

Student Research Spotlight

Mary Lutter

Program: Masters of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology

Mentor: Daiquirie Crumrine, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Department: Communication Sciences and Disorders

My name is Mary Lutter and I am a lateral entry student who will complete my M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology in May 2018. My enthusiasm for research began when I was an undergraduate pursuing my B.S. in Psychology from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. I was given opportunities both inside and outside the classroom to learn about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and how ASD affects the entire family. During my time at John Carroll, I participated in several research studies which focused on how children with ASD and their families were perceived in the public setting.



When I visited the University of Oklahoma, I visited **Dr. Crumrine's** Autism Spectrum Disorders Eye-Tracking Laboratory, and knew that I wanted to get involved in her research. With the help of Dr. Crumrine, I am currently investigating whether there are differences in the eye-gaze patterns of children with ASD when they scan the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test compared to the Receptive One-Word Picture Vocabulary Test. By exploring eye-gaze patterns in children with ASD while they take commonly administered receptive vocabulary tests, I hope to determine whether or not children with ASD are attending to the relevant stimuli before making their decision for which stimulus is the correct answer. Examining eye-gaze patterns of children with ASD while they take the PPVT-4 and the ROWPVT will help to determine whether one of these tests is a more accurate representation of the receptive vocabularies of children with ASD.

I hope to present my research at the College of Allied Health Research Day and to American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2016. Ultimately, the purpose of this research is to help clinicians who are working with children with ASD daily to have the most accurate understanding of their patient's knowledge. This research relates to Allied Health because with an accurate representation of the client's knowledge, it gives health care providers the opportunity to provide the most effective treatment. Throughout my graduate career, I hope to continue to stay involved in research in order to continue to improve the way we, as clinicians, evaluate and intervene with children with ASD.

