

Jessica Taff

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EXPERIENCE

Dream Big Children's Center, Rancho Mirage, CA

— Behavioral Therapist

August 2023- Present

I work with children ages 1 to 5 years with ASD, providing them with Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. As a therapist, I work with clients on building, strengthening, and maintaining the necessary skills they need to start school once they graduate from the program. We work on functional communication skills, social skills, adaptive skills, and self-help skills through play-based activities. The goal is to reduce the rate of problem behaviors through implementing a behavior intervention plan made by the behavior consultant. I run the programs, track data, and write my SOAP notes.

Lantern Crest Senior Living, Santee, CA

— Life Enrichment Assistant (Memory Care)

February 2023- May 2023

I Provided enrichment activities to seniors in the memory care unit specifically residents with dementia and other related diseases. Activities included art, music, exercise, games, tactile stimulation, and more. My duties also included creating an environment that encouraged creativity and a sense of security. I obtained Dementia Care training and certification.

New Alternatives, Chula Vista, CA— Mental Health Worker

September 2022-November 2022

I Provided trauma-informed care (TIC) to SED youth in a group home campus setting. Leading clinic activities daily and documenting behaviors and targets for each client. Provided crisis intervention. Pro-Act and suicide prevention experience.

VITAS, San Diego, CA—Patient Care Secretary

July 2022-September 2022

I completed many daily tasks such as the following: Screening telephone calls, Facilitating communication between patients/families and other team members/volunteers, establishing/ maintaining/ closing patient charts in an orderly fashion, ordering D.M.E. and maintaining a record of dates ordered and picked up, entering patient care/ volunteer data and event tracking, ordering supplies and documentation forms used by the team, doing routine

SKILLS

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Activity Building
- Administrative Duties
- Behavioral Therapy
- Behavior Intervention Plans
- Childcare
- Clerical Work
- Computer Skills
- Compassionate Care
- Conflict Resolution
- Counseling
- Critical Thinking
- Crisis Intervention
- Data Analysis
- Data Entering
- Data Extraction
- Detail Oriented
- Documentation
- EEG Use
- Evaluate and Synthesize Information
- Event Tracking
- Google Docs
- Google Forms
- Google Sheets
- Google Slides
- Graph Creation
- Interviewing
- Medical Records System
- Medical Chart Admit/Discharge
- Mental Health Care
- Microsoft Office
- Pivot Tables
- Performing Arts
- Professional Writing
- Pro-Act
- Psychopy Software
- Public Speaking
- Record-Keeping
- Research
- Research Ethics
- Scheduling
- SOAP Notes
- SPSS Software
- Strategic-thinking
- tDCS Use
- Training/ Developmental
- Typing (49 Wpm)
- Website Creation/Editing

correspondence for Team Managers and other members of the team, maintaining A.D.T. and checking the census daily for Accuracy. Utilizing Excel for weekly census reports and document tracking.

La Sierra University, Riverside, CA— *Music Department Staff*

September 2018 - March 2022

I assisted guests and students and completed clerical work at the front desk. I also worked in Excel organizing and taking inventory of supplies, assisted in event setup and teardown, ushering, hosting, and selling tickets. I was also the department's content creator and an occasional event photographer. Utilizing Excel for scheduling, and Word, Adobe, and Canva for advertising.

Autism Learning Partners, San Diego, CA—*Behavior Technician*

August 2021-October 2021

I implemented ABA techniques derived from a treatment plan given by the ABA Therapist and Behavior Analyst when working with clients. Clients included children with autism and other learning disabilities.

Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, Riverside, CA—*Music Instructor*

September 2018- January 2019

I taught music lessons and theory for Violin, Piano, and Guitar to young children ages 5-10.

La Sierra University, Riverside, CA— *Teaching Assistant*

September 2017- January 2018

I assisted the Orchestra director in gathering and organizing music, preparing rehearsal spaces, preparing concert spaces, transferring materials to concert venues, and analyzing attendance.

Palm Desert Oasis SDA Church, Palm Desert, CA— *Secretary*

June 2017-September 2017

I completed clerical work, analyzing the budget, answering phones, taking meeting minutes, and planning service powerpoints.

Camp Safari, Palm Desert, CA— *Camp Counselor*

June 2012 - August 2017

I served many roles in this summer day camp over many years. From 2012-2013 I was a Runner/ Head Runner, cleaning and providing support to other workers. 2014-2015, I was Head Runner/ Counselor, overseeing the Runners while also teaching classes and leading a program with the children. In 2016 I was the Counseling Director, overseeing disciplinary actions, conflict resolution, training staff, providing a helping hand where needed, and communicating directly with parents. In 2017 I served as a Counselor, Assistant Program Director, and Executive Staff member. These roles had me teaching classes, planning events and activities, organizing trips, and overseeing overall camp functions.

- Vocal Performance

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2022

Psychology Department WPA Research Scholarship

2020

COVID-19 Scholarship

2020

W&H Hooper Music Scholarship

2020

Performing Arts Award- Music

2019

Commitment Scholarship

2019

University Grant

2019

PSI CHI

2019

Performing Arts Award- Music

2019

Herbert Blomstedt Endowed Scholarship

2019

Willard J. and Irene G. Humpal Endowed Scholarship

2018

Chamber Singers Scholarship

2018

Commitment Scholarship

2018

University Grant

2018

Manor Care Senior Living Center Service Acknowledgment

2018

Alzheimer's Foundation of America Service Acknowledgement

2017

Most Valuable Musician Award

2016

International Thespian Society

2016

Modern Woodmen of America Hometown Heroes Award

2015

Open to Growth Award

2014

Loving and Compassionate Award

2013

Helping Hands Award

EDUCATION La Sierra University, Riverside, CA— B.A *Psychology*

2017-2022

4500 Riverwalk Parkway, Riverside, CA, 92505

Major: Psychology**Minor:** Music**GPA:** 3.16**Xavier College Preparatory High School, Palm Desert, CA**
— *Diploma*

2013-2017

34-200 Cook Street, Palm Desert, CA, 92211

Earned: Diploma**GPA:** 3.40**RESEARCH PROJECTS****2022***Taff J. J., (2022) The Effects of Musical Mode and Rhythm on Working Memory in a Digit Recall Task. La Sierra University, Riverside: CA.*

The goal of this study was to see if the element of musical mode and rhythm affected working memory in a forward digit span recall task. The three musical modes being examined in this study are major, minor, and Mixolydian. The element of rhythm was also examined as simple and compound. The dependent variable in this study was short-term memory recall which is responsible for holding temporary information. It was hypothesized that a major mode would have better recall than a minor and Mixolydian mode. Moreover, a simple rhythm would have better recall than a compound rhythm. Using Psychopy, the melody-rhythm sequences were paired with digits. This study consisted of 31 La Sierra University students who were presented with each sequence and then asked to recall the digits that they remembered in a Google Form. A within-subjects repeated measures ANOVA showed that there were no main effects of musical mode $F(2, 29) = 1.46, p = .248, \eta^2 = .09$ or rhythm $F(1, 30) = 1.76, p = .194, \eta^2 = .06$ and there was no interaction between mode and rhythm $F(2, 29) = .667, p = .521, \eta^2 = .04$.

2019- 2022

Le Dantec C., Gomez M., Ward P., Taff J., Enriquez E., Chiang, M.-L., Dimitri A., Conneen M., Quiroz D. & Leach R. (2020). Effects of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) over Frontal, Parietal, Temporal, and Occipital Cortices on Duration Discrimination. Western Psychological Association, San Francisco: USA.

CERTIFICATIONS**In Progress**

Registered Behavior Technician

2023- 2025

CPR/ AED / First Aid (BLS)

2023

Dementia Care

2022

Trauma Informed Care (TIC)

2022

ProAct

2022

HIPAA / Confidentiality

2022

Suicide Prevention (QPR)

2022

Crisis Intervention

2022

Motivational Interviewing

2022

DMV Safe Driver

2021-2022

TCPS2 Core Research Ethics Certification

This study was led by Dr. LeDantec and carried out by his student researchers. The following is the explanation we presented to the Western Psychology Association regarding the project. We examined the “effects of transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) over Frontal, Parietal, Temporal, and Occipital cortices on Duration Discrimination. We used two electrodes placed on one of the areas of interest, for 20 minutes, followed by the participant being presented with a visual duration discrimination task using white disks (duration 250, 500, and 1000ms) presented successively at the center of a grey background. In each trial, participants (n=27) were asked to determine which stimulus was the longest one, using a keyboard to provide their response (Le Dantec et al., 2019).” I helped conduct the study by interacting with participants, applying the tDCS electrodes, starting the program, collecting data, and debriefing the participants at the end of the study. The poster for this research study was then presented at the Western Psychology Association Convention 2020 and in 2022.

2019– 2022

Le Dantec C., Gomez M., Taff J., Enriquez E., Ward P., Quiroz D., Leach R. & Rebaï M. (2020). Interference between Word and Duration in a Visual Duration Discrimination Task: a Temporal Stroop Effect. Western Psychological Association, San Francisco: USA.

This study was led by Dr. LeDantec and carried out by his student researchers. The following is the explanation we presented to the Western Psychology Association regarding the project. We examined the “Stroop Effect and time perception, which is influenced by the amount of attention an individual devotes to the duration of a perceived stimulus. This study aimed to test the possibility of increasing or impairing the perception of the duration of the word presentation using a similar design, that is presenting words that last for a certain duration and have certain words related to time (SHORT or LONG) by comparison to neutral words (e.g., TABLE). Participants (n=18) performed a visual duration discrimination task using white words (e.g., TABLE followed by SHORT) presented successively on a grey background, for different durations (250, 500, or 1000ms). 640 trials were presented in less than 50 minutes (Le Dantec et al., 2019).” I helped conduct the study by interacting with the participants, setting up the program used, and debriefing the participants after the tasks were completed. The poster for this research study was then presented at the Western Psychology Association Convention 2020 and in 2022.

2019– 2022

Le Dantec C., Gomez M., Ward P., Bazan D., Taff J., Enriquez E., Dimitri A., Quiroz D. Chiang M.-L., & Leach R. (2020). The Eccentricity of Visual Stimuli Affects the Participants' Performance and Event-Related Potentials Recorded During a Duration Discrimination Task. Western Psychological Association, San Francisco: USA.

This study was led by Dr. LeDantec and carried out by his student researchers. The following is the explanation we presented to the Western Psychology Association regarding the project. In this study, we examined the “eccentricity of visual stimuli targeting the different parts of the retina and how it would change the performance (accuracy and reaction time) in a duration discrimination task. A visual duration discrimination task used white disks presented successively on a grey background. Participants ($n=30$) had to determine which stimulus was the longest one. The first stimulus was presented at the center of the screen (standard duration: 120ms; eccentricity: 0°) and the second one was randomly presented in the participant’s right or left hemifield (eccentricity: 3° , 6° , 9°), for a different duration (20ms, 60ms, 100ms, 140ms, 180ms, 200ms). The participants had to keep their gaze at the center of the screen. In a separate EEG session, 1080 trials were presented in two hours. results are important because they show a spatial bias in duration estimation in normal conditions. This could have important repercussions on the way humans estimate durations and explain common mistakes occurring during activities such as driving in crowded traffic or under the influence of psychotropic substances such as alcohol (Le Dantec et al., 2019).” I helped by conducting the EEG and applying the electrodes to the specified areas. I also examined the readings and interacted with the participants to keep them focused. The poster for this research study was then presented at the Western Psychology Association Convention 2020 and in 2022.

