

Curriculum Vitae

Mary Ellen Rooney, Ed.D.

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Scholarly and Research Objectives

To further the mission of accessibility and opportunity for all individuals through education, awareness, support, and advocacy.

To be afforded the opportunity to partner with parents, caregivers, educators, and other professionals, in their work with learners who may be at risk for developmental, emotional, and learning disabilities due to the deleterious effects of poverty and/or neurodiversities as well as nurture the engagement of families and teachers to be strong educational advocates for themselves and their children.

Education

2019 Advanced Certificate Program in School Building Leadership and District Leadership, StonyBrook University.

Coursework:

Educational Leadership Theory I and II

Educational Leadership Practice

Supervision of Instruction

School District Leadership

School Law

School Building Administration

School Personnel Management

Educational Leadership Research Project Seminar

School Building Leadership

Internship in School District/School Building Leadership

Seminar in School District/School Building Leadership

2012 Ed.D., Teachers College, Columbia University.
Department of Health and Behavior Studies, Program in Intellectual Disabilities and Autism.

1995-1997 Intensive coursework in behavioral analysis and psychoeducational assessment. Clinical Behavioral Applications Program, Queens College, CUNY.

1990 MS Ed. Special Education, Queens College, CUNY.

1988 B.S. Elementary Education N-6, ITES, Adelphi University.
Concentrations in Science and Honors Liberal Arts.

Awards, Fellowships

2000-2012	<p>Elsie Todd Klaassen Research Fellow. Teachers College, Columbia University.</p> <p>Irwin Goldstein Scholarship, Teachers College, Columbia University E. E. Farrell Scholarship, Teachers College, Columbia University.</p> <p>Janna Spark Endowed Scholarship, Teachers College, Columbia University.</p>
2003	New York Post, Liberty Medal Finalist.
2003	Outstanding Adjunct Recipient. Teachers College, Columbia University
1998	Outstanding Young Women of America Recipient.
1990	Highest Academic Scholar Award in Education. Queens College, CUNY.
Positions Held	
2020-2021	Director, Association to Benefit children/NYC DOE Emergency ChildCare Center for Essential Workers during Pandemic
1999-present	<p>Director, Association to Benefit Children Echo Park Early Childhood Development Center providing comprehensive services for vulnerable families in East Harlem.</p> <p>Responsible for the delivery of quality Early Learning Experiences for over 200 children and their families.</p> <p>Supervise 60 team members including teachers, special educators, family workers, building support team, therapists, food management personnel.</p>
2019-present	<p>Adjunct Associate Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University Department of Health Studies & Applied Educational Programs Program in Special Education</p> <p>Graduate Courses taught:</p> <p>Working with Families of Children with Exceptionalities Education of Students with ID/Autism Observation and Student Teaching, ID/Autism Advanced practicum for Severe/Multiple Disabilities Program</p>
2019	HUGO mentor: Supported a project-based outcome in the area of supporting the needs of learners with ASD for a High School Senior
2012-2019	<p>Adjunct Assistant Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University Department of Health and Behavior Studies Program in Intellectual Disabilities and Autism</p>

Graduate Courses taught:

Working with Families of Children with Exceptionalities
 Education of Students with ID/Autism
 Observation and Student Teaching, ID/Autism
 Advanced practicum for Severe/Multiple Disabilities Program

2001-2012

Instructor, Teachers College, Columbia University
 Department of Health and Behavior Studies
 Program in Intellectual Disabilities and Autism

Graduate Courses taught:

Working with Families of Children with Exceptionalities
 Education of Students with ID/Autism
 Observation and Student Teaching, ID/Autism
 Advanced practicum for Severe/Multiple Disabilities Program

2007-present

Liaison to District 75, Dr. Horan School and Association to Benefit Children. Providing for adolescents with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities and autism a safe, enriching, rewarding vocational training environment.

2014

CUNY Project R.E.A.C.H. panel moderator: Autism; a Spectrum of Celebration
 New York, N.Y.

2012

Member of CUNY Advisory Board for College Students with Asperger's Syndrome

2012

Consultant and Presenter: Learning Disabilities Project @ the Accessibility Resource Center, Hostos Community College
 Bronx, N.Y.

Reviewed relevant documentation in order to make recommendations regarding accommodating students with learning disabilities
 Presented workshops for students and faculty regarding specific issues facing the college community about learners with disabilities.

2011-2012

Guest Lecturer, CUNY Graduate Center, CUNY LEADS program.
 Graduate course on Accessibility, Accommodation, and the ADA

2001-present

Teachers College, Columbia University.
 Supervisor of Student Teachers

2009-present

Peace Corps Student Teacher Mentor, Teachers College.

2007	<p>Presenter Student Teacher Conference Office of Teacher Education and School Based Support Services Teachers College, Columbia University March 26, 2007</p> <p>Interactive Workshop from 3 Perspectives, Teambuilding, Communication, and Safety in the Classroom</p>
2004-present.	EPIC Ready Set Read, Parent facilitator
1994-1999	<p>Learning Disabilities Specialist Queens College, CUNY Graduate School, Flushing, NY</p>
1996-1999	<p>Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, Queens College Course Title: Accommodative Intermediate Algebra Course for Students with Special Needs CUNY, Queens College, Flushing, NY.</p>
1996-2001	Curriculum Design Consultant and Lecturer: Graduate Psychology Assessment Course, CUNY
1994-2000	Chairperson of Scholastic Standards Subcommittee on disabilities
1994-1995	Member of City University of New York Personnel Conference Committee
1994-1995	Member of Middle States Task Force on Student Issues
1988-1994	<p>Research Assistant, Queens College, CUNY, Flushing, NY Psychology Department Department of Multicultural Education</p>
1992-1994	Development Teacher/Coordinator; Bayside Academy Special Education Courses
1988-1994	Special Education Teacher, Little Village School
1997-2000	<p>Adjunct Instructor, Graduate Special Education Department, Queens College.</p> <p>Course taught: Assessment and Instruction for Students with Mild and Moderate Disabilities Learning Strategies and Curriculum for Students with Mild and Moderate Disabilities</p>

Funded Research

Factors Linked to Kindergarten Transition Involvement/Engagement among High-risk Families of Children with Developmental Disabilities. Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research - Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Grant. 6/2020-8/2021; \$30,000; Jahromi, Rodriguez, & Rooney; Role: Co-PI.

Publications and Presentations

Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., & Rooney, M.E. (in press, 2024). Culturally and ethnically diverse parents' views of home-school partnership responsibilities. *Journal of Early Childhood Research*.

Rooney, M.E., Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., & Rodriguez, S. (accepted with revisions, 2025). Culturally inclusive strategies to support parent engagement throughout the special education kindergarten transition.

Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., & Rooney, M.E. (under review). A mixed-methods investigation into factors influencing the educational involvement of BIPOC parents

Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., & **Rooney, M.E.** (in preparation). Cultural and linguistic competency practices in early childhood classrooms: A comparison of parent and teacher perspectives.

Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, Gaspar, C.R., Rodriguez, S., & ABC-TC Advisory Board. (in preparation). Experiences of families of students of color with disabilities: A longitudinal investigation of the kindergarten transition.

Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, & Rodriguez, S, & ABC-TC CBPR Advisory Board. (under review). Transitioning to kindergarten during COVID-19: A longitudinal investigation of the lived experiences of parents of children of color with disabilities

Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, & Rodriguez, S, & ABC-TC CBPR Advisory Board. (under review). "COVID changed a lot": Special educational stakeholders' experiences navigating parent relationships COVID-19

Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., & **Rooney, M.E.** (under review). Factors contributing to the educational involvement of culturally and linguistically diverse parents of preschool children with and without disabilities.

Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, Rodriguez, S., & ABC-TC CBPR Advisory Board. (2023, March 25). *Kindergarten special education transition experiences for families of color: COVID-19 challenges, supports, and silver linings*. [Poster Presentation]. Society of Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, Rodriguez, S., & ABC-TC CBPR Advisory Board. (2023, March 3). *Educational engagement among culturally-diverse parents of preschoolers: A mixed-methods investigation*. [Poster Presentation]. Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, Louisville, KY.

- Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, Rodriguez, S., & ABC-TC CBPR Advisory Board. (2022, September 28). *Remote learning and parents' adjustment to kindergarten during COVID-19*. [Poster Presentation]. Joint Conference of the Division for Early Childhood Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and their Families and International Society for Early Intervention Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, Rodriguez, S., & ABC-TC CBPR Advisory Board. (2022, May 6). *"COVID changed a lot": School stakeholders' perspectives of home-school relationships and supporting parents of young children with disabilities during COVID-19*. [Poster Presentation]. Institute for Psychological Science and Practice Student Research Conference, Teachers College, Columbia University, virtual event.
- Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, & Rodriguez, S. (2022, January 17). *Special education kindergarten transition in the context of COVID-19: Applying parent experiences to practice*. [Poster Presentation]. Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, Orlando, FL.
- Gaspar, C.R., Jahromi, L.B., **Rooney, M.E.**, & Rodriguez, S. (2021, April 23). *The transition to kindergarten for children with disabilities during COVID-19: Parent perspectives*. [Poster Presentation]. Institute for Psychological Science and Practice Student Research Conference, Teachers College, Columbia University, virtual event.
- Rooney, M.E.** (2020). Supporting Resilience and Emotional Wellness among Teachers and Family Childcare Workers: A part of a reopening during a pandemic re-series Webinar, Quality Stars, NY.
- Rooney, M. E.** (April 26, 2017). Supporting Neuro-diverse Students in Higher Education: Focus on Concrete Strategies in the Moment and Intentional Planning for the Future Presentation to Faculty and Special Service Staff, and Administration of Guttman Community College, CUNY. New York, N.Y.
- Rooney, M. E.** (April 6, 2016). Successful Strategies for Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities. Workshop presented to faculty at Queensborough Community College, Queens, N.Y. Sponsored by COSDI; CUNY Council on Students with Disabilities Issues.
- Rooney, M.E.** (Spring, 2016). Supporting Neuro-diverse Students in Higher Education: Focus on UDL. Presentation to Faculty and Special Service Staff, and Administration of Guttman Community College, CUNY. New York, N.Y.
- Rooney, M.E.** (2012). A comparison of the effects of three intervention approaches on parental self-efficacy, parenting skills, and parental stress levels of impoverished parents. Doctoral Dissertation, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- Khemka, I., Hickson, L., Casella, M., Accetturi, N., & **Rooney, M.E.** (May, 2002). Decision making in coercive situations by adolescents with mental retardation. Paper presented at the 23rd Annual YAI International Conference, NY, NY.

Lopez, E.C. & **Rooney, M.E.** (1997). A preliminary investigation of the roles and backgrounds of school interpreters: Implications for training and recruiting. *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*, 6 (2), 161-174.

Volunteer Experience

2000-2014. Catechist, all sacraments specializing in faith formation for persons with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders.
St. Vincent de Paul, R.C. Church, Elmont, NY.

2010. Assistant Baseball Coach, Franklin Square, Police Athletic League.

Certifications Held

NYS School Building and School District Leadership Professional Certification.
NYS Permanent Certification in Special Education Birth-21.
NYS Professional Certification Early Childhood Education.
Directors Credential.
NYC DOHMH Food Handler's Certification.
FDNY Certificate of Fitness.
Certified CLASS observer
Pyramid Model Trained

Professional Affiliations

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
National HeadStart Association (NHSA)
HighScope