



AMBER MASTERSON, LMSW
LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIALIST



Amber Masterson is a licensed clinical social worker who earned her Master's degree at Michigan State University. She has been working with children with autism and special needs since 2002. Amber has extensive experience providing intervention for children individually and in groups. She has worked with children in a variety of settings including: home, school, respite care, residential settings and volunteer programs such as therapeutic horseback riding and Ele's Place.

Amber is certified in DIR/Floortime and has been a P.L.A.Y. Project Home Consultant, Supervisor and Supervision Coordinator. She has coached parents on how to implement techniques to help their child improve attention, communication, problem solving and social skills. She has trained other home consultants across the country and internationally.

Amber enjoys spending time with her family. She lives with her husband, two kids and golden retriever. She also likes to read and is learning how to knit.

Services

Incredible Flexible You™ Groups

The Incredible Flexible You is an engaging new Social Thinking educational series that combines a social learning framework used in schools across the U.S. with music and dramatic play activities that will appeal to early learners. Play is the learning environment of young children, and this curriculum capitalizes on this idea! Prepare your child for what awaits them in preschool or kindergarten or help them get up to speed if they are struggling in these environments. Groups are for ages 3-4 years old and 5-7 years old.

Connect with Your Child Through Floortime Parent and child sessions (Children 18 months to 7 years old).

Connecting Kids Through Floortime Peer Session with 2-3 kids (Children 18 months to 7 years old).

DIR/Floortime Description

The Developmental, Individual Difference, Relationship-based (DIR®) Model is an intervention program tailored to the unique challenges and strengths of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental challenges. The objectives of the DIR® Model are to build healthy foundations for social, emotional, and intellectual capacities.



ANNA MEANEY

ACADEMIC CONSULTANT/TUTOR



Anna is completing her Bachelor of Science degree this spring in Special Education with an Emotional Impairment endorsement at Eastern Michigan University. She has worked with students from Kindergarten through college, who have a wide spectrum of disabilities. She is highly effective while developing strategies to help students become successful in both their school and social environments.

Services:

- Academic Tutoring

The tutoring services can assist with reading challenges, reading comprehension, writing difficulties, life skills, and organizational difficulties. The students work one-on-one with me and the sessions will last one hour.

- Homework Club

Homework club allows students to complete their homework assignments in a quiet and structured atmosphere. This type of setting also gives students the opportunity to learn social skills while being with other kids and mimic more of a real world environment in which students are expected to focus with others around them.

- Executive Function Coaching

The curriculum that is used at BCPN is developed to assistance students with the following areas that are important for classroom instruction and life success:

- Self-regulation: the ability to efficiently manage time and materials
- Self-awareness
- Goal-directed behavior
- Self-evaluation of performance
- Flexibility to solve problems and revise plans



CHRISTINA SAUCHAK

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT/TUTOR



Christina Sauchak is a graduate of the Michigan State University College of Education, where she received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a specialization in English Language Arts, and minors in Spanish and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Christina absolutely loves working with children, and has experience with kids of all ages. She has extensive experience in childcare, working in K-12 classrooms, tutoring, mentoring, coaching, and teaching children's dance classes. During the upcoming school year, she will be student teaching in a second grade classroom in Walled Lake, while coaching the high school's dance/pom team and beginning her master's degree. She also dedicates her time to volunteering for philanthropic causes benefitting children, such as Girl Scouts of the USA and Prevent Child Abuse America. Christina is committed to instilling confidence in all children by providing them with the differentiated instruction they need in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Academic Tutoring: My tutoring services can assist students of all ages with reading challenges, reading comprehension, writing difficulties, life skills, and organizational difficulties. Whether a student needs help with basic concepts of print, or needs assistance fine-tuning a research paper, I will provide differentiated instruction to meet each student's individual needs. My specialty correlates most with reading and writing, but I can assist with other K-8 subject areas such as social studies, science, and math, when needed. I can also do my best to help with high school course work, depending on my knowledge of the subject matter. Whenever possible, tutoring can also take place in small groups or homework clubs to facilitate social interactions and mimic more of a real world environment in which students are expected to focus with others around them.

Executive Function Coaching: Using a neuroscience research-based program, I will help students of all ages will focus on foundational skills, study strategies, and personal growth skills to provide them with regular behavioral and cognitive routines crucial to succeeding in school, college, and career. They will learn to efficiently manage their time and materials by developing self-awareness, goal-directed behavior, self-evaluation of their performance, and flexibility to solve problems and revise their plans.



PAIGE SCOTT, OTRL

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST



Paige Scott, OTRL is an occupational therapist who earned her Master's degree at Eastern Michigan University. She has worked with children and adults of all different ages and abilities. She has experience working with children in an outpatient clinic, children's hospital, and early childhood center. With adults, she ran OT groups to increase independence in activities of daily living, including gardening and cooking groups. Her graduate research project brought together children with and without developmental delays for an integrated play group to increase social and play skills. Paige is excited to work with children, teens, and young adults at BCPN to enhance functioning and independence in everyday life!

OT Services

Occupational therapy is a health and wellness profession that assists people in developing the skills they need to participate in everyday life where they live, work, and play.

- **Handwriting Help**
 - Handwriting is a complex process and some children may need a little extra help developing this skill. Underlying skills, such as muscle strength, endurance, coordination, and motor control, will be addressed in a fun and inviting way.
- **Feeding and Eating**
 - Meal times can be stressful with a child that is considered a very picky eater. By using a multi-sensory approach, providing structure, social modeling, positive reinforcement, making food manageable, and providing families with strategies, occupational therapy sessions will address the picky eating problem.
- **Sensory Intervention**
 - Individuals with sensory processing difficulties have a hard time organizing all the input they are experiencing through their senses – touching, hearing, seeing, tasting, smelling, position in space, and balance and coordination. Occupational therapy sessions address all of these senses and provide strategies to use at home to support the child's sensory system.
- **Teen & Young Adult OT**
 - OT will address roles and routines regarding activities of daily living and functioning in the community. Sessions will be individualized to meet the needs of each teen and young adult. The OT and teen or young adult will work together to form strategies to increase independence in everyday life. We may work on independent living skills, shopping, navigating the community, household management, and transitioning to college or work.

HOLLY CARTER

FAMILY CONSULTANT

YOUNG ADULT SERVICES



Holly Carter is a Family Consultant completing her Master's Degree in Social Work. She is a parent of a son diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, a certified Parent Navigator through Wayne State University and a trained Leader in Policy Advocacy through the Arc of Michigan.

After her son Richard was diagnosed at age two with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Holly founded the Boxing Autism Club of Livingston County because she believes each one of us possess strengths that we can pass on to our family members and one another. Her passion is working with people to assist them in family planning, school advocacy and support. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family at the beach and loves a strong cup of coffee.

Services Provided:

- **Family or Individual Consulting** (Facilitate a structured meeting to discuss the needs of the family or individual, assess the present and future steps, and develop a plan of action to execute forecasted goals.)
- **Person Centered Planning** (Facilitate a structured meeting to assess the strengths of an individual and or services that the adult or child diagnosed with special needs may need in order to lead a happy, healthy, and prosperous life.)
- **Advocacy** (Support and facilitate communication between families or individuals and service providing entities to include Schools, Mental Health Professionals, Medical Staff or Family)
- **Presenter** (Self Care, Autism Safety, Parent's Perspective: Life After An Autism Diagnosis, Caregiver Fatigue, Child Care Providers and Caring for Child Diagnosed with Special Needs) I have presented for LESA, Child Connect, Community Sharing for Healthy Caring, Wayne State University The Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Livingston Community Mental Health, etc.



LAUREN GARLEFF, CCC-SLP

LICENSED SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST



Lauren Garleff, CCC-SLP is a licensed speech-language pathologist who previously worked in the public school system. She earned her B.A. in Linguistics from the University of Michigan, with a minor in German, and her M.S. in Speech, Language, and Learning from Northwestern University.

Lauren Garleff, CCC-SLP is a licensed speech-language pathologist who previously worked in the public school system. She earned her B.A. in Linguistics from the University of Michigan, with a minor in German, and her M.S. in Speech, Language, and Learning from Northwestern University.

Lauren has experience with a range of developmental challenges, focusing on Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, learning disabilities, articulation disorders/delays, phonological disorders, Childhood Apraxia of Speech, receptive and expressive language disorders/delays, and social-pragmatic disorders.

Lauren has extensive experience working with infants, preschool-age, and elementary-age children in a variety of settings, and has collaborated with professionals and parents alike in assessment and treatment process.

In her free time, Lauren enjoys reading, singing, watching college football, and spending time with her family and friends.

Lauren offers the following services (**and she accepts BCBS Michigan Insurance**):

- Evaluation of speech and language skills, including the following areas: articulation, motor speech production, receptive/expressive language, social-pragmatic language, and speech fluency.
- Treatment of speech and language disorders, including the following areas: articulation, motor speech production, receptive/expressive language, social-pragmatic language, and speech fluency.



BRIGHTON CENTER
for
PEDIATRIC NEURODEVELOPMENT

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MARK BOWERS, PH.D.

LICENSED PEDIATRIC PSYCHOLOGIST



Dr. Mark Bowers is a Pediatric Psychologist and Clinical Director of Brighton Center for Pediatric Neurodevelopment. He has worked with children, adolescents, and families for over 15 years.

Dr. Bowers specializes in neurodevelopmental diagnoses (e.g., Autism Spectrum, Asperger's, ADHD, Traumatic Brain Injury, Learning Difficulties), and teaching 'quirky' kids and teens social skills. He is active in helping families obtain special education eligibility, school accommodations, and regularly advocates for children who experience social difficulties while attending school.

Dr. Bowers was named a "Mom Approved" Top Doctor in the State of Michigan for his work in pediatric psychology.

Dr. Bowers developed a mobile app to help children and teens improve their social skills that has been downloaded in over 60 countries and is being used by special education professionals and their students in elementary schools, high schools, and colleges around the world.

Dr. Bowers published a book in 2011, *Improving Social Skills with Children and Adolescents*, and released his late book, *8 Keys to Raising the Quirky Child* that was published internationally by W.W. Norton & Co. in July 2015.



SARA HUVAERE, M.ED. EDUCATION ADVOCATE EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIALIST



Sara is an Educational Consultant and Advocate focused on helping children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. Sara is dedicated to helping families receive the best possible intervention and services for their child. In addition, Sara provides consultation to professionals who need additional support and intervention within the classroom setting.

Sara has over ten years of experience as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher where she adapted curriculum to meet the needs of individual students.

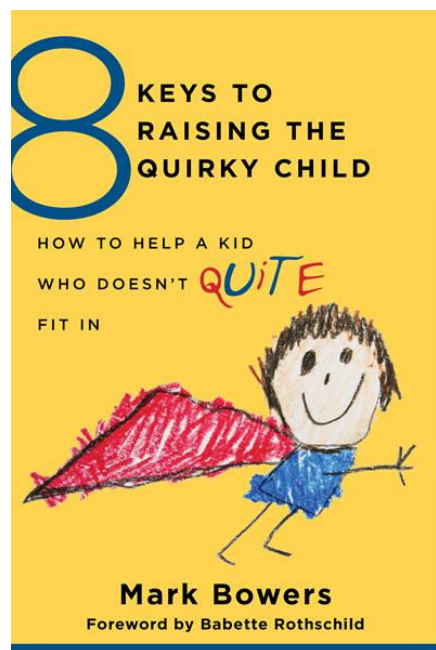
Sara obtained her BS in Special Education with a specialization in Early Intervention and Family Studies from Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She holds a M.Ed. with a major in Special Education and a focus on autism from Wayne State University in Michigan. Sara is a Certified Special Education teacher with the following three Special Education endorsements: Learning Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders and Cognitive Impairments.

Sara is also a Certified PLAY Project® Consultant trained by Richard Solomon, M.D.

Services Include:

- School record review- including IEP's
- School observation
- School report with detailed suggestions for placement, curriculum, classroom and behavioral support.
- IEP attendance and support
Consultation for teachers and school staff

NEW BOOK BY DR. MARK BOWERS, CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF THE BRIGHTON CENTER



8 Keys to Raising the Quirky Child: How to Help a Kid Who Doesn't (Quite) Fit In. by pediatric psychologist Mark Bowers, defines quirky markers and offers strategies for parents to understand their children's brains and behaviors; to know what is developmentally appropriate, and what isn't; to understand how to reach their kids; and to help facilitate their social functioning in the world.

In a highly regarded starred review, *Publishers Weekly* called the book “deeply insightful and refreshingly practical. . . . Frustrated parents who believe their child is well-described by the ‘quirky’ profile will find Bowers’ attitude supportive, his psychological explanations of their child’s motivations satisfying, and his specific strategies for helping these kids accept breadth of experience and build social competency usable and encouraging.”

“There is no black and white dividing line between geeks, nerds, and the quirky, and mild autism or Asperger’s. A few autistic traits can provide advantages—too many, a handicap. Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, and many famous musicians, if they were born today, might well receive an “autism” label in today’s school system. Some kids are just quirky, and *8 Keys to Raising a Quirky Child* will help those children succeed.”

—**Temple Grandin**, author of *The Autistic Brain* and *Thinking in Pictures*

CONTENTS:

Key 1: Identify Your Child’s Quirks: Part I • Key 2: Identify Your Child’s Quirks: Part II • Key 3: Support Brain Functioning • Key 4: Optimize Social Skills • Key 5: Respond Effectively • Key 6: Track Your Child’s Development • Key 7: Understand Diagnostic Criteria and Treatment • Key 8: Manage Challenges at Home

Head over to your local bookstore and pick up a copy, order from online retailers such as [IndieBound](#), [Powell's](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [Amazon](#), or buy direct from W. W. Norton & Co. This book is available Internationally.



NEW GROUPS

Incredible Flexible You Group for children ages 3-7 to help them get ready/improve skills for preschool or kindergarten.

Children that would benefit from learning how to:

- Stay with the group at circle time
- Remain focused and maintain attention
- Join in and interact with peers
- Consider others' perspectives
- Use whole body listening
- Become more flexible
- Improve social skills

Preschool Language Groups for children ages 3-6.

Activities will address the following skills:

- Practice greeting behaviors
- Initiation of conversation
- Requesting items
- Commenting on activity/environment
- Imitation
- Turn-taking in conversation

Homework Club (2nd-3rd grade club, 4th-6th grade club, 7th-8th grade club, and high school club).

Homework club allows students to complete their homework assignments in a quiet and structured atmosphere. This type of setting also gives students the opportunity to learn social skills while being with other kids and mimic more of a real world environment in which students are expected to focus with others around them.

Executive Function Coaching for students in elementary school through high school.

Using a neuroscience research-based program, we help students elementary through high school age focus on foundational skills, study strategies, and personal growth skills to provide them with regular behavioral and cognitive routines crucial to succeeding in school, college, and career. Students will learn to efficiently manage their time and materials by developing self-awareness, goal-directed behavior, self-evaluation of their performance, and flexibility to solve problems and revise their plans.



BRIGHTON CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC NEURODEVELOPMENT

Receive 10% off Fall 2015 Homework Club

Present Coupon at Initial Appointment or use code HOMEWORK10 when enrolling online.
Expires: 10/15/15

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BRIGHTON CENTER for PEDIATRIC NEURODEVELOPMENT

Dr. Mark Bowers has opened a multidisciplinary developmental center in Livingston County. After 8 amazing years in Ann Arbor, he has assembled a team of highly skilled developmental specialists to work together in Brighton to assist children of all ages and their families, as well as young adults.

Services include:

- Diagnostic Evaluations
- Developmental and Behavioral Treatment/Parenting Plans
- Educational Evaluations
- Autism/ADOS Testing
- ADHD Evaluations
- Speech-Language Evaluations & Therapy Services
- Occupational Therapy (fine motor, sensory, feeding)
- Individual/Family Therapy
- Play Therapy/DIR (Floortime)/ School Readiness Groups
- Social Skills Groups/Community Outings (ages 3 years-Young Adult)/Play Groups/Speech-Language Groups
- Educational Advocacy/IEP Guidance
- Transition to Adulthood/College Planning
- Academic/Organizational/Homework Tutoring
- Executive Function Coaching
- Parent Support/Social Work Services
- School Trainings/Early Childhood Consulting
- Videoconferencing services for families living far away
- Genetic Testing
- Pharmacogenetic Testing to determine gene response to meds

Autism Spectrum

ADHD

Learning, Behavioral,
Emotional, Social
Challenges

Social Skills

Quirky Kids

Developmental Delays

Ages 14 Months – Young
Adulthood

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