

# REBECCA SOFFER, PH.D.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Psychologist** 2006-present

HASC Center and Blanche Kahn Clinic

*Brooklyn, NY*

- Psychologist for four Day Habilitation Programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Responsibilities include: Ongoing program evaluations and working to meet the individual needs of consumers through functional behavioral analysis, behavior modification programs, life skills education, recreational activities, and staff training.
- Conduct comprehensive psychological evaluations to determine eligibility for Medicaid waiver in infants, young children, and adults with either suspicion or previous diagnosis of a wide range of developmental disabilities. Tests used include:
  - Vineland Scales of Adaptive Behavior
  - Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development-III
  - WISC-IV, WPPSI-III, WAIS IV
  - Comprehensive Test of Nonverbal Intelligence 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (CTONI-2)
  - Gilliam Autism Rating Scale (GARS)

### **Assistant Professor of Psychology** 2006-present

Touro College, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences

*Brooklyn, NY*

- Instruct four undergraduate psychology courses each semester which include: Introduction to Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Experimental Psychology Lab, Advanced Topics in Psychology, and Cognition and Memory.
- Supervision of ongoing research project studying the relationship between pretend play and language development during the emergence of representation and a study of parent caregivers for people with developmental disabilities.
- Undergraduate student advisement relating to Major/Minor choice, graduate school, and career opportunities in psychology.

### **Developmental Specialist/Research Associate** 2004-2006

Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene

at the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities

*Staten Island, NY*

Responsibilities working on a NICU follow-up study investigating the relationship between arousal modulation, autoregulatory control, and focused attention in cocaine exposed, brain injured, preterm, and very low birth weight infants included:

- Administering neurobehavioral and ABR assessments on infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (Level III) of St. Vincent's Hospital.
- Coding behavioral data
- Conducting developmental and experimental assessments of high-risk infants and children (birth to five) at each follow-up visit, using measures including the:
  - Bayley Scales of Infant Development
  - Griffiths Mental Development Scales

- Differential Abilities Scale

- Providing parents/caregivers with feedback on the cognitive, social-emotional, and motor status of their child and information and guidance on how to meet their child's individual needs and referrals for early intervention and other services as needed

**AP Teacher** 2005-2006

Ilan High School

*Elberon, NJ*

Instructed AP Psychology course, accredited by Fairleigh Dickinson University

**Test Evaluator** 2004-2005

Harcourt Assessment

Evaluate elementary school age participants with the Differential Abilities Scale, Second Edition (DAS-II) to aid in the standardization process

**Adjunct Professor** 2004-2006

Daemen College

*Brooklyn, NY*

Instructed three graduate level research courses culminating in the completion of a master's thesis research project

**Developmental Interventionist** 2003-2005

Self-Employed Consultant

*Lakewood, NJ and Staten Island, NY*

- Provided behavioral, social-emotional, linguistic, and cognitive intervention for children from birth to three along a wide spectrum of developmental delays and disabilities within the early intervention system.
- Taught parent training sessions to empower caregivers with the skills necessary to facilitate the healthy development of their child
- Evaluated the progress of individual clients and families and consulted with the multidisciplinary team regarding IFSPs

**SEIT Teacher**

Little Lamb Preschool

2003 – 2004

*Staten Island, NY*

Positive Beginnings Preschool

2002 - 2003

*Queens, NY*

- Provided age appropriate learning and behavioral intervention for 3 and 4-year old children with developmental delays and disabilities in preschool classrooms and at home
- Evaluated the progress of individual children, worked with parents and teachers to provide a continuum of intervention, and consulted the multidisciplinary team regarding IEPs

**Psychology Intern**

2001-2002

Rose Kennedy Early Childhood Center

*Bronx, NY*

- Facilitated a support group for at-risk mothers and their infants
- Educated mothers on the progression of typical infant development and taught positive parenting skills

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| <b>Student Teacher</b>  | 2002        |
| Positive Beginnings Preschool<br><i>Queens, NY</i>  |             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted in a preschool classroom for three and four year old children with developmental delays and disabilities</li> <li>• Observed CPSE related services including occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, and school psychology</li> </ul> |             |
| <b>Teaching Assistant</b>   | 2001-2003   |
| Yeshiva University<br><i>Bronx, NY</i>  |             |
| Assisted in planning and organizing syllabi for child development courses and provided student support on course material and feedback from exams   |             |
| <b>Substitute Teacher</b>   | 2001–2002   |
| Hebrew Academy of West Queens<br><i>Queens, NY</i>  |             |
| Taught all elementary grades in a school attended primarily by low-income, immigrant children while permanent teachers were on long-term leave  |             |
| <b>Art Teacher</b>  | Summer 2001 |
| Lighthouse School<br><i>Bridgeport, Connecticut</i>   |             |
| Created an age-appropriate art curriculum for four to seven year old children in an inner city summer school program, focusing on understanding the self, cooperation with peers, and self-motivated creativity   |             |
| <b>Resource Room Teacher</b>  | 2000–2001   |
| Bais Yaakov Academy<br><i>Queens, NY</i>  |             |
| Provided educational intervention and enhancement activities for elementary students with learning disabilities, all while encouraging and supporting academic improvements through facilitating the development of self-esteem and a positive attitude toward learning                                 |             |
| <b>EDUCATION</b>  |             |
| <b>Ph.D</b> Developmental Psychology  | 2005        |
| Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology<br><i>Bronx, NY</i>   |             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morton E. Berger Memorial Fellowship</li> </ul>  |             |
| <b>MS</b> Special Education   | 2002        |
| Adelphi University<br><i>Garden City, NY</i>  |             |
| <b>MA</b> Psychology  | 2002        |
| Yeshiva University, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology<br><i>Bronx, NY</i>   |             |
| <b>BA</b> Humanities/Judaic Studies   | 2000        |
| Yavne Seminary-Maimonides College   |             |

*Cleveland Hts, OH*

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

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NY State License Clinical Psychologist

NY State Licensed Special Education Teacher

NY State DOH Early Intervention Service Provider

NJ Licensed Teacher of the Handicapped

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST