**Naima Bhana, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Special Education

Department of Advanced Teacher Education

Niagara University

**Areas of Specialization**

Early Intervention

Cultural, Ethnic, and Linguistic Diversity

Language and Literacy Interventions

**Education**

2021 *Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education*

The Pennsylvania State University

University Park, Pennsylvania

2013 *Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction-Exceptional Student Education*

Concentration in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Florida State University

Tallahassee, Florida

2012 *Bachelor of Arts in Exceptional Student Education, Minor in Psychology*

Florida State University

Tallahassee, Florida

**Current Academic Appointment**

2021-Present *Assistant Professor of Special Education*

Department of Advanced Teacher Education

College of Education

Niagara University

Lewiston, New York

**Professional Experience**

2017-2021 *Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant*

Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education

The Pennsylvania State University

University Park, Pennsylvania

2013-2017 *Autism Support Teacher*

Buckhorn Elementary School

Hillsborough County Schools

Valrico, Florida

2012- 2013 *Bilingual Research Assistant*

*Project:* Spanish-English Language Learner’s Early Literacy Skills

Florida Center for Reading Research

Tallahassee, Florida

2010-2011 *Teaching Assistant*

Florida State University Children Center

Tallahassee, Florida

**Professional Certifications**

*2021 Applied Behavior Analysis Graduate Certificate*

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

*Expected BCBA certification, Summer 2021*

2013 *Florida Department of Education*

Exceptional Student Education

Elementary Education

English for Speakers of Other Languages (Academic Endorsement)

Autism Spectrum Disorders (Academic Endorsement)

**Languages**

Spanish (Native Proficiency)

Gujarati (Intermediate Proficiency)

**Publications**

Taylor, J.T., & **Bhana, N.** (In Press). Incorporating High-Leverage Practice 7 in Classroom/Behavior Management Courses: Creating Supportive Learning Environments. *Journal of Special Education Preparation.* <https://doi.org/10.33043/JOSEP.1.1.47-54>

**Bhana, N.,** McNaughton, D., Raulston, T.J., & Ousley, C. (2020). Supporting communication and participation in shared storybook reading using visual scene displays. *Teaching Exceptional Children, 52*(6)*,* 382-391*.* <https://doi.org/10.1177/0040059920918609>

Raulston, T.J., **Bhana, N.,** & McIntyre, L.L., & Ousley, C. (2020). Supported joint engagement with peers: Collateral effects of a playdate intervention for children with autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.* Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04544-x>

Ousley, C., Raulston, T., McNaughton, D., Gregori, E., **Bhana, N.,** & Mantzoros, T. (2020). A comparison of single-case evaluation tools applied to functional communication training with augmentative and alternative communication supports for students with developmental disabilities. *Research in Developmental Disabilities, 107,* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2020.103803>

Rangel, G., & **Bhana, N.** (2020) ¿Y cómo te fue hoy? La comunicación en niños/as con capacidad verbal limitada (And how did it go today? Communication in children with limited speech). *Revista Aula De Innovacion Educativa, 299.*

Frantz, R., Douglas, S., Meadan, H., Sands, M., **Bhana, N.,** & D’Agostino, S. (2020). Exploring the professional development needs of early childhood paraeducators and their supervising teachers. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education.* Advance online publication.<https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121420921237>

Raulston, T.J., Hansen, S., Frantz, R., Machalicek, W., & **Bhana, N.** (2020). A parent implemented playdate intervention for children with autism and their peers. *Journal of Early* *Intervention. 42, 303-320.* <https://doi.org/10.1177/1053815119880943>

Raulston, T. J., Hieneman, M., Caraway, N., Pennefather, J., & **Bhana, N**. (2019). Enablers of behavioral parent training for families of children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Child and Family Studies, 28, 693-703*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-018-1295-x>

***Manuscripts Submitted for Publication***

**Bhana, N.,** Raulston, T. J., McNaughton, D., & Ousley, C. (2020). *Tell me more! Effects of family photographs and telecoaching on conversations about past events between parents and children with autism* [Revisions requested]. Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education. The Pennsylvania State University.

***Manuscripts in Preparation***

**Bhana, N.,** Rangel, G., & Raulston, T.J. (2020). *Barriers and facilitators to special education services in the Republic of Panama* [Manuscript in preparation].Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education. The Pennsylvania State University.

Deger, G., **Bhana, N.**, & Frank., J. (2020). *¡Escúchame! Using simulations to prepare special educators to communicate positively with families with LEP* [Manuscript in preparation].Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education. The Pennsylvania State University.

**Conferences and Presentations**

McNaughton, D., Ousley, C., Baker, K., **Bhana, N.,** Cherry, M., & Stroschein, B. (2021, July 7-9). *A scoping review of video modeling interventions to support community participation for autistic adolescent and adults* [Paper presentation]. Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) National Conference.

Deger., G., **Bhana., N.,** & Frank., J. (2021, March 8-13). *¡Escúchame! Using simulations to prepare special educators to communicate positively with families with LEP.* [Panel session]. Council for Exceptional Children Learning Interactive Virtual Event (L.I.V.E)

Ousley, C., & **Bhana, N.** (2021, March 8-13). *DICE: A strategy for practitioners on how to decrease challenging behavior and replace it with appropriate communication* [Poster session]. Council for Exceptional Children Learning Interactive Virtual Event (L.I.V.E)

**Bhana, N.** (2021, August 3-6). *Conversations with Panamanian parents regarding their children with disabilities and AAC* [Short conference session]. Biennial International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Conference, Cancun, Mexico.

(Conference postponed)

**Bhana, N.** (2021, August 3-6). *Creating new communication opportunities through augmentative and alternative communication systems* [Interactive conference session in Spanish] Biennial International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) Conference, Cancun, Mexico. (Conference postponed)

\*Deger., G., **Bhana., N.,** & Frank., J. (2019, November 5-8). *¡Escúchame! Using simulations to prepare special educators to communicate positively with families with LEP.* [Poster session- Kaleidoscope] Council for Exceptional Children Teacher Education Division Conference, New Orleans, LA.

\*Awarded best mixed methods poster.

**Bhana, N.** (2019, August 24). *Creating new communication opportunities through augmentative and alternative communication systems* [Conference session in Spanish].Invited speaker at the XIII Fundacion Soy Capaz Simposio de Autismo Patologias Afines, Panama City, Republic of Panama.

**Bhana, N.,** Raulston, T.J., Hieneman, M., Caraway, N., & Pennefather, J. (2019, May 23-27) *Enablers of behavioral parent training for families of children with autism spectrum disorder* [Poster session] Association for Behavior Analysis International Conference, Chicago, IL.

Raulston, T., Hansen, S., Frantz, R., Machalicek, W., & **Bhana, N*.*** (2019, April 3-5) *Coaching parents of children with autism spectrum disorder to embed social skills instruction during playdates* [Poster session] 52nd Annual Gatlinburg Conference, San Antonio, TX.

**Bhana, N.,** & McNaughton, D., & Light, J. (2019, January 30-February 3). *Visual Scene Displays (VSD) to promote early literacy skills with children with complex communication needs* [Poster session] Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference, Orlando, FL.

**Bhana, N.** (2018, August 6-9). *Peer delivered academic interventions for students with autism spectrum disorders: A review of the literature* [Poster session]. National Autism Conference, State College, PA.

**Bhana N.,** Gormley, J., McNaughton D., & Light J. (2018, February 7-10). *Presentation of a massive online open course on alternative access* [Poster session- Kaleidoscope]. Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Tampa, FL.

**University Teaching and Preservice Teacher Supervision**

2017-2018 ***Instructor of Record, The Pennsylvania State University***

Fall 2018

University Park Campus (Hybrid Course)

Assistive Technology for General Education Teachers (SPLED 418)

*Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness Score: 6.73 to 7.00 (1 to 7 scale)*

Summer 2018

World Campus (Online Course)

Assistive Technology for General Education Teachers (SPLED 419)

*Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness Score: 6.50 to 7.00 (1 to 7 scale)*

2019 ***Supervised College Teaching, The Pennsylvania State University***

Spring 2019

University Park Campus

Intervention for Students with Severe Disabilities (SPLED411)

*Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness Score: 6.85 to 7.00 (1 to 7 scale)*

Supervisor: Dr. P. Wolfe

2017-2020 ***Teaching Graduate Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University***

Spring 2020

University Park Campus

Explicit Instruction for Students with Disabilities (SPLED 412)

Fall 2017 & Spring 2018

University Park Campus

Assistive Technology for General Education Teachers (SPLED 418)

2017- 2019 ***Supervisor for Pre-Service Teaching, The Pennsylvania State University***

Fall 2020

University Park Campus

Practicum Experience in Special Education (SPLED 495E)

Spring 2019

University Park Campus

Graduate Level Student-Teacher Internship (SPLED 595B)

Fall 2017 & Fall 2019

University Park Campus

Practicum Experience in an Integrated Inclusion Classroom (SPLED 495G)

2017-Present ***Selected Invited Guest Lectures***

*Deploying Feminist Activism in the Classroom (2021, February)*

Guest Lecture for “Studies in Gender and Feminism: Women and Work- From Sojourner Truth to Notorious RBG” (ENG 383)

The University of Mississippi

*Conducting IEP Meetings with Bilingual Families* (2019, April)

Five Guest Lecture Series for “Working with Families and Professionals in Special Education” (SPLED 404)

The Pennsylvania State University

*Teaching Writing Skills to Students with Severe Disabilities* (2019, April)

Guest Lecture for “Seminar in Writing and Content Literacy Instruction for Students with Disabilities” (SPLED 509B).

The Pennsylvania State University

**Grants & Awards**

**2020** *Travel Award for Emerging Researchers*

Biennial Conference of the International Society of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (*Conference Postponed due to COVID-19*)

*Grant submitted to the Organization for Autism Research (OAR)*

Supporting Conversations with Teachers for Children with ASD and CCN using Visual Scene Displays

February 2020 *(unfunded)*

**2019** *First place mixed methods poster*

¡Escúchame!: Using Simulations to Prepare Special Educators to Communicate Positively with Families with LEP.

Council for Exceptional Children Teacher Education Division Conference.

**2015** *Nominated for the Viva Tampa Hispanic Heritage Teacher Award*

Hillsborough County Schools

**2012** *Recipient of the Carolyn Daffin McAfee Scholarship*

Florida State University

**2012** *Recipient of the Latin American and Caribbean Scholarship*

Florida State University

**Professional Development**

**2020** Graduate Student Online Teaching Certificate

Penn State University- World Campus

**Service & Outreach**

**2021**  *Proposal Reviewer*

Council for Exceptional Children

Teacher Education Division Annual Conference

*Social Validity Section Lead*

Single Case Research Design Twitter Chat

<https://tinyurl.com/yxwlyalf>

*Research Team Member*

Growing Opportunities for Autism Tranformation (GOAT) Initiative

<https://goat-initiative.weebly.com/>

**2020** *Co-Founder*

Disability Scholars Collective (DISCO) Writing and Peer Mentoring Group

*Ad-hoc Manuscript Reviewer*

TEACHING Exceptional Children

*Research Strand Proposal Reviewer*

Council for Exceptional Children

Division for Early Childhood 36th Annual International Conference

**2019** *Mentor*

Council for Exceptional Children

Pioneers Division Mentoring Program

*English to Spanish Translator*

PrAACtical AAC/Hablando PrAACticamente Website

<https://praacticalaac.org/>

**2015** *Developer and Instructor*

Mindfulness and Meditation Summer Camp for Students of All Abilities

Buckhorn Elementary School, Valrico, FL

**2013-2017** *Minority Representative*

School Advisory Council

Buckhorn Elementary, Valrico, FL

**2010**  *Reading Tutor for “At-Risk” Population*

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

*Companion for Adults with Disabilities*

Leon Advocacy and Resource Center, Tallahassee, FL

**2008-2009** *Art Therapist Assistant*

“Soy Capaz” Foundation for Teens and Adults with Autism

Panama City, Republic of Panama

**Professional Memberships**

Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI)

International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD)  
 Division for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL)

Division for Early Childhood (DEC)

Teacher Education Division (TED)

**Online Presence**

Google Scholar: <https://tinyurl.com/y29rcc73>

Research Gate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Naima_Bhana>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BhanaNaima>