

BRANDI CASTO, PhD

Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Washington PY 60596743  
info@sparkforlearning.com

600 N 36th St., Ste. 325  
Seattle, WA 98103  
(P) 206-407-7872 ♦ (F) 206-453-2080

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### DEGREES and SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- 2009-2015**      **Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology**  
Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University  
Palo Alto, CA (APA Accredited)  
*Area of Emphasis: Neuropsychology*
- 2010-2013**      **Certificate Program in Neuropsychological Assessment,**  
**Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, Palo Alto, CA**  
Program met APA Division 40 guidelines for competency in the  
administration, scoring, and interpretation of child and adult  
neuropsychological batteries.
- 2009-2013**      **Master of Science in Clinical Psychology**  
Palo Alto University, Palo Alto, CA
- 2011**              **Coursework in Master's in Special Education Program**  
**San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA**  
Covered basic family systems theories as applied to intervention with the  
families of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities. Addressed  
issues related to cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity; legal  
and legislative mandates; implementing family-centered approaches to  
services; and developing an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- 2009**              **Coursework in Applied Behavioral Analysis**  
**Florida Tech, Melbourne, FL (Online)**  
Covers basic principles of conditioning, behavior analysis, and behavior  
change procedures.
- 2005-2007**      **Mild/Moderate Special Education Teacher Credential Program,**  
**San Jose State University, San Jose, CA**  
Courses focused on teaching children with mild to moderate  
disabilities. Topics included behavior management, reading and  
math instruction, complying with IDEA and Section 504 of the  
ADA, and individual education programs.
- 2002-2005**      **Bachelor of Science in Chemistry**  
Duke University, Durham, NC

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## WORK EXPERIENCE in PSYCHOLOGY and in NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

**04/16-present**      **Private Practice, Spark for Learning, Seattle, WA**

**08/13-08/15**      **Psychological and Neuropsychological Trainee and Intern  
Community Health Awareness Council, Mountain View, CA**

- Conducted individual, family, and couples therapy in both a school setting and a communitybased outpatient clinic.
- Client population was ethnically and socioeconomically diverse, and presenting problems include a broad range of symptoms related to depression, anxiety disorders, developmental disorders, chronic illness and interpersonal difficulties.
- Duties included psychological screening assessment, case conceptualization, treatment planning and implementation, progress reports, and termination.
- Collaborated with supervisors and internship students to develop and implement procedures and materials foundational to CHAC's new assessment program.
- Theoretical orientation: Empirically-based, integrative
- Supervisor: Stewart Kiritz, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist, Adjunct Faculty, Stanford University Medical Center
- Assessment Supervisor: Jennifer Keller, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist, Clinical Associate Professor, Stanford University Medical Center

**03/13-06/13**      **Psychological Trainee  
Private Practice of Dr. Carol Wong, San Mateo, CA**

- Co-facilitate social skills groups for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- Client population was ethnically diverse.

**07/12-08/14**      **Neuropsychological Trainee  
UCSF Pediatric Epilepsy Center, San Francisco, CA**

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- Conducted neuropsychological assessment in a hospital setting.
- Client population was ethnically and economically diverse, including children and adults, generally pre and postoperative.
- Duties included review of medical records, obtaining informed consent and clinical history; administration of intelligence, personality, and neuropsychological assessments; scoring and interpretation of assessments; report writing; and participation in feedback sessions.
- Assisted with WADAs.
- Participated in didactics including grand rounds and surgery case conference.

**03/11-08/11**

**Neuropsychological Trainee**

**San Francisco Neuropsychology Specialists, San Francisco, CA**

- Conducted neuropsychological assessment and cognitive rehabilitation in a private outpatient clinic.
- Client population was ethnically and economically diverse, including children and adults, presenting with learning disabilities, seizure disorders, and developmental disorders.
- Duties included obtaining informed consent and clinical history; administration of intelligence, personality, and neuropsychological assessments; scoring and interpretation of assessments; report writing; and feedback sessions.

**06/10-03/11**

**Psychological Trainee**

**Kurt and Barbara Gronowski Psychology Clinic, Los Altos, CA**

- Conducted individual psychotherapy in community-based outpatient clinic.
- Client population was ethnically diverse adults, presenting with a broad range of disorders, including mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and personality disorders.
- Duties included intake assessment, psychological screening assessment, DSMIV diagnosis, treatment planning and implementation, progress reports, case conference participation, and termination.

**07/09-12/09**

**Behavioral Therapist Trainee, Pediatric Specialty Center,  
The May Institute, San Jose, CA**

- Conducted Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) with young children with developmental disabilities, primarily autism.

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- Client families were linguistically and ethnically diverse.
- Participated in parent education and program planning.

## WORK EXPERIENCE in EDUCATION

04/07-04/11

**Tutor**, Self-employed, San Francisco Bay Area

- Provided academic support and social skills instruction to students ages 10 to adult, with a focus on students with developmental disabilities and executive functioning challenges.
- Assisted with organizational, self-advocacy and study skills.
- Worked with students, administrators, teachers, and parents to ensure that accommodations are implemented appropriately.

07/09-08/09

**Educational Assistant, Transition to College Program,  
Menlo College**, Atherton, CA

- Assisted with logistical coordination of psychoeducational presentations, field trips, and educational assessment for college students with learning disabilities and international students.
- Tutored students who required extra academic and study skills help.
- Presented workshop on time management and study skills.

**Supervisors: Peggy Hock, Ph.D., Learning Specialist  
Mary White, Ph.D., Program Director**

04/07-02/08

**LSAT and SAT Instructor and Tutor, PowerScore, Inc.,  
San Francisco Bay Area**

- Developed adolescent and adult students' critical reading, logical reasoning, and study skills as a class instructor and one-on-one tutor.

06/05-04/07

**Special Education Teacher, Teach for America (TFA), San Jose, CA**

- Designed and implemented an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for each student as part of a team of administrators, specialists, parents, and general education teachers.
- Administered and scored assessments, including the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) and the Woodcock - Johnson Tests of Achievement, Third Edition.
- Administered diagnostic testing to identify appropriate goals for student achievement.
- Achieved "significant gains," a measure of success used by TFA.

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## WORK EXPERIENCE in RESEARCH

- 01/12-05/15**      **Dissertation Research:** “Brain mechanisms underlying reading without phonology: implications for interventions in reading disabilities”  
**BrainLENS Neuroimaging Laboratory**  
**University of California, San Francisco**
- Performed ANOVA and multiple regression analyses using behavioral data, as well as structural and functional MRI images.
  - Conducted demographic analysis on the sample pool of subjects used in imaging analysis.
  - Wrote, defended, and published a dissertation based on the results.
- Supervisor: Fumiko Hoeft, M.D., Ph.D., Principal Investigator**
- 08/13-08/14**      **Research Assistant, Neurology, University of California, San Francisco**
- Trained study participants in mindfulness-based stress reduction practice or in focused-attention placebo practice.
- 02/11-08/12**      **Research Assistant, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA**
- Administered and scored neuropsychological and educational assessments to children ages 6 through 10 with and without a family history of dyslexia.
  - Wrote interpretive reports for parent use.
  - Trained other students to administer assessments.
  - Performed data entry related to participant demographics and assessment results.
- 03/09-06/11**      **Research Assistant, Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, Palo Alto, CA**
- Contributed to the design of a study examining the relationships between gender, acculturation, and executive functioning.
  - Assisted with researching, selecting, and modifying mental health screening materials and acculturation measures.
  - Administered neuropsychological assessments, including several DKEFS measures, as well as the WASI and Wisconsin Card Sorting Test.
- 11/04-05/05**      **Research Assistant, Chemistry Dept., Duke University, Durham, NC**
- Completed an undergraduate thesis on protein folding using fluorescence spectroscopy and a scanning electron microscope.

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**01/03-11/04**

**Research Assistant, Department of Pediatric Genetics,  
Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC**

- Inserted a gene expression cassette into an adenovirus as an independent study project.
- Collected and organized data for use in an experiment involving the impact of retinol-A on gene expression in mice.
- Performed lab techniques such as PCR, protein assays, dissection, and tissue retrieval. Managed several colonies of mice with modified genomes.

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Myers, C. A., Vandermosten, M., Farris, E. A., Hancock, R., Gimenez, P., Black, J. M., **Casto, B** ... & Hulme, C. (2014). White matter morphometric changes uniquely predict children's reading acquisition. *Psychological Science*, 25(10), 18701883.

**Casto, B.**, Kaminetsky, M., Bugescu, N., Black, J., Hendren, R., Hoeft, F. (2014, February). *Brain Mechanisms Underlying Typical Reading despite Poor Phonological Processing*. Poster session presented at the meeting of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Seattle, Washington.

Achal, S., Bray, S., **Casto, B.**, Bugescu, N., Gimenez, P., Soriano, T., & Hoeft, F. (2013, September). *Atypical FrontoParietal Reading Networks in Adults with Dyslexia*. Poster session presented at the meeting of the NeuroDevNet, Vancouver.

Peery, S. & **Casto, B.** (2013, October). *Two cases of Delusion of Inanimate Doubles, a Variant of Capgras Syndrome*. Poster session presented at the meeting of the National Academy of Neuropsychology, San Diego, CA.

**Casto, B.** & Peery, S. (2012, November). *Development of Factitious Disorder after Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in an Adolescent Female*. Poster session presented at the meeting of the National Academy of Neuropsychology, Nashville, TN.

## ELECTED/POSITIONS HELD

**2009-2010**     **First Year Representative, Ph.D. Student Council,**  
Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University, Palo Alto, CA

**2003-2005**     **Social Vice President, Chi Delta Chapter of Psi Upsilon,**  
Duke University, Durham, NC

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**ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**

<b>2009-2011</b>	Pacific Graduate School of Psychology Fellowship Award
<b>2010</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place, SECA Excellence in Multicultural Research
<b>2003-2005</b>	Psi Upsilon Foundation Scholarship
<b>2003-2005</b>	Alexander H. Sands, Jr. Scholarship, Duke University