

ALISSA R BAKER, OTD, OTRL

Alissa.baker@wmich.edu

616-970-0890

EDUCATION

Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY	December 2022
Master of Science (MS), Occupational Therapy Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI	December 2013
Bachelor of Science (BS), Neuroscience <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , Honors Program Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI	May 2011

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Certification #: 322426
State of Michigan – Board of Occupational Therapists License #: 5201008720

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor Department of Occupational Therapy Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI	2023 – current
Part-time Instructor Department of Occupational Therapy Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI	2018-2022
Research Assistant Supervisor: Dr. Scott Tomchek, Department of Pediatrics University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, KY	2021-2022

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Resource Occupational Therapist Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit at Blodgett Hospital Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, MI	2019-2020
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Senior Occupational Therapist 2014-2017
 Outpatient and community pediatrics
 Community Mental Health Authority – Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties, Lansing, MI

HONORS AND AWARDS

Outstanding Abstract	Spring 2024
Interprofessional Education Research Poster Presentation Day College of Health and Human Services, Western Michigan University	
Employee of the Month	October 2017
Community Mental Health Authority – Clinton, Eaton, Ingham	
AMBUCS Scholarship Award	2013
National AMBCUS, Inc.	
Don and Jane Thomas Scholarship	2012
Department of Occupational Therapy, Western Michigan University	
Outstanding Community Service Award	2011
Honors College, Central Michigan University	

PUBLICATIONS

Baker, A., Barents, E., Cole, A., Klaver, A., Krouldis, K., Webb, L., & Wolfer, K. (2025). Use and perceptions of telehealth by pediatric occupational therapists post Covid-19 pandemic. *International Journal of Telerehabilitation*, 16(2). <https://doi.org/10.5195/ijt.2024.6655>

Little, L. M., Avery, A., Tomchek, S., **Baker, A.,** Wallisch, A., & Dean, E. (2024). Race and ethnicity reporting in occupational therapy research among autistic youth. *OTJR: Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15394492231225199>

Little, L. M., Cohen, S. R., Tomchek, S. D., **Baker, A.,** Wallisch, A., & Dean, E. (2023). Systematic Review Brief – Interventions to support social participation for autistic children and adolescents in homes and communities (2013-2021). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7710393200. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.77S10020>

Little, L. M., Cohen, S. R., Tomchek, S. D., **Baker, A.,** Wallisch, A., & Dean, E. (2023). Systematic Review Brief – Clinic-based interventions to support social participation for autistic children and adolescents (2013-2021). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7710393190. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.77S10019>

Little, L. M., Cohen, S. R., Tomchek, S. D., **Baker, A.,** Wallisch, A., & Dean, E. (2023). Systematic Review Brief – Interventions to support social participation for autistic children and

- adolescents in schools (2013-2021). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7710393180. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.77S10018>
- Little, L. M., Cohen, S. R., Tomchek, S. D., **Baker, A.**, Wallisch, A., & Dean, E. (2023). Systematic Review Brief – Interventions to support participation in play for autistic children and youth (2013-2021). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7710393170. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.77S10017>
- Tomchek, S. D., **Baker, A. R.**, Little, L. M., Wallisch, A., & Dean, E. (2023). Systematic Review Brief – Interventions to support participation in sleep for autistic children and adolescents (2013-2021). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7710393160. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.77S10016>
- Tomchek, S. D., Dean, E. E., **Baker, A. R.**, Little, L. M., & Wallisch, A. (2023). Systematic Review Brief – Interventions to support participation in education for autistic students (2013-2021). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7710393150. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.77S10015>
- Baker, A.**, Tomchek, S. D., Little, L. M., Wallisch, A., & Dean, E. (2023). Systematic Review Brief – Interventions to support participation in basic and instrumental activities of daily living for autistic children and adolescents (2013-2021). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 77, 7710393140. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2023.77S10014>
- Baker, A. R.**, & Ginn, C. C. (2023). Concept mapping as an instructional method to support critical thinking in occupational therapy students: A pilot study. *Journal of Occupational Therapy Education*, 7(3). Retrieved from <https://encompass.eku.edu/jote/vol7/iss3/8>

Publications in Preparation

- Baker, A.**, Smith, A., Little, L. M., Wallisch, A., Tomchek, S., & Dean, E. (in preparation). Analysis of outcome measures used in occupational therapy research among autistic youth.

PRESENTATIONS

National

- Hineman, B., Campbell, E., Poland, A., Sanders, J., Huber, S., Stritzinger, A., & **Baker, A.** (2025). *Measurements of quality within pediatric occupational therapy for autistic youth*. Poster (peer reviewed). AOTA Inspire 2025 Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- Baker, A.** (2023). *Use of concept mapping to promote development of critical thinking skills within case-based instruction*. Lecture (peer reviewed). AOTA Education Summit. Denver, CO.

Baker, A., & Smith, D. (2016). *Developing self-regulation in adolescents with ASD using the Zones of Regulation® curriculum.* Poster (peer reviewed). AOTA Autism Specialty Conference. Cleveland, OH.

State

Sweetman, T. & **Baker, A. (2025).** *Implementing AAC communication into interventions.* Breakout session (peer reviewed). Michigan Occupational Therapy Association (MiOTA) Annual Conference. Troy, MI.

Baker, A., Cole, A., Krouldis, K., & Wolfer, K. (2024). *Use and perceptions of telehealth by pediatric occupational therapists post Covid-19 pandemic.* Poster (peer reviewed). Michigan Occupational Therapy Association (MiOTA) Annual Conference. Boyne Mountain, MI.

Baker, A., Gupta, A., Randall, J., & Mitchell, R. (2024). *Creating concept maps for use in the clinic and classroom.* Lecture (peer reviewed). MiOTA Annual Conference. Boyne Mountain, MI.

Baker, A. (2021). *Finding and applying research to improve your clinical practice.* Lecture (peer reviewed). MiOTA Annual Conference. Kalamazoo, MI.

Baker, A., Binder, K., & Josts, D. (2020). *Building better client-therapist interactions using the intentional relationship model.* Lecture (peer reviewed). MiOTA Annual Conference. Virtual.

Baker, A., Stockdale, J., & Tremp, G. (2020). *Solving ethical dilemmas.* Lecture (peer reviewed). MiOTA Annual Conference. Virtual.

Baker, A. (2018). *Essential elements of a comprehensive initial evaluation.* Lecture (peer reviewed). MiOTA Annual Conference. Livonia, MI.

Baker, A., & Ramirez, C. (2016). *Understanding pain and its influence on client performance.* Lecture (peer reviewed). MiOTA Annual Conference. Grand Rapids, MI.

Ramirez, C., & **Baker, A. (2016).** *Back to basics: Functional neuroanatomy review.* Lecture (peer reviewed). MiOTA Annual Conference. Grand Rapids, MI.

Local

Baker, A. (2021). *Being sensitive to sensory needs in the classroom.* Lecture (invited). Christian Educators Association Annual Conference. Grand Rapids, MI.

Baker, A., & Ramirez, C. (2017). *Making sense of sensory processing: Neurological components and strategies to improve function.* Lecture (invited). Community Mental Health Clinical Excellence Committee quarterly conference. Lansing, MI.

GRANTS

Health Services Research Grant	July 2022 – June 2024
American Occupational Therapy Foundation	Budget: \$100,000
Project: Disparities and Costs of Access to Early Intervention Occupational Therapy Services	
Role: Co-investigator (\$21,400)	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Quantitative Reasoning, OT 6410 (Spring 2024)

Art of Occupational Therapy Practice, OT 6002 (Summer II 2023, Summer II 2024, Summer II 2025)

Foundations of Practice for the OTA, OT 3001 (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025)

Science of Occupational Therapy, OT 6003 (Summer II 2022, Summer II 2025)

Level I Pediatric Fieldwork, OT 6501 (Summer I & II 2021)

Sensory Integration and the Child, OT 5300 (online; Spring 2021)

Clinical Documentation, OT 6530 (online; Summer 2019, Summer I 2022)

Functional Neuroanatomy, OT 6110 (Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

Therapeutic Interactions, OT 3840 (Spring 2019, Spring 2020)

Applied Neurology, OT 3750 (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019)

Co-Instructor

Advanced OT in Older Adulthood, OT 6303 (Fall 2023, Fall 2024), course coordinator

Interventions and Outcomes in Childhood, OT 6201 (Spring 2022, Spring 2023), modules on play, sensory integration, vision, post-secondary transitions

Interventions and Outcomes in Older Adulthood, OT 6203 (Spring 2022), module on cognition & perception

Analysis and Evaluation in Older Adulthood, OT 6103 (Fall 2021), modules on functional cognition, sensory testing

Vision and Cognition, OT 5735 (Fall 2020), modules on cognitive assessments and interventions

Mentored Student Research and Projects

OTD Research Mentor: ...	2025 – current
OTD Research Mentor: ...	2025 – current

Baccalaureate Project Mentor:	2025 – current
Baccalaureate Project Mentor:	2025 – current
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OTD Research Mentor: Qualitative investigation into caregiver and clinician perceptions of quality occupational therapy services for autistic youth	2024 – current
Honors Thesis Chair: Use of Tier 1 interventions by an occupational therapist within the elementary school setting – A case study	2024-2025
OTD Research Mentor: Measurement of quality within pediatric occupational therapy for autistic youth	2023-2025
OTD Research mentor: Use and perceptions of telehealth by pediatric occupational therapists post Covid-19 pandemic	2022-2024

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Community

Treetops Collective, Grand Rapids, MI	
General Volunteer	2024 – current
Cross Cultural Partner	2022 – 2023
American Occupational Therapy Association	
Peer review of proposals	Summer 2025
AOTA Inspire 2025 Annual Conference	
Peer review of Critically Appraised Papers (4)	Summer 2024
AOTA Inspire 2025 Annual Conference	
Peer review of Children & Youth proposals (13)	Summer 2024
AOTA Inspire 2025 Annual Conference	
Peer review of Critically Appraised Papers (4)	Summer 2023
AOTA Inspire 2024 Annual Conference	
Peer review of Children & Youth proposals (17)	Summer 2023
AOTA Inspire 2024 Annual Conference	
Peer review of Critically Appraised Papers (4)	Summer 2020
AOTA 2021 Annual Conference	
Peer review of Critically Appraised Papers (3)	Fall 2019
AOTA 2020 Annual Conference	

Peer review of Children & Youth proposals (25) AOTA 2020 Annual Conference	Summer 2019
Peer review of Critically Appraised Papers (2) AOTA 2020 Annual Conference	Summer 2019
Peer review of Critically Appraised Papers (2) American Occupational Therapy Association	Winter 2019
Peer review of Critically Appraised Papers (3) American Occupational Therapy Association	Winter 2018
Peer review of Critically Appraised Papers (2) American Occupational Therapy Association	Winter 2017
Michigan Occupational Therapy Association	
Lansing Lobby Day participant	March 2025
BCBS Liaison	2024 – current
Lansing Lobby Day participant and WMU student co-coordinator	March 2023
Lansing Lobby Day participant and WMU student coordinator	March 2020
Lansing Lobby Day participant and WMU student coordinator	March 2019
Lansing Lobby Day participant	March 2017
Lansing Chapter co-chair	2016-2017
Lansing Lobby Day participant	March 2016
<u>Western Michigan University</u>	
WMU-AAUP	
Association council representative	2023 – current
<u>College of Health and Human Services</u>	
Faculty Community of Practice	
Leader	2024 – current
Scholarship Committee	
Member	2024 – current
<u>Occupational Therapy Department</u>	
Graduate Assistant Selection Committee	
Member	2024 – current

Barbara A. Rider Colloquium Planning Committee	
Co-chair	2024, 2025
Member	2023
Scholarship Committee	
Member	2023 – current
Personnel Committee	
Member	2025 – current
Program Evaluation Committee	
Co-chair	2025 – current

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Michigan Occupational Therapy Association	
Member	2016 – current
American Occupational Therapy Association	
Member	2011 – current