

LEND TRAINEE BIO

NAME: EMILY BUDIK

DISCIPLINE: PSYCHOLOGY

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:

At the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute at West Virginia University, I worked on the development of a research study examining how a dance class intervention could enhance motor, social-emotional, and cognitive functioning in children with neurodevelopmental disorders. I contributed to the design of experimental methods, helped structure outcome measures, and gained hands-on experience in bridging scientific research with real-world therapeutic applications.

Prior to that, I shadowed clinical neuropsychologists at the RNI, where I observed neuropsychological assessments, case conceptualization, and patient interactions. This experience provided me with valuable exposure to clinical practice and deepened my understanding of how research informs patient care.

Goals for your LEND training experience:

My goal for the LEND training experience is to engage in an interdisciplinary environment where I can both grow through collaboration with professionals from diverse fields and gain knowledge to carry into the field of psychology. I am eager to learn from the unique perspectives of others, while also sharing my knowledge to support the team's collective efforts in improving outcomes for individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders and their families.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as an advocate/professional/family member in the field:

In the future, I hope to contribute to the field by being a compassionate advocate who amplifies the voices of individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders and their families. I want to help create environments where people feel supported, empowered, and valued. My goal is to use my training to not only advance evidence-based practices, but also to ensure that these practices are applied in ways that respect each person's individuality and dignity. At the heart of it all, I want to bring empathy, advocacy, and a commitment to building more inclusive communities.