

SARAH R. CRETCHER, MS, CCC-SLP

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EDUCATION

PhD Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences Minor Educational Psychology Advisor: Dr. Mary Alt	August 2023-expected May 2027 University of Arizona
MS Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences Bilingual Multicultural Certificate	August 2015-May 2018 University of Arizona
BA Linguistics Minor Germanic Studies Graduated with Distinction, Dean's List	August 2007-May 2011 University of Colorado-Boulder

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher & Project Administrator Dr. Mary Alt's L4 Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supervise students in Vocabulary Acquisition and Usage for Late Talkers (VAULT) interventionEngage in data collection, reliability, fidelity, and analysis for VAULTOrchestrate logistics, collaboration, and communication for VAULTConduct quantitative and qualitative data analysis for VAULT-Casa	August 2023-present University of Arizona
Graduate Student Researcher Dr. Elena Plante's The Plante Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supervise students in articulation and morphological interventionEngage in data collection, reliability, and fidelity for Enhanced Conversational Recast interventionConduct quantitative data analysis and reporting of findings	June 2024-present University of Arizona
Graduate Student Researcher Dr. Genesis Arizmendi's BABEL Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none">Oversee project working to translate academic research into infographics consumable and accessible to the publicFacilitate students in finding and interpreting academic research, fact-checking content, and editing to meet citation formatting requirementsCoach students in accessibility both of content and visual design	January 2025-present University of Arizona

Graduate Student Researcher**August 2015-August 2018****Dr. Mary Alt's L4 Lab**

University of Arizona

- Planned and executed VAULT intervention as student clinician
- Pioneered Trial AAC intervention for non-responder as student clinician
- Integrated data collection for literacy intervention with refugees during ESL course
- Aided data collection for Profiles of Working memory for Educational Research (POWER)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Co-Instructor**January 2025-present**

- Class: Phonetics for Clinical Practice

University of Arizona

Guest Lecturer**March 2024**

- Class: Augmentative & Alternative Communication Workshop
- Lecture Topic: Alternative Access

University of Arizona

Graduate Teaching Assistant**August 2016-August 2018****Dr. Leah Kapa**

University of Arizona

- Classes: Phonetics and Phonology & Language Science
- Assisted Professor with teaching duties, held weekly office hours for students

PROFESSIONAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist**August 2020-June 2023****Student Therapy and Resource Services (STARS)**

Sells & Tucson, AZ

- Provided school-based speech/language evaluation and treatment services for students including students with DLD, ASD, HH, SSD, fluency disorders, and CCN
- Advocated for and implemented functional and academic communication supports to teachers, aides, and caregivers for generalization across contexts
- Assessed and documented effects of treatment and modified approach to maintain maximum progress
- Supported district-wide SLPs in AAC implementation through consultation services

Pediatric AAC Speech-Language Pathologist**December 2020-May 2022****Therapy One**

Tucson, AZ

- Conducted speech/language assessment and treatment services for emerging communicators in client homes
- Coached families on 5 AAC competencies and communication partner training

Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist**August 2018-June 2020****Speech Pathology Group (SPG)**

Concord, CA

- Administered school-based speech/language evaluation and treatment services for students including students with DLD, ASD, HH, SSD, fluency disorders, and CCN
- Enhanced AAC use for 17 students with motor limitations with Tobii-dynavox Snap+Core, TouchChat & Multichat, Proloquo2go, PRC Unity & Unidad, PODD, LAMP, low-/mid-tech options and various access methods
- Evaluated and documented effects of treatment and modify approach to maintain maximum progress

GRADUATE STUDENT CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Student Clinician

Spring 2018

Ocotillo Early Learning Center

Tucson, AZ

- Assessed and treated kindergarten to 2nd graders for language and speech-sound disorders, literacy, and CCN
- Recommended functional communication and language-rich supports to classroom teachers, aides, and caregivers to promote generalization of skills across contexts
- Supported teachers, families, and students with operational, linguistic, social, and strategic AAC competencies through recommendations, direct service, and trainings of communication partners

Student Clinician

Fall 2017

Mealtime Connections, LLC

Tucson, AZ

- Treated birth-to-five population for issues of feeding, swallowing, and language disorders, individually or in an interdisciplinary team with OTs, PTs, and dietitians
- Counseled parent and caregiver with training and recommendations regarding home programs to promote functional family mealtimes and language rich environments
- Evaluated mealtime and language practices and skills of 12 children ranging in age from 2 months to 11 years old and provided appropriate recommendations for periodic, progressive, or consultative episodes of care

Student Clinician

Summer 2017

Clinic for Adult Communication Disorders

Tucson, AZ

- Evaluated and provided recommendations for adults in the areas of expressive and receptive language, cognition, voice, resonance, articulation, fluency, hearing loss, accent modification, & parkinsonism
- Applied evidence-based intervention practices to adults with a variety of conditions including aphasia, SLI, PPA, dysarthria, apraxia, Parkinson Disease, and transgender voice modification
- Developed, coordinated, and led group therapy for patients with severe Aphasia and PPA

Student Clinician

Fall 2016

Autism Clinic Extension

Tucson, AZ

- Provided individualized evidence-based practices to children with ASD and Down syndrome to improve functional communication skills including dialogic reading and Binger and Light's cueing hierarchy
- Collaborated with other SLPs to plan and execute group therapy, coordinating best practice modeled by Gray's Social Stories and dialogic reading
- Delivered therapy and parent training using Accent 1000 running Unity and Unity Bilingual vocabularies, helping one child improve AAC vocabulary by 2600% and AAC MLU by 600%

Student Clinician

Summer 2016

Verano en México

Guanajuato, Mexico

- Evaluated 8 children's expressive/receptive language, articulation, & literacy via informal measures in Spanish
- Planned and implemented individualized short-term intervention for 6 children in a public-school setting and 2 children special education school setting with phonological, expressive language, & receptive language disorder characteristics
- Designed and generated individualized low-tech AAC communication book for one student and a visual schedule for a multi-level classroom to aid with transitions

PUBLICATIONS

- Alt, M., Mettler, H. M., Schiff, E. S., Evans-Reitz, N., Burton, R., **Cretcher, S. R.**, & Staib, A. (2025). Not all planes have propellers: Using context variability to treat word learning in late talkers with the Vocabulary Acquisition and Usage for Late Talkers protocol. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 68(2). 579-601. https://doi.org/10.1044/2024_jslhr-24-00410
- Navarro, I. I., **Cretcher, S. R.**, McCarron, A. R., Figueroa, C., & Alt, M. (2020). Using AAC to unlock communicative potential in late-talking toddlers. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcotomdis.2020.106025>

PRESENTATIONS

- Cretcher, S. R.** & Alt, M. (2024, November 23). Using AAC with late talking toddlers [Zoom conference invited presentation]. AAC2024, Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Cretcher, S.**, Mettler, H., Evans-Reitz, N., & Alt, M. (2024, May 31). Treating Words Late Talkers Do Not Understand: Outcomes and Insights [poster presentation]. Symposium on Research in Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI, United States.
- McCarron, A. R & **Cretcher, S. R.** (2024, April 12). Using AAC to unlock communicative potential in late-talking toddlers [oral presentation]. Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Tucson, AZ, United States.
- [Submitted ArSHA presentation - not selected] White, M. & **Cretcher, S.** (2025) Recast Therapy for Young Children with DLD
- [Submitted SRCLD poster presentation] Neiling, S. L., **Cretcher, S. R.**, Leon, K., Mettler, H. M., Perry, L. K., Nicholas, K., & Alt, M. (2025) Predicting Late Talkers' Response to Treatment from Characteristics of Their Lexicon
- [Submitted SRCLD poster presentation] Nicholas, K., Perry, L. K., Leon, K., Mettler, H. M., Neiling, S. L., **Cretcher, S. R.**, & Alt, M. (2025) The Role of Early Noun Vocabulary in Late Talkers' Verb Learning during a Treatment Study

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Grunewald Fellowship	2023-2025 SY
Galileo Circle Scholarship	2024-2025 SY
Titans of the Field Scholarship	2023-2024 SY
UA Peace Corps Coverdell Fellowship	2017-2018 SY
Submitted IES Special Education Dissertation Research Fellowship Program	Nov 2024
Status: Forwarded for Peer Review	

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Health Educator	April 2013-May 2015
US Peace Corps	Kasese & Lira, Uganda
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched youth-centered HIV prevention and education program with 21 participants• Directed a week-long camp for 77 girls including planning, supervising/training staff, & instruction• Mentored 25 youth at empowerment, science/math/technology, and special needs camps• Trained outpatients at local health centers by delivering 15+ health talks on topics of HIV, nutrition, & malaria	

- Developed, implemented, and evaluated needs assessment to identify potential participation of organization to address needs of rural communities
- Engaged in cross-cultural exchange and understanding between Ugandan and American cultures

Social Chairperson

January 2016-December 2016

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Southern AZ

Tucson, AZ

- Coordinated 12 unique monthly social events to unite members and sustain relationships

Science Advisor

Fall 2010-Spring 2011

University of Colorado

Boulder, CO

- Planned and implemented project-based learning in physics in after-school elementary program
- Researched effective communication of scientific knowledge, material, and interest

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Speech-Language and Hearing Association

Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology

2019-present

ASHA Member

2018-present

Special Interest Group 12: AAC

2022-present

National Student Speech language hearing association

NSSHLA Student Member

2017-2018