

CURRICULUM VITAE

March 1, 2026

Name: Anna A. Allen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Contact Information: aaa@creativecommunicationcare.com

Place of Birth: Boston, MA

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist with over 20 years of experience providing speech-language evaluations and evidence-based treatment to children and adolescents with special needs, including autism, genetic syndromes, learning disabilities, and ADHD. My doctoral research focused on improving communication skills in children with moderate to severe autism. I am passionate about creating engaging treatment activities, materials, and individualized visual supports that capture my clients' unique interests and strengths. I strive to provide neurodiversity-affirming, trauma-informed care that respects families' cultures, values, and functional needs.

EDUCATION

MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA (September 2012-January 2019)

Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Sciences

MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA (June 2001-August 2003)

Master of Science in Communication Sciences & Disorders

Smith College, Northampton, MA (September 1995-May 1999)

Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

Speech-Language Pathologist Professional License, #6348

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association:

Certificate of Clinical Competence, #12076103

ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA (2014-2015)

Clinical Instructor, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA (2012-2014)

- Clinical supervision of first-year masters students learning multi-sensory reading diagnostics and intervention
- Instruction in data analysis, integration of theory and practice, critical thinking, and clinical writing through written feedback on lesson plans, progress notes, and diagnostic reports
- Leadership and facilitation of weekly clinical case discussion groups

Clinical Preceptor, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA (2009-2012)

- Clinical supervision of second-year masters students in community clinical outplacements

TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

CD-858 Autism Spectrum Disorders: Guest Lecturer, Teaching Assistant

CD-550 Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders

CD-553 Speech and Language Acquisition: Guest Lecturer

Choe, N. (MGH Institute of Health Professions). Master's Thesis, Summer 2019. (Allen, Third Reader)

Siegel, S. (MGH Institute of Health Professions). Master's Thesis, Summer 2015. (Allen, Third Reader)

HONORS, AWARDS, & PRESENTATIONS

- Most Significant Student Paper (2018). Awarded by the Editors of the journal *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*.
- Allen, A. A. (April 24, 2015). *Structuring language through the Visual Immersion System: A practical look at visuals*. Invited keynote address, Monarch Therapy School's 2do Encuentro sobre el Espectro Autista: Comunicacion y Lenguaje. Universidad Iboamericana, Mexico City.
- Award for Continuing Education (ACE), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2014)
- Saffran Student Scholar Award (2013). Pre-doctoral scholarship to the 8th Annual Eleanor M. Saffran Cognitive Neuroscience Conference at Temple University

MGH Institute of Health Professions (2012-2014)

- Institutional Merit Scholarship, Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences program

MGH Institute of Health Professions (2003)

- Student literature review presenter, *Depressive Pseudodementia*, MGH IHP Research Day

Smith College (1999)

- Dean's List First Group Scholar
- Guest lecturer, first-year Introduction to Neuroscience class; presented literature review on neurobiology of consciousness

Harvard University (1995)

- Howard Hughes Medical Institute Summer Scholarship

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Director of Research, Training, & Development, Puddingstone Place, LLC, Wellesley, MA (2020-2021)

- Collaborated with management team to develop proposal for a clinical research program at the company.
- Provided onboarding training and ongoing clinical mentoring for staff therapists.
- Provided training and ongoing advising in Goal Attainment Scaling methods to SLP staff.
- Provided ongoing speech-language therapy, via telehealth, for children and young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Pre- and Post-Doctoral Researcher, Autism Language Program, Department of Otolaryngology and Communication Enhancement, Boston Children's Hospital, Waltham, MA (2013-2021)

- Created and applied research designs to explore the effect of Visual Immersion System strategies, administered via mobile technology, on direction-following skills of children with moderate to severe autism.
- Implemented treatment within the Visual Immersion System via telehealth; coordinated communication among clinicians, researchers, and family members, including videoconferencing system and organization of incoming data; mentored SLPs-in-training on research methods.

Research Manager, Language & Learning Centers of America, Wellesley, MA (2015-2016)

- Provided training and ongoing advising in Goal Attainment Scaling methods to clinical staff.
- Collaborated with researchers and clinicians to develop research protocols for investigating effectiveness of the Visual Immersion System.

Evaluator, Developmental Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA (2010)

- Administered psychometric testing to participants in research investigating connections between musical training and language and reading development.

Senior Research Technician, Laboratory of Cognitive Neurobiology, Boston University, MA (1999-2001)

- Investigated role of hippocampus and associated regions in learning and memory.

- Executed histological processing of brain tissue and analyses of lesion placement.
- Trained and supervised undergraduates in experimental and laboratory protocols.
- Participated in editing and publication process of *From Conditioning to Conscious Recollection: Memory Systems of the Brain* (H. Eichenbaum & N. J. Cohen, 2001, Oxford University Press).

Research Assistant, Health Programs International, Wellesley, MA (1997-1998)

- Collaborated with dentists and psychologists to improve outcomes in reconstructive surgery for craniofacial anomalies.
- Compiled and analyzed facial perception data.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Summer Scholar, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, (1995)

- Assisted PhD students in ecology research projects.
- Created and maintained butterfly and plant colonies associated with research studies.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant, Autism Care Partners, Framingham, MA (November 2023-present)

- Provide ongoing advising to school staff re: implementing comprehensive visual supports for a teenager with autism, in both school and vocational settings.
- Design and create individualized visual supports (both high- and low-tech) to enhance language comprehension; language expression; social pragmatic skills; the understanding of behavioral expectations; and independence with activities of daily living.

Speech-Language Pathologist, Autism Care Partners, Wellesley, MA (August 2021-November 2023)

- Collaborated with colleagues to operationalize scope and sequence of intervention in the Visual Immersion System™.
- Provided ongoing telehealth speech-language therapy to children and young adults with autism and other developmental differences.
- Therapy goals included increasing clients' linguistic and operational competence with their iPad-based dynamic display AAC systems, e.g., GoTalk NOW, TouchChat, Proloquo2Go.
- Created individualized visual supports using SymbolStix, BoardMaker, PixWriter, PowerPoint, Google slides, PicCollage app, and artificial intelligence (Microsoft Bing Copilot).

Director of Clinical Care, Puddingstone Place, LLC, Wellesley, MA (2018-2020)

- Co-managed staff at Puddingstone Place Wellesley.
- Trained staff in use of Goal Attainment Scaling as a measure of client progress.
- Provided onboarding training and ongoing clinical mentoring companywide for staff therapists (SLPs, OTs, BCBA's, BTs).
- Conducted speech-language assessments and provided ongoing speech-language therapy for children and young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.
- Consulted with local school systems regarding integration of the Visual Immersion System into programs and classrooms.

Consultant, Fayetteville-Manlius School District, Manlius, NY (2017-2020)

- Provided training and ongoing advising in Goal Attainment Scaling methods to school-based SLPs and special education teachers.
- Implemented research techniques in naturalistic settings to examine the effectiveness of Visual Immersion System intervention on communication outcomes in children with autism.

Speech-Language Pathologist, Wakefield Public Schools, MA (2004-2012)

- Conducted speech-language assessments for children in elementary grades at Dolbeare School.

- Planned and implemented therapy targeting vocabulary and semantic development; syntax and morphology; articulation and phonology; stuttering; receptive language, language pragmatics, and functional communication.
- Population included individuals with autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, articulation disorders, and language learning disabilities.
- Collaborated with teachers, therapists and parents to develop individualized treatment goals, data collection systems, and carry-over activities.
- Coordinated assessment requests, chaired Team meetings, and wrote Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as caseload liaison.
- Incorporated technology into diagnosis and treatment, including Boardmaker, iPad, ProLoQuo2Go, 32 Message Communicator, Step By Step, Dynavox.

Speech-Language Pathologist, Aegis Therapies, Newton, MA (2003-2013)

- Initiated cognitive-communicative and swallowing screenings, diagnostics and treatment protocols in skilled nursing facilities in compliance with daily billing/reimbursement and documentation policies.
- Inservice nursing staff on customized functional maintenance programs for clients within a “Restore, Compensate and Adapt” model of care.
- Provided education and counseling to clients and families.
- Provided end-of-life care.

CLINICAL PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital, Worcester, MA (2003)

- Provided speech-language services for children and adults in an aural rehabilitation/habilitation environment, including treatment and counseling at all stages of the cochlear implant process.

KLK Associates Home Care, Boston, MA (2003)

- Performed functional speech, swallowing, and cognitive-linguistic assessments; developed treatment and discharge plans.
- Population included aphasia, motor speech disorders, dysphagia, TBI, laryngectomy, and voice disorders.
- Provided therapy and family counseling focused on functional activities and re-integration into the home and work setting.
- Completed diagnostic reports, SOAP notes, and discharge summaries.

HealthSouth Braintree Rehabilitation Hospital, North Andover, MA (2002)

- Completed pediatric speech-language evaluations and provided speech-language services in outpatient rehab setting.
- Provided speech-language screenings, diagnostic evaluations, and speech-language services to bilingual preschool population at Head Start sites in Lawrence, MA.
- Planned and implemented co-treatment activities with other therapists. Responsibilities included diagnostic evaluation reports and daily progress notes.

MGH Institute Speech, Language, and Literacy Clinic, Boston, MA, 2001-2002

- Conducted diagnostic evaluations and provided speech-language services as member of dyad team. Population included preschool children with autism spectrum disorders, school age children with dyslexia, and adult clients learning written English.
- Prepared diagnostic reports, treatment plans, weekly lesson plans and SOAP notes.
- Trained families in language scaffolding strategies.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP/SERVICE

Professional Development Committee, SIG 12 Augmentative and Alternative Communication (2017-2019)

New England Learning Sciences coordinating committee (2016-2018)
Editorial Review Board, SIG 18 Perspectives on Telepractice (2014)
Better Hearing & Speech Month organizing committee, MGH IHP (2013)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2013 *Use of Collaborative Virtual Environments to Support Communication in Children with Autism*. Sue Cobb, Ph.D.
2013 *Challenges in Applying Virtual Technology to Rehabilitation of Speech and Language Disorders*. Linda Garcia, Ph.D.
2012 *Language and Autism: Variability in Behavior and Brain*, Helen Tager-Flusberg, Ph.D.
2011 *Mindfulness-Based Interventions for Persons on the Autism Spectrum*, Rosalind Hoffman, D.Ed

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
ASHA Special Interest Groups: Group 12, Augmentative and Alternative Communication

PUBLICATIONS

McNaughton, D., Stroschein, R., Light, J., Jakobs, E., Liang, Zhigao, Dobrzynski, C., Laubscher, E., Holyfield, C., **Allen, A.A.**, Rackensperger, T., & Vege, R. (2023, November 9). *The effect of video VSDs on communication and participation for individuals with complex communication needs*. Technical research session presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA.

Allen, A. A. (2022, January 1). The scene cue: A tool delivered via mobile technology for improving independence in direction-following. *Autism Spectrum News*.
<https://autismspectrumnews.org/the-scene-cue-a-tool-delivered-via-mobile-technology-for-improving-independence-in-direction-following/>

Allen, A. A., Schlosser, R. W., Haynes, C. W., & Shane, H. C. (2021). The effect of cue type on directive-following in children with moderate to severe autism spectrum disorder. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 37(3), 168-179. DOI:10.1080/07434618.2021.1930154

Alper, M., Christiansen, E., **Allen, A. A.**, & Mello, S. (2021). Pediatric media guidance for parents of children on the autism spectrum: A thematic analysis. *Health Communication*, DOI: 10.1080/10410236.2021.2020982

Schlosser, R. W., Shane, H. C., **Allen, A. A.**, Yu, C., O'Brien, A., Cullen, C., Benz, A., O'Neill, L., Chiesa, L., & Miori-Dinneen, L. (2021). Implementing the Visual Immersion System™ in a classroom for children with autism spectrum disorder: Challenges and solutions. In B. T. Ogletree (Ed.), *Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Challenges and Solutions* (pp. 283-311). Plural Publishing.

Choe, N., Shane, H., Schlosser, R. W., Haynes, C. W., & **Allen, A.** (2020). Directive-following based on graphic symbol sentences involving an animated verb symbol: An exploratory study. *Communication Disorders Quarterly*, DOI: 10.1177/1525740120976332

O'Brien, A., Schlosser, R. W., Shane, H. C., Wendt, O., Yu, C., **Allen, A. A.**, Cullen, J., Benz, A., & O'Neill, L. (2020). Providing visual supports via a smart watch to a student with autism spectrum disorder: An intervention note. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 36(4), 249-257.

Schlosser, R. W., Shane, H. C., **Allen, A. A.**, Benz, A., Cullen, J., Chiesa, L., Miori-Dinneen, L., Koul, R., & Pasupathy, R. (2020). Coaching a school team to implement the Visual Immersion System™ in a classroom for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A mixed methods proof-of-concept study. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, 4(4), 447-470.

O'Brien, A. M., Schlosser, R. W., Yu, C., **Allen, A. A.**, & Shane, H. C. (2020). Repurposing a Smartwatch to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Sensory and operational considerations. *Journal of Special Education Technology*, 36(4), 215-226.

Mello, S., Alper, M., & **Allen, A. A.** (2020). Physician mediation theory and pediatric media guidance in the digital age: A survey of autism medical and clinical professionals. *Health Communication*, 35(8), 955-965.

O'Brien, A., Yu, C., Shane, H. C., Schlosser, R. W., Benz, A., Cullen, J. V., & **Allen, A. A.** (2019, November 22). *Using a Smartwatch to support directive following for children with autism spectrum disorder*. Poster presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Orlando, FL.

Choe, N., Shane, H. C., Haynes, C. W., & **Allen, A. A.** (2019, November 21). *Effects of Animated Graphics on Symbol Syntax Comprehension for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Poster presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Orlando, FL.

Yu, C., Shane, H. C., O'Brien, A., Schlosser, R. W., Abramson, J., **Allen, A. A.**, & Flynn, S. (2019, November 21). *Predictors of successful implementation of recommendations for children with moderate to severe autism spectrum disorder*. Poster presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Orlando, FL.

Juhlin, D., Morris, C., Schmaltz, P., Shane, H., Schlosser, R., O'Brien, A., Mancini, D., **Allen, A. A.**, & Abramson, J. (2019, July). The PTC and Boston Children's Hospital collaborative AR experience for children with autism spectrum disorder. In *International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction* (pp. 116-122). Springer.

Reynolds, R., Smoller, S., **Allen, A. A.**, & Nicholas, P. K. (2019). Health literacy and health outcomes in persons living with HIV disease: A systematic review. *AIDS and Behavior*, 1-20.

Yu, C., Shane, H., Schlosser, R. W., O'Brien, A., **Allen, A. A.**, Abramson, J., & Flynn, S. (2018). An exploratory study of speech-language pathologists using the Echo Show™ to deliver visual supports. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, 2, 286-292. doi:10.1007/s41252-018-0075-3

Allen, A. A., Shane, H. C., & Schlosser, R. W. (2018). The Echo™ as a speaker-independent speech recognition device to support children with autism: An exploratory study. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, 2, 69-74. doi: 10.1007/s41252-017-0041-5

Allen, A. A., Alper, M., Shane, H. C., & Haynes, C. W. (2017, November 10). *Interprofessional development of a survey exploring mobile technology use among families of children with Autism*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Allen, A. A., Shane, H. C., Schlosser, R. W., O'Brien, A., & Yu, C. (2017, November 9). *The Amazon Echo™ in Autism: Can it deliver visual cues just-in-time to aid comprehension?* Seminar presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Shane, H. C., Schlosser, R. W., Yu, C., O'Brien, A., **Allen, A.**, ... & Flynn, S. (2017, November). *Enhancing language in Autism: Implementation of the Visually Immersive Developmental Framework in clinical practice*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Los Angeles, CA.

O'Brien, A., O'Brien, M., Schlosser, R. W., Yu, C., **Allen, A. A.**, ... & Shane, H. C. (2017). Repurposing consumer products as a gateway to just-in-time communication. *Seminars in Speech and Language*, 38(4), 297-312.

Brock, K. L., & **Allen, A. A.** (2017). Augmented input intervention for children with developmental disabilities: Clinical recommendations await conclusive data with respect to dosage, frequency, and duration. *Evidence-Based Communication Assessment and Intervention*, 11, 47-53.

Allen, A. A., Schlosser, R. W., Brock, K. L., & Shane, H. C. (2017). The effectiveness of aided augmented input techniques for persons with developmental disabilities: A systematic review. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 33, 149-159.

Schlosser, R. W., O'Brien, A., Yu, C., Abramson, J., **Allen, A. A.**, Flynn, S., & Shane, H. C. (2017). Repurposing everyday technologies to provide just-in-time visual supports to children with intellectual disability and autism: A pilot feasibility study with the Apple Watch. *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*, 63, 221-227. DOI:10.1080/20473869.2017.1305138

Shane, H. C., Schlosser, R. W., Yu, C., O'Brien, A., **Allen, A. A.**, ... & Flynn, S. (2016, November 17). *Enhancing language in autism: A visually immersive developmental framework*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Allen, A. A., Brock, K. L., Schlosser, R. W., & Shane, H. C. (2016, November 17). *Aided augmented input techniques for persons with developmental disabilities: A systematic review*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Allen, A. A., Schlosser, R. W., Brock, K. L., & Shane, H. C. (2016, August 9). *Toward clarification of augmented input techniques for persons with developmental disabilities who use aided AAC*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

O'Brien, A., Schlosser, R. W., Shane, H. C., Yu, C., Abramson, J., **Allen, A. A.**, Flynn, S., Yu, C., & Dimery, K. (2016). Just-in-time visual supports for children with autism via the Apple Watch: A pilot feasibility study. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 46(12), 3818-3823. doi:10.1007/s10803-016-2891-5

Schlosser, R. W., Shane, H. C., **Allen, A. A.**, Abramson, J., Laubscher, E., & Dimery, K. (2015, October 10). Just-in-time supports in augmentative and alternative communication. *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities*, 28(1), 177-193. DOI: 10.1007/s10882-015-9452-2

Allen, A. A., Jeans, C., Ball, L., & Guarino, A. J. (2015). Caregivers' perception of the iPad's utility for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC): A conflict between illusion and reality. *World Journal of Educational Research*, 2(1), 39-43.

Allen, A. A., Shane, H. C., & Schlosser, R. W. (2015, January 29). *A field study: Implementing the Visual Immersion System (VIS™) via telepractice*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the Assistive Technology Industry Association, Orlando, FL.

Allen, A. A., Lof, G. L., & Shane, H. C. (2014, November 22). *“Miracles” in autism treatment: Helping parents become better decision-makers*. Seminar presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Orlando, FL.

Allen, A. A. & Shane, H. C. (2014). The evaluation of children with an autism spectrum disorder: Adaptations to accommodate a telepractice model of clinical care. *Perspectives on Telepractice*, 4, 42-51. DOI: 10.1044/teles4.2.42

Allen, A. A. & Shane, H. C. (2014). Autism spectrum disorders in the era of mobile technologies: Impact on caregivers. *Developmental Neurorehabilitation*, 17(2), 110-114. DOI: 10.3109/17518423.2014.882425

Allen, A. A., Jeans, C. E., & Ball, L. J. (2013, November). *Caregiver attitudes toward the iPad for young adults with ASD: A survey*. Poster session presented at the meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Chicago, IL.