

Shannon G. Kuschel, PhD, LPC
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School of Psychology & Counseling
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Work utilizes an inter-disciplinary approach, integrating previous experience as mental health clinician, educator, special education interventionist, and research. Experience teaching graduate and undergraduate level courses in both on-line and in-person formats for Regent University School of Psychology & Counseling. Primary experience in educational and clinical counseling settings in direct service and administrative positions from early childhood to higher education. Research interests include trauma, literacy, cognitive and learning development, learning differences such as dyslexia and dyscalculia, as well as cognitive and learning interventions with diverse populations. Current research interests focus on literacy development, processing speed, working memory, and other cognitive aspects that impact academic outcomes with underserved and special education populations, many of which live in a chronic state of trauma.

Education

Post-Doctoral Training in Neuropsychology, Regent University & Hampton Roads Neuropsychology	Current
Ph.D. , Educational Psychology & Special Education School of Education, Regent University	2022
Master of Science , Counseling Psychology School of Education & Counseling, Palm Beach Atlantic University	1997
Bachelor of Science , Psychology Palm Beach Atlantic University	1992

Professional Licensure & Certification

Licensed Professional Counselor, Commonwealth of Virginia (current)
Licensed Mental Health Counselor, State of Florida (currently inactive)
Professionally Certified Educational Therapist, National Institute for Learning Development (current)

Professional Organization Memberships

International Dyslexia Association	Current
The Reading League	Current

Honors and Awards

The Deborah Zimmerman Award for Innovation in Research and Development in Education National Institute of Learning Development	2013
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Work History

Regent University School of Psychology & Counseling

August 2016 – Present

Adjunct Professor

Graduate courses taught:

COUN 545 Concepts of Family Systems
 COUN 532 Assessment Techniques in Counseling
 COUN 670 Multicultural Issues in Counseling
 COUN 594 Internship in School Counseling

Undergraduate courses taught:

PSYCH 412 Multicultural Issues in Counseling

National Institute for Learning Development

August 2017 – April 2020

Research & Development Coordinator; Discovery Program Director

- Collaborated with the Executive Director to develop, implement, and market research and development strategic initiatives.
- Coordinated NILD research projects and acted as primary liaison with principal investigators, data analysts, research implementers, and data collection/entry personnel.
- Developed and maintained relationships within the educational research community by collaborating with researchers, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, principals, teachers and other related professionals.
- Developed and maintained on-line data input and tracking system for international pool of educational therapists.
- Reviewed and/or conducted statistical analyses for data received and presented findings in various venues.
- Provided in-services, workshops, webinars, and course trainings.
- Developed new services and materials including staff training and products for classroom teachers, educational therapists, and parents.
- Oversaw community-based educational therapy services in public and private school settings and clinic settings. Responsible for budget monitoring, staff supervision, parent meetings and communication, test interpretation, oversight of student interventions, student recruitment, and coordination of services with schools and clinics.
- Secured a contract with the Children's Services Act as a provider for at-risk youth and their families to increase accessibility of services through a multi-million-dollar pool of state funds.

National Institute for Learning Development

July 2013 – April 2020

Member of Instructional Team

- Level One and Two Educational Therapy Instructor for graduate credit. This program utilizes a Structured Literacy approach integrated with targeted cognition components and is accredited by the International Dyslexia Association as meeting the knowledge and standards of practice for teaching reading.

Norfolk Christian School

July 2012 – April 2020

Director of Counseling & Academic Support

- Member of School Leadership and Development Team, school population approximately 700.

- Assisted in maintenance of accreditation process for the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS).
- Provided consultation, counseling, crisis intervention, assessment and referral services to students and families.
- Identified students in need of academic support through testing/assessment, review of records, and interaction with students, parents, and teachers.
- Developed and supervised effective academic support services for identified students.
- Provided parent and student education opportunities, as well as professional development for faculty.
- Developed and disseminated Student Intervention Plans for students, families, and faculty.
- Provided on-going training, supervision and support to faculty regarding Student Intervention Plan implementation and research-informed classroom practices.

Westwood Hills Christian School
Head of School

August 2010 – July 2012

- Responsible for the overall operation of the school, as well as school development.
- Supervised faculty and staff, as well as maintained relationships with students, families and the community at large.
- Built an inclusive school environment dedicated to meeting the needs of a diverse population of students. Student population of approximately 350, with a wide range of learner profile, socio-economic status, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. (Pre-K through high school)
- Initiatives completed during this administration included the development of a virtual lab with access to over 150 courses including AP and Honors courses, the development of a school library, fund raisers to upgrade science labs, implementation of a school-wide anti-bullying campaign, staff development and implementation of the Conscious Discipline program, a trauma-informed, brain smart, evidence-based social emotional learning curriculum for classroom and home management. Also wrote a script and oversaw production for a television advertisement for the school with the result of double student enrollment from the previous year.

**University of Florida, Department of Clinical & Health Psychology
(Neuropsychology)**

October 2009 – August 2010

Volunteer Research Assistant

- Assisted in recruitment of study participants, screening, testing and assessment, fMRI and EEG administration, maintenance of research data bases and data entry.

Private Practice - Gainesville, FL

July 2009 – August 2010

Private Practice Therapist

- Provided educational assessments and intervention to students with a variety of diagnosed learning disabilities, as well as instructed 6th and 7th grade students with dyslexia in Language Arts/Reading at Westwood Hills Christian School and The Einstein Montessori, a charter school exclusively for students with dyslexia.
- Coordinated services with parents, local schools, and pediatricians as needed.

Family & Pediatric Clinic

September 2006 – December 2008

Private Practice Therapist

- Provided individual, group and family therapy, as well as mental health and educational assessments.
- Provided educational community presentations on topics such as dyslexia, ADHD, learning strategies, child abuse, and parenting classes.
- Court testimony provided in cases of child abuse, neglect, or custody upon request.

Pillar Institute

August 2007 – July 2008

Director of Exceptional Education Services

Chair of Guidance and Exceptional Education Department

- Member of School Leadership and Development Team.
- Developed and supervised Exceptional Education Services (educational therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy).
- Coordinated efforts with Brevard County Public School System related to Individual Education Plans and additional services.
- Provided counseling and psycho-educational assessments to students.
- Provided teacher training and supervision of curriculum delivery for students with learning disabilities, as well as parent education using the Conscious Discipline curriculum.

Partners in Education & Research for Kindergarten Success

May 2006 – October 2006

Child Assessor

- Completed pre and post assessments to determine professional development program effectiveness in selected Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Classrooms. Collaborative project between the Children's Forum, University of North Florida, University of Central Florida, and funded by the U. S. Department of Education.

Adoption Placement, Inc.

October 2005 – August 2007

Director of International Relations & Foreign Relief

- Initiated and developed collaborative relationships with foreign governmental entities with the goal of providing education and relief efforts to children and communities in need.
- Coordinated projects in Russia and Ukraine.
- Met with the National Director of Mexico's Department of the Integral Development of the Family in January 2006 at the request of the Mexican government.

Merritt Island Christian School

January 2000 – October 2005

Director of Exceptional Education & Counseling Services

- Member of the School Leadership and Development Team, school population of approximately 700.
- Group leader for successful SAACS accreditation process and maintenance of ACSI accreditation.
- Provided counseling and psycho-educational assessments for students, pre-K through high school.
- Developed and supervised Exceptional Education Services (educational therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, etc.).
- Implemented and supervised state-funded John McKay Scholarship program.
- Managed department and state-generated scholarship funds.

- Provided teacher training and supervision of staff.
- Provided parent education and counseling.
- Implemented and instructed dual-enrollment General Psychology course in conjunction with Eastern Florida State College.

Family & Pediatric Clinic

January 1998 – January 2000

Private Practice Therapist

- Responsibilities same as listed above.
- Deemed an expert witness for the Brevard County court system for cases related to child abuse or neglect. Testimony provided upon request.

Parent Child Center

January 1996 – January 1998

Group Therapist & Clinical On-Site Worker

- Provided individual, group, and family therapy for children with severe emotional difficulties.
- Provided diagnostic, assessment, treatment planning, and case management services.
- Planned and implemented therapeutic and recreational activities.
- Provided in-home and school-based therapeutic services.

Drug Abuse Foundation

August 1993 – January 1996

Prevention Counselor – Boca Raton Middle School

- Provided individual, group, and family counseling for students determined to be at high risk for academic, emotional, and behavioral difficulties.
- Worked closely with teachers and school faculty in overseeing students' academic progress.
- Assisted in peer mediation, conflict resolution, and crisis intervention.
- Facilitated parenting classes utilizing Systematic Training for Effective Parenting curriculum.

Invited Presentations

Kuschel, S.G. (scheduled 2021, January). *Creating Trauma-Invested Learning Environments & Practices to Foster Resilient Learners* [Conference session]. Therapeutic Milestones, Washington, DC, United States.

Kuschel, S. G. (2019, November 13 – 16). *The Role of Cognition in Reading Acquisition and Literacy Skills: Research Findings & Practical Application* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Virginia Beach, VA, United States.

Kuschel, S. G. (2019, November 13 – 16). *NILD Research Update: Pathways & Projections* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Virginia Beach, VA, United States.

Kuschel, S. G. (2019, May 8 – 10). *Promoting & Coaching Executive Functioning in the Classroom* [Conference session]. General & Special Education Conference, San Diego, CA, United States.

Kuschel, S. G. (2019, May 8 – 10). *Mind the Gap! Neuroscience & Education...Can We Make the Connection?* [Conference session]. General & Special Education Conference, San Diego, CA, United States.

- Kuschel, S. G.** (2019, March 5 - 7). *Promoting & Coaching Executive Functioning in the Classroom* [Conference session]. General & Special Education Conference, Seattle, WA, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2019, March 5 - 7). *Mind the Gap! Neuroscience & Education...Can We Make the Connection?* [Conference session]. General & Special Education Conference, Seattle, WA, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2019, February 18 - 21). *Impact of National Institute for Learning Development (NILD) Educational Therapy on Student Intellect and Achievement* [Poster presentation]. Learning Disabilities Association of America, Fort Worth, TX, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2019, February 18 – 21). *Promoting and Coaching Executive Functioning in the Classroom* [Conference session]. Learning Disabilities Association of America, Fort Worth, TX, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2018, March 26 - 28). *Promoting & Coaching Executive Functioning in the Classroom* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Northeast Regional Conference, Newark, DE, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2018, February 16 - 18). *Neuro-education & NILD Practice: Brain Targeted Instruction* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Southeast Regional Conference, Winterpark, FL, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2018, February 16 - 18). *Neuro-educational Translation: Research Impacting NILD Practice* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Southeast Regional Conference, Winterpark, FL, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2018, January 25 - 27). *Neuroeducation & NILD Practice: Brain Targeted Instruction* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Midwest Regional Conference, Kansas City, MO, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2018, January 25 - 27). *Neuro-educational Translation: Research Impacting NILD Practice* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Midwest Regional Conference, Kansas City, MO, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2017). *Neuro-educational Translation: Research Impacting NILD Practice* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Mideastern Regional Conference, Suffolk, VA, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2015). *In Through the Eye, Out Through the Hand: The Development of Visual-Motor Integration Skills – Challenges, Interventions and Best Practices* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2015). *Feeling, Thinking & Learning: Understanding the Connection between the Limbic System and Efficient Cognitive Functioning* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, United States.
- Kuschel, S. G.** (2014). *Mind the Gap! Education and Neuroscience...Can We Make the Connection?* [Conference session]. The National Institute for Learning Development Annual Conference, Virginia Beach, VA, United States.

Grant Activity

- Kuschel, S. G.** (Principal Investigator). (2018-2019). *The National Institute for Learning Development & Park Place Middle School Initiative: 2018 Community Leadership Partners* [Grant]. Hampton Roads Community Foundation. Amount: \$10,000.00 (funded).

Special Projects

Ongoingly assists the Newsome Bailey Project, a non-profit holistic intervention program for at-risk elementary school students. Activities include assistance with program and intervention development, staff training, parent education, student activities, collaboration with school administration, grant writing, and fund raising. Interventions target reading utilizing a Structured Literacy approach, language development, mathematics, and cognition. This program is implemented at Newsome Park Elementary, a Title I school with 98% of the student body meeting the criteria for free and reduced lunch.	2017 – 2020
Organized, implemented, and oversaw a nation-wide re-norming project for the Search Scan, an early identification instrument that provides a profile of strengths and weaknesses in neuropsychological skills basic to reading and the language arts. The goal of this instrument is to identify vulnerable 5 and 6-year-olds before learning failure has occurred and provide a recommended structure to guide appropriate intervention. Accumulated approximately 1300 respondents, conducted the necessary statistical analyses, and provided updated norms for the ongoing use and training of the Search & Teach program.	2020
Conducted a comprehensive school-wide Dual Language Program Evaluation, preschool – high school, for a bilingual school with approximately one-third of the student population diagnosed with learning disabilities. School utilizes a variety of cognitive intervention services within the context of an overall goal of developing English language proficiency. Provided a two-year strategic planning report with collaboratively developed goals, objectives, and recommendations. Colegio El Roble, Mexico City, Mexico.	2017
Assisted Dr. Linda Lombardino, Professor, School of Special Education, School Psychology and Early Childhood Studies, University of Florida, with NIH grant application, study recruitment and assembly of assessors for research project, “Development of Kindergarten Cognitive and Reading Assessment Tool for iPad (K-CRATI)”.	2012
Selected to participate in multi-disciplinary grand round sessions utilizing SPECT imaging in clinical mental health practice and supportive educational interventions. LifeBridge Diagnostics, Viera, Florida, United States.	2008
Acted as Internship Supervisor/Mentor for graduate level Exceptional Education students for the University of Central Florida Department of Education, Orlando, FL, United States.	2008
Chosen as one of fifteen participants from the international pool of educational therapists to participate in the Group Educational Therapy pilot training and research program. The National Institute of Learning Development, Norfolk, VA, United States.	2007

School Professional Developments Provided

<i>Promoting and Coaching Executive Functioning in the Classroom.</i> Spring Hill Elementary School, Huntington, WV, United States.	2018
<i>The Power of Oral Language.</i> Spring Hill Elementary School, Huntington, WV, United States.	2018
<i>Those Inner Voices.</i> Spring Hill Elementary School, Huntington, WV, United States.	2018

<i>Feeling, Thinking & Learning: Understanding the Connection between the Limbic System and Efficient Cognitive Functioning.</i> Spring Hill Elementary School, Huntington, WV, United States.	2018
<i>Tips for Teachers: Helping Grieving & Traumatized Students at School.</i> Spring Hill Elementary School, Huntington, WV, United States.	2018
<i>Differentiating Instruction for Students with Learning Needs.</i> Rapid City Christian School, Rapid City, SD, United States.	2017
<i>Moving Beyond Memorization.</i> Rapid City Christian School, Rapid City, SD, United States.	2017
<i>The Intelligence Dilemma: Developing Thinkers for the 21st Century.</i> Rapid City Christian School, Rapid City, SD, United States.	2017
<i>Childhood and Adolescent Anxiety & Its Impact on Learning.</i> Norfolk Christian School, Norfolk, VA, United States.	2016
<i>Tips for Teachers: Helping Grieving & Traumatized Students at School.</i> Norfolk Christian School, Norfolk, VA, United States.	2015
<i>Feeling, Thinking & Learning: Understanding the Connection between the Limbic System and Efficient Cognitive Functioning.</i> Norfolk Christian School, Norfolk, VA, United States.	2015
<i>Promoting Emotional Health & Resilience in Children.</i> Norfolk Christian School, Norfolk, VA, United States.	2013
<i>Identification of Learning Disabilities & Appropriate Intervention.</i> Merritt Island Christian School, Merritt Island, FL, United States.	2004
<i>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Diagnosis & Treatment.</i> Merritt Island Christian School, Merritt Island, FL, United States.	2003

K-12+ Courses Taught:

Middle School and High School English
 Middle School Mathematics
 Middle School Science
 High School Economics
 High School Spanish I & II
 Dual enrollment Psychology
