

EKENE AZUKA

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EDUCATION

AUGUST 2023 – PRESENT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, BERKELEY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Program: School Psychology

AUGUST 2017 – MAY 2021

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, PEABODY COLLEGE

Majors: Cognitive Studies, Psychology

Minor: Philosophy

Honors: Dean's List, 8 Semesters

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

RESEARCH

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

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>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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 100 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

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, comfort measures, etc.
- 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 15 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, substance abuse, etc.
- 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 handled 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.