Cheyenne Conrad, Ed.D.

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies
Adjunct Faculty, School of Special Education, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies
College of Education, University of Florida
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EDUCATION

2023 **Ed.D. Special Education**
University of Florida
Concentration: Early Childhood Studies
Chair: Dr. Kristi Cheyney-Collante
Dissertation: *Exploring Florida Infant Toddler Development Specialists' Experiences of Training and Supports*

2018 **M.S. Family, Youth, and Community Sciences**
University of Florida
Concentration: Non-Profit Leadership, Program Evaluation
Chair: Dr. Suzanna Smith
Master's Project: *Wellness Partners and University Wellness Programs: A Program Evaluation*

2014 **B.S. Psychology, minor in Women's Studies**
University of Florida

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-Present **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
Mentor(s): Dr. Patricia Snyder, Dr. Crystal Bishop
Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies
College of Education, University of Florida

Initial Efficacy Trial of Florida Embedded Practices and Intervention with Caregivers (FL-EPIC; Institute of Education Sciences, R324A210081)

- Revise and develop coding procedures, materials, resources, and trainings for EIOS-EI (R) observational coding system.
- Mentor and supervise coding team, including full-time research assistants, OPS staff, and students.
- Serve as a gold standard for EIOS-EI (R) observational coding system and provide ongoing training and support to ensure coding quality.
- Manage data files, perform descriptive analyses, and present data reports.
- Engage in project leadership meetings to support decision-making and coordinate team activities.

Florida Embedded Practices and Intervention with Caregivers Early Steps Professional Development (FL-EPIC ESPD; Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Contract No. COQXY)

- Collaborate with Florida State University faculty to conduct focus groups, disseminate and analyze surveys, and design materials related to early intervention within Early Childhood Education.
- Engage in collaborative partnerships with the Early Steps State Office professional development team and other key stakeholders within and across Early Steps programs statewide.
- Provide ongoing technical assistance, develop and deliver high-quality professional development to statewide Early Steps leadership teams and coaches.
- Participate in project team meetings and engage in planning for statewide professional development trainings.
- Support report development for project deliverables and stakeholder communication.

2018-2024 IDEA Part C Early Intervention Provider, University of Florida Early Steps

- Provided family-centered early intervention services for children with developmental delays and their families using embedded instruction and caregiver coaching.
- Served on a multidisciplinary evaluation team to screen children for developmental delays and develop Individualized Family Support Plans.

2018-2022 Co-Executive Director, The Community for Personal Development, 501(c)(3)

- Designed and delivered professional development trainings.
- Recruited, trained, and managed volunteers.
- Strategic planning, marketing, and budget coordination.

2017-2018 Registered Behavior Technician, Behavior Development Group

2014-2018 After-School Staff and Camp Counselor, Sun Country Sports Center

2015-2016 Victim Advocate, Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center

2014-2015 Preschool Teacher, A Child's Academy

2012-2013 Resident Assistant, University of Florida Housing

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research

2024-Present Initial Efficacy Trial of Florida Embedded Practices and Intervention with Caregivers
Institute of Education Sciences, R324A210081, Funded 2021-2025, $3,799,999
Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Patricia Snyder, Dr. Crystal Bishop
Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood, University of Florida

2024-Present Florida Embedded Practices and Intervention with Caregivers Early Steps Professional Development

Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, Early Steps, Funded 2023-2026, Contract COQXY, $2,136,000
Principal Investigator: Dr. Patricia Snyder, Dr. Crystal Bishop
Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood, University of Florida

Graduate Research

2021-2023 Dissertation Research: Exploring Florida Infant Toddler Development Specialists' Experiences of Training and Supports
Committee Chair: Dr. Kristi Cheyney-Collante

2017-2018 Master's Research: University of Florida Employee Wellness Program Evaluation, University of Florida
Committee Chair: Dr. Suzanna Smith

Undergraduate Research

2013-2014 Climate Report for LGBTQIA Individuals in the Gainesville City School District, University of Florida
Student Researcher
Principal Investigator: Dr. LB Hannahs

2013-2014 Human Sexuality Lab, University of Florida
Research Assistant
Principal Investigator: Dr. Laurie Mintz

2012 Life Satisfaction and Excellence Lab, University of Florida
Research Assistant
Principal Investigator: Dr. Ryan Duffy

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Present Instructor of Record
EEC 3023: Science of Early Childhood Development and Learning
Online, Asynchronous Course, Undergraduate Students
College of Education, University of Florida

2025 Instructor of Record
EEC 3731: Early Childhood Health and Well-being
Online, Asynchronous Course, Undergraduate Students
College of Education, University of Florida

2014 Teaching Assistant
PCO 4113: Positive Psychology
Face-to-Face Course, Undergraduate Students
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida

2025-Present Faculty Mentor
University Mentorship Program

PUBLICATIONS

Conrad, C., & Cheyney-Collante, K. (2025). *Cultivating a confident and competent early intervention workforce through strategic onboarding* [under review after revision].

Conrad, C. (2026). *Exploring early interventionists' experiences of professional development* [under review].

Conrad, C. (2026). *Bridging research and practice: Leveraging insider–outsider positionality in applied qualitative inquiry* [in preparation].

Conrad, C., & Martin, M. (2026). *Making sense of professional development in early intervention: A narrative review of practitioners' experiences* [in preparation].

Shaw, K., & Conrad, C. (2026). *Translating empirical patterns in family and child indicators into individualized early intervention practice.* [in preparation].

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Conrad, C. (2026, March). *Leveraging Insider–Outsider Positionality in Applied Qualitative Inquiry.* [Presentation]. The Qualitative Report Annual Conference, Virtual. [upcoming].

Conrad, C., Cheyney-Collante, K. (2025, October). *Exploring early interventionists' experiences of training and support.* [Poster Session]. Division for Early Childhood Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, United States.

Conrad, C., Bishop, C., Snyder, P. (2025, October). *Adapting the embedded instruction observation system-early intervention(R)*. [Poster Session]. Division for Early Childhood Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, United States.

Conrad, C. (2025, March). *An applied qualitative exploration of early interventionists' experiences of training and support*. [Presentation]. The Qualitative Report Annual Conference, Virtual.

Cheyney-Collante, K., Gonsalves, V., **Conrad, C**., Pollett, C., Rockey, E., Roig, J. (2025, March). *Applied qualitative research in the educational doctorate: A panel discussion with special education practitioner-leaders.* [Panel Presentation]. The Qualitative Report Annual Conference, Virtual.

Conrad, C.(2024). *A qualitative inquiry*: *Infant-toddler development specialists' experiences of training and supports.* [Presentation]. University of Florida Early Steps, Gainesville, Florida, United States.

Conrad, C., D'Amico, J., Halpert, J., Gonzalez, J., Salari, T. (2022). *Online doctoral students' approaches to self-care: A qualitative inquiry.* [Presentation]. School of Special Education, University of Florida.

SUBMITTED GRANTS

Principal Investigator*, Caregiver Capacity and Child Development: Understanding Support Roles in Early Intervention.* (2026). Society for Research in Child Development: Early Career Award. FY2026, $7,427 over 6 months [under review].

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer

2025-Present The Qualitative Report, Ad Hoc Reviewer

2025-Present Topics in Early Childhood Special Education, Ad Hoc Reviewer
2025-Present Young Exceptional Children, Ad Hoc Reviewer

2026 Division for Early Childhood, Proposal Reviewer
2026 AERA Division D Research Gala, Proposal Reviewer
2025 Division for Early Childhood, Proposal Reviewer
2025 Council for Exceptional Children, Proposal Reviewer
2024 Society for Implementation Research and Collaboration, Award Reviewer
2024 Impacting Education: Journal for Transforming Professional Practice, Special Issue Reviewer

Committees

2025 EI/ECSE Research Community of Practice, *Division for Early Childhood*
2021-2024 Alachua County Early Childhood Interagency Committee, *Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System*
2020-2023 Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board, *University of Florida Early Steps*
2015 Alachua County Sexual Violence Task Force
2014 Interpersonal Violence Prevention Committee*, University of Florida Student Affairs*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2026-Present Society for Research in Child Development
2025-Present Division for Early Childhood
2025-Present Council for Exceptional Children
2025-Present International Society on Early Intervention
2024-Present Society for Implementation Science Collaboration
2024-Present National Postdoctoral Association
2020-Present Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024 Postdoctoral Award (Nominee), University of Florida
2018 Medal of Excellence, University of Florida
2016 Recognition of Service to the Community, Gainesville Police Department
2014 Reitz Scholar, University of Florida
2012 Wentworth Scholar, University of Florida
2011 Mason Scholar, National Masonic Foundation

CERTIFICATIONS

2018-Present Florida Infant Toddler Development Specialist
2020-Present Trust-Based Relational Intervention Specialist
2017-2018 Registered Behavior Technician
2014-2016 Birth through 5 Childcare Provider
2013-2015 Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist