017 – MAY 2021**

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**, PEABODY COLLEGE

Majors: Cognitive Studies, Psychology

Minor: Philosophy

Honors: Honors Diploma; Dean's List, 8 Semesters

GPA: 3.91 / 3.75 (Cognitive Studies Major / Cumulative)

## RESEARCH

**AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT**

**BERKELEY, CA**

**RESEARCH GROUP**, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

- Engage in collaborative research by reviewing manuscripts and providing constructive feedback on colleagues' research to ensure quality, accuracy, and clarity.
- Submit original research manuscripts for peer review, contributing to the development and dissemination of scholarly work within the field.
- Assist in refining research methodologies, offering insights and suggestions to enhance the rigor and relevance of ongoing studies.
- Participate in group discussions on research trends, findings, and methodologies, fostering a collaborative environment for scholarly growth.
- Engage in data analysis for a variety of research projects using statistical software (STATA, SPSS)

**MAY 2019 – MAY 2021**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

**VANDERBILT SEA LAB**, HONORS THESIS RECIPIENT / RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Honors Thesis: Examining Correlates of Intrusive Parenting (Advisor: Dr. Kathryn Humphreys)

- Led a project that utilized data from a larger ongoing experiment to investigate a previously overlooked potential relationship between intrusive parenting behaviors, empathy, and experiencing maltreatment in one's own childhood.
- Called potential participants to screen for eligibility for participation.
- Trained and managed research assistants and completed administrative tasks.
- Collected data from children and parents by running and observing parent—child interaction sessions.
- Coded, managed, cleaned, and analyzed data.

**MAY 2018 – MAY 2019**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

**VANDERBILT LITTLE LEARNERS LAB, RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

- Assisted in the recruitment and retention of children aged three to five and their primary caregivers in the greater Nashville area.
- Designed and performed video interventions for parents related to intentional reading.
- Coded and analyzed observational data from parent—child interaction videos.
- Helped schedule and run participant sessions.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

**Panelist, "Navigating Academic Conferences".** Berkeley School of Education Research Day, Berkeley, CA, March 2025

**Panelist, "Time Management and Self-Care in Graduate School".** National Association of School Psychologists, Berkeley, CA, November 2024

Agarwal, A., & Azuka, E. (2024, Aug). Working with Abused and Neglected Students. Poster presented at American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention, Seattle, Washington.

**Azuka, E. & Humphreys, K.L.** (2021, May). *Examining correlates of intrusive parenting*. Poster Presented at Vanderbilt University's Undergraduate Research Fair, Nashville, TN.

**Azuka, E. & Humphreys, K.L.** (2021) Examining Correlates of Intrusive Parenting. [Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Vanderbilt University.] Vanderbilt University Institutional Repository. <https://ir.vanderbilt.edu/handle/1803/17543>

## **CLINICAL TRAINING**

**JANUARY 2025 - PRESENT**

**OAKLAND, CA**

**ASSESSMENT PRACTIUM, OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- Conducted psychological assessments for students across a range of grade levels, utilizing standardized tools and observation to evaluate cognitive, academic, and social-emotional functioning.
- Collaborated with school psychologists and multidisciplinary teams to interpret assessment results and develop comprehensive reports to guide intervention and support strategies.
- Administered and scored assessments such as cognitive and achievement tests, contributing to the identification of students' strengths and areas for growth.
- Provided recommendations for individualized educational plans (IEPs) and other intervention strategies based on assessment findings, ensuring alignment with students' academic and developmental needs.

**AUGUST 2024 - PRESENT**

**BERKELEY, CA**

### **CONSULTATION PRACTIUM, UC BERKELEY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM**

- Provided consultation services to preschool educators and staff, supporting the development of strategies for addressing student behavior, learning needs, and social-emotional development.
- Collaborated with teachers and administrators to assess classroom dynamics, identifying areas for improvement and recommending evidence-based practices for early childhood education.
- Conducted observations of preschool classrooms to gather data on student engagement, behavior, and learning, providing feedback to enhance teaching approaches.
- Supported the implementation of individualized plans for students with unique learning or behavioral needs, collaborating with teachers to ensure effective support.

### **AUGUST 2024 - PRESENT**

#### **OAKLAND, CA**

### **CONSULTATION PRACTIUM, OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- Provided consultation services to preschool educators, assisting with the development and implementation of strategies to support students' social-emotional learning (SEL) and academic growth.
- Collaborated with teachers and staff to design and implement SEL interventions aimed at enhancing students' emotional regulation, social skills, and classroom behavior.
- Observed and assessed classroom dynamics, identifying areas for improvement in student engagement and behavior, and offering tailored recommendations for enhancing instructional practices.
- Facilitated the integration of SEL principles into daily classroom activities, supporting teachers in fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment for all students.

### **JANUARY 2024 – MAY 2024**

#### **RICHMOND, CA**

### **PRACTICUM STUDENT, ASPIRE CALIFORNIA COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

- Shadowed the principal at a middle and high school, gaining comprehensive insight into the operational functions of school leadership, including faculty management, student services, and administrative processes.
- Collaborated with the child wellness team, consisting of the school psychologist, counselor, and social worker, providing support in addressing students' academic, emotional, and behavioral needs.
- Assisted in data analysis related to student performance, attendance, and behavioral trends, contributing to strategic decision-making and program development.
- Facilitated communication between school leadership, faculty, students, and parents, assisting in the resolution of concerns and promoting a supportive school environment.

### **AUGUST 2023 - DECEMBER 2023**

#### **OAKLAND, CA**

### **PRACTICUM STUDENT, PIEDMONT AVENUE ELEMENTARY**

- Worked directly with a group of elementary-aged students to develop essential academic, social, and behavioral skills, providing individualized support within the general education classroom.

- Assisted in delivering age-appropriate lessons in core subjects such as reading, writing, math, and science, ensuring all students received tailored support to meet their learning needs.
- Facilitated small-group and one-on-one instruction to reinforce foundational skills in phonics, arithmetic, and literacy development.
- Supported social-emotional growth by fostering positive peer interactions, modeling conflict resolution, and promoting classroom routines.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**AUGUST 2024 – PRESENT**

**OAKLAND, CA**

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- Delivered instruction across various subjects and grade levels, maintaining continuity of learning in teachers' absence.
- Adapted lesson plans to meet diverse student needs and classroom dynamics, ensuring engagement and academic progress.
- Managed classroom behavior by implementing school policies and fostering a positive learning environment.
- Collaborated with staff to support students' academic and social-emotional development, providing feedback on student performance.

**JULY 2024**

**RICHMOND, CA**

**EXPLORATIONS LEAD TEACHER / ASSISTANT TEACHER, ACADEMIC TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

- Designed and implemented advanced-level curriculum for Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade academically talented students.
- Delivered engaging lessons that encouraged critical thinking, creativity, and mastery of complex concepts.
- Collaborated with lead instructors to deliver advanced-level curriculum.
- Facilitated small group discussions, hands-on activities, and individualized support to enhance student engagement and comprehension.
- Assisted in developing lesson plans, grading assignments, and providing constructive feedback to students.

**FEBRUARY 2021 – AUGUST 2023**

**NEWARK, NJ**

**NORTH STAR ACADEMY FAIRMOUNT ELEMENTARY, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR**

- Responsible for the coordination of operational systems at Fairmount and Liberty Elementary School.
- Drove the implementation and maintenance of systems relating to food service, afterschool programs, daily dismissal and technology that ensure that daily activities run smoothly for over 900 scholars and 100+ staff within the building.

- Planned and oversaw the completion of school-wide projects related to operations, school assessment/ accountability, instruction, community relations and strategic planning.

**AUGUST 2018 – DECEMBER 2020**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

**OVERBROOK SCHOOL, ASSISTANT AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

- Developed and implemented educational, enrichment, and skill-based programs for over one hundred students that resulted in a safe after-school space for students to explore individual interests.
- Met with parents weekly and discussed weaknesses and strengths of their students.
- Identified skills and interests of children by building rapport and interviewing daily and developed programs accordingly.
- Assisted in training and scheduling of fellow after-school teachers.

**DECEMBER 2019 – SEPTEMBER 2020**

**NASHVILLE, TN**

**RICHLAND HEAD START, ASSISTANT TEACHER**

- Assisted with the implementation and modification of early childhood learning programs.
- Kept an updated inventory of classroom supplies and educational toys/games.
- Provided encouragement and support to each child and worked to resolve any issues.
- Maintained assessments of each child's progress, including personal observations.
- Prepared lesson plans tailored to the unique needs of each child in the program and ensured that they fit in with the required curriculum.

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

**DECEMBER 2024 – PRESENT**

**BERKELEY, CA**

**DIVERSITY AFFAIRS CHAIR, STUDENT AFFILIATES IN SCHOOL PSCHOLOGY (SASP); AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION – DIVISION 16**

- Spearhead initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within SASP and the broader school psychology community.
- Develop and implement programs to support underrepresented graduate students, including mentorship opportunities and professional development workshops.
- Collaborate with SASP leadership and APA Division 16 members to advocate for BIPOC representation and culturally responsive practices in school psychology.
- Oversee the BIPOC Equity in School Psychology Training (BEST) Scholarship, including managing application processes, selecting recipients, and ensuring funding supports initiatives that promote equity in school psychology training.

**DECEMBER 2024 – PRESENT**

**BERKELEY, CA**

**ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY INTEREST GROUP COORDINATOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

- Coordinate initiatives to engage students and professionals in advocacy and public policy efforts related to school psychology.

- Organize events, webinars, and campaigns to educate members on critical policy issues, such as access to mental health services, educational equity, and trauma-informed practices in schools.
- Develop resources and communication materials to support members in their advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national levels.

#### **AUGUST 2024 – PRESENT**

##### **BERKELEY, CA**

#### **CO-COORDINATOR, UC BERKELEY BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

- Co-coordinated events and initiatives for the Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA), supporting the academic, professional, and social development of Black graduate students.
- Collaborated with leadership and members to organize programs focused on fostering community, providing resources, and advocating for the needs of Black graduate students.
- Led outreach efforts to connect Black graduate students with academic support, mentorship opportunities, and career development resources.
- Promoted a positive and inclusive environment by facilitating discussions, workshops, and networking events to empower Black graduate students within the UC Berkeley community.

#### **AUGUST 2024 – PRESENT**

##### **BERKELEY, CA**

#### **MENTOR, NEXTGEN PSYCHOLOGY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

- Mentored and supported undergraduate students in the NextGen Psychology Scholars Program (NPSP), providing guidance on academic success, professional development, and career pathways in psychology.
- Facilitated individual mentoring sessions, helping students develop critical thinking, research skills, and strategies for success in graduate programs.
- Advised on research opportunities and assisted mentees in navigating the application process for internships, fellowships, graduate school, and other academic opportunities.
- Fostered a supportive and inclusive environment by offering advice on balancing academic and personal challenges, promoting students' holistic development.

#### **AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT**

##### **BERKELEY, CA**

#### **ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE, UC BERKELEY SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM**

- Reviewed and evaluated doctoral program applications, assessing candidates' academic qualifications, research experience, and alignment with program values.
- Contributed to selection decisions by providing insights during admissions meetings and advocating for diverse and underrepresented applicants.
- Collaborated with faculty and staff to ensure a fair and equitable admissions process aligned with program goals and priorities.
- Enhanced transparency by offering student perspectives on program culture and expectations to prospective candidates.

**AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT**  
**BERKELEY, CA**

**STUDENT LEADER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

- Advocated for student engagement by organizing initiatives to promote professional development, networking, and leadership opportunities for school psychology students.
- Facilitated communication between NASP leadership and student affiliates, ensuring students' voices were represented in national discussions and decision-making.
- Coordinated events and resources focused on enhancing students' understanding of NASP's mission, ethical standards, and best practices in school psychology.
- Mentored and supported peers in navigating NASP resources, convention opportunities, and leadership pathways within the organization.

**FEBRUARY 2024**  
**NEW ORLEANS, LA**

**CONVENTION ASSISTANT, NASP ANNUAL CONVENTION**

- Provided logistical support at the NASP annual convention, assisting with event coordination, session management, and attendee engagement.
- Facilitated smooth operations by managing registration, guiding attendees, and troubleshooting on-site issues to ensure a positive experience for participants.
- Supported presenters and speakers with technical setup and session facilitation, ensuring adherence to schedules and conference guidelines.
- Promoted NASP's mission by serving as a resource for attendees, answering questions about programming, and connecting participants to relevant resources.

**JULY 2020 – MARCH 2021**  
**NASHVILLE, TN**

**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (VOLUNTEER), CASA NASHVILLE**

- Interacted with children to understand their needs and concerns.
- Developed case plans and monitored case status periodically.
- Participated in case conferences with program directors and educational and mental health professionals.
- Wrote and maintained complete and in-depth records of all information gathered from children, family members, teachers, and other important parties in a child's life.
- Provided information for court hearings and ensured all case facts were presented.

**JUNE 2018 – AUGUST 2020**  
**NASHVILLE, TN**

**RESIDENT ADVISOR, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

- Developed a positive living environment for residents by emotionally supporting students and resolving conflicts.
- Implemented and enforced all college and campus living policies, promoted academic excellence, addressed student needs, and encouraged involvement in campus activities.
- Created, marketed, and lead student centered hall programs to promote social, education, diversity, health, emotional understanding, and growth.
- Assisted in the selection, evaluation, and training of incoming resident advisors.
- Budgeted and allocated money used for residence hall and floor events.

**JANUARY 2019 – AUGUST 2019**  
**NASHVILLE, TN**

**VOLUNTEER DOULA, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

- Provided emotional and physical support to pregnant mothers, partners, and families prior to the birth process.
- Facilitated communication between birthing parties by providing education on labor progress, pain management techniques, and comfort measures.
- Created a safe space for all birthing parties to feel comfortable expressing themselves.

**NOVEMBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019**  
**NASHVILLE, TN**

**ASSISTANT BASKETBALL COACH, KIPP NASHVILLE**

- Developed the physical, socio-emotional, and communication skills of a group of fifteen third grade boys' basketball players.
- Assisted head coach with daily duties.
- Conducted and supervised team practices and training sessions.
- Provided continual motivation to student athletes and instructed players on accurate basketball techniques.

**MAY 2018 - AUGUST 2018**  
**NASHVILLE, TN**

**CRISIS HOTLINE VOLUNTEER, FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES NASHVILLE**

- Answered calls from clients who are struggling with suicide, depression, divorce, relationship issues, domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse.
- Provided emotional support to callers, helping them realize that there is someone who cares and will listen without judgement no matter how big or small their crisis.
- Carefully managed calls that involve someone who is suicidal, violent situations or calls involving children in order to keep them safe, and alerted supervisor to calls that require assistance.
- Logged all calls into computer providing a narrative as to what took place during the call.

**JULY 2020 – MARCH 2021**  
**NASHVILLE, TN**

**COFOUNDER AND LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER, VANDERBILT INTENTIONAL DIVERSITY EXPERIENCE (VIDE)**

- Created structured and informal opportunities for students at Vanderbilt University to engage in meaningful conversations and meaningful experiences with individuals outside of the typical demographics of their friendship circles.
- Coordinated one-on-one interactions and campus events between vide partnerships and groups that encouraged partners to learn more about the culture of their partner.
- Attended and helped run monthly meetings about the events and progress of the club.
- Provided feedback on how to improve and recruit more members of the club.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS (NASP)**





**BLACK SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NETWORK (BSPN)**

**AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION - DIVISION 16 (APA)**