

# MARY F. SPENCE

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## EDUCATION

*Ph.D. in Clinical and Educational Psychology*  
Wayne State University  
1997 Graduate • Summa Cum Laude

*M.S. in Clinical Psychology*  
Eastern Michigan University  
1983 Graduate • Magna Cum Laude

*B.S. in Communications*  
Bowling Green State University  
1978 Graduate • Magna Cum Laude

*Internship in American Sign Language*  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Rochester, NY  
1977

*Professional Development Series*  
Center for Psychodramatic Training  
New York, NY  
1977

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### School Psychologist

Ann Arbor Public Schools  
Ann Arbor, MI  
2008 to 2021

Provide assessment, evaluation, and short-term intervention services for K-12 students, along with servicing hearing impaired and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) students in both self-contained and general education programs. Responsibilities include collaboration with AAPS staff and other school districts on equity and disproportionality issues, developing and implementing professional development opportunities in the areas of mindfulness, brain-based learning, gender differences, traumatic responding, ASD diagnosis and intervention as well as parent support. Developed Transition program for parents of middle school students in 2013. Served as Training Liaison for University of Michigan research study on mindfulness in 2010. Currently using Mindful Schools curriculum in classrooms and provide professional development in the areas of mindfulness, social emotional learning (SEL) and trauma-informed practices. Recently trained as Community Champion for the Michigan Statewide Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Initiative.

### School Psychologist

Washtenaw Intermediate School District  
Ann Arbor, MI  
1996 to 2008

Provided assessment, evaluation and short term intervention services for severely multiple, cognitive, hearing impaired populations as well as ASD students in both center based and out-center programs. Worked on numerous grant projects in collaboration with University of Michigan's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department faculty, Rosebud Foundation and Eastern Michigan University Department of Psychology. Served on the AI Rule Change Committee for the State of Michigan and the ASD Workgroup, 0-5, Assessment Subcommittee. Developed a work group that studied how mindfulness principles could impact education in 2000, which included exploration of Stress Free Schools initiative. Responsibilities include local district consultation for inclusion students as well as developing and implementing professional development opportunities for 30 local school psychologists and other ancillary staff. Assist in coordinating local mental health resources with educational programming.

Psychologist

Huron Valley Center  
Ypsilanti, MI  
1994 to 1996

In a unique correctional facility, duties included testing and assessment of psychiatric inmates, conducting individual and group treatment programs. Utilized behaviorally based interventions such as progressive muscle relaxation. Other significant responsibilities include:

- Departmental Quality Management
- Smoking Cessation Program

Psychologist

Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital  
Westland, MI  
1991 - 1994

Duties included testing and assessment of patients as well as conducting individual and group treatment programs.

Served as facility-wide Coordinator for:

- Quality Management
- Treatment Planning
- Utilization Review
- Smoking Cessation Program
- Dependent Placements

Psychologist

Ypsilanti Regional Psychiatric Hospital  
Ypsilanti, MI  
1989 - 1991

Duties included assessment and treatment of geriatric patients. Developed a foster grandparent program, sign language, and reading and social skills groups for older adults. Designed and implemented behavioral programs in conjunction with medical staff, including an exercise program to increase cardiovascular health of COPD patients.

Psychologist

Traverse City Regional Psychiatric Hospital  
Traverse City, MI  
1986 - 1989

Provided assessment and treatment for both acute and chronic patients. Served as the Adjunct Faculty Supervisor for MSU medical students during psychiatry rotation. Developed behavioral programs for emotionally impaired patients in conjunction with Traverse Bay Area Schools (TBA) at the New Campus (Special Education) program. Active member of the Behavior Management Committee.

Psychologist

Ypsilanti Regional Psychiatric Hospital  
Ypsilanti, MI  
1984 - 1986

Conducted intelligence, personality and neuropsychological testing. Designed individual treatment programs and a token economy system. Assisted in the development of

hospital-wide programming for patients. Received MI Department of Mental Health Behavior Management Award for innovative treatment program to decrease self-injurious behavior.

Mental Health Professional

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health  
Ypsilanti, MI  
1983 - 1984

Provided case management and individual therapy to chronic mentally ill clients.

Behavior  
Modification Therapist

Macomb County Community Mental Health  
Mount Clemens, MI  
1983

Provided behavior modification treatment to developmentally disabled clients.

**CONSULTATION**

Psychologist

Grove Emotional Collaborative  
Ann Arbor, MI  
2022-present

Provide for diagnostic therapeutic needs of children and adolescents. Mindfulness practices are incorporated in therapeutic approaches to improve self-awareness and management of thoughts and emotions.

Livingston Psychological Services  
Howell, MI  
2017-2022

Direct services to meet the therapeutic needs of children and adolescents in the Livingston County area.

Dr. Elissa P. Benedek  
Ann Arbor, MI  
2006 – Present

Forensic evaluations with child and adult populations, with court testimony as required.

Dr. Richard K. Howlin  
Chelsea, MI  
2008-2019

Diagnostic evaluations for children and young adults, individual and group treatment. Co-collaborator on the development of Therapeutic Support Groups based on the interpersonalneurobiology theory of Dan Siegel. Use of mindfulness techniques with students with focus on improved emotional regulation and focus.

Honey Creek Community School  
Ann Arbor, MI  
1996-2016

Provided psychological evaluations and consultation to Honey Creek students, teachers and families.

Institute for Social Research  
Child Development Survey-III  
2007 & 2014

Served as the testing consultant for CDS staff to ensure reliable and valid administration of WJ-R subtests used in the assessment battery.

Adjunct Faculty-Psychology Department

Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI  
2009

Psychologist

Arbor Heights Center  
Ann Arbor, MI  
1987 – 2008

Psychologist

Associates in Clinical Practice  
Traverse City, MI  
1987 - 1989

Adjunct Instructor

Department of Psychiatry  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI  
1988

Behavioral Psychologist

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health  
Ann Arbor, MI  
1984 - 1986

Hearing Impaired Specialist

Psychological Services of Bloomfield  
Bloomfield Hills, MI  
1984 - 1986

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Association for Behavior Analysis  
American Psychological Association  
Asperger Society of Michigan-Board Member  
Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan  
Committee of Michigan Psychologists in Public Service  
Children's Charter of the Courts of Michigan  
Eastern Michigan University Social Foundation of  
Education- Board Member  
Michigan Collaborative for Mindfulness in Education-  
Board Member  
Michigan Association of School Psychologists  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
National Association for School Psychologists

REFERENCES & TRANSCRIPTS AVAILABLE  
UPON REQUEST



## TRAINING CONDUCTED

2020 Mindfulness for Educators: Coaching Sessions. (6) Ann Arbor, MI

2019 Mindfulness for Educators: Sessions (8) Ann Arbor, MI

Whole Brain, Whole Child, Whole School: Mindfulness in Action. MEA Summer Leadership Conference, Lansing, MI

Runaway Bunny: Practices for Transitioning from Home. iBme Retreat Kalamazoo, MI

Teaching Mindfulness to Youth: A Two Day Summer Training Intensive  
Berkley, MI

2018 Using Mindfulness to Enhance Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculums. Oakland ISD, Pontiac, MI

Using Mindfulness to Enhance Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculums. Multiple Schools, Ann Arbor, MI

2017 Teaching Mindfulness to Youth: A Two-Day Summer Training Intensive  
Ypsilanti, MI

2016 Community Partners Enhance Healing through Nature-inspired Art, Children's Literature & Mindfulness. Great Lakes Association of Child Life Professionals Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana.

2015 Different But Same: Mindfulness Applications in Special Education. Bridging Hearts and Minds Conference, San Diego, CA

Using Mindfulness to Enhance Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculums, The Open Conference, Howell, MI

The Neuroscience Behind Mindfulness and Inner Explorer Implementation. Bryant Community Center, Ann Arbor, MI

2014 Child Assessments Institute for Social Research Child Development Survey- Phase III, Ann Arbor, MI

Using Mindfulness to Enhance Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Curriculums, Michigan Association of School Psychologists Fall Conference, Novi, MI

2013 Mindfulness, Neuroscience and Learning, MC4ME Board Meeting, Ann Arbor, MI

Ready Or Not: Parent Sessions on Transition. Ann Arbor Open, Ann Arbor MI

2012 Use of Movement in the Classroom, Professional Development AAPS, Ann Arbor, MI

2011 Marriage and Disability, WISD Parent Advisory Council, Ann Arbor, MI

2010 Understanding Aggression in Boys and Girls, Ann Arbor Pubic Schools Professional Development, Ann Arbor, MI

2009 Understanding Aggression in Boys and Girls, Gurian Summer Institute, Colorado Springs, CO

Talking To Our Children About Their Autism Spectrum Disorder, Washtenaw Chapter of Autism Society of America, Ann Arbor, MI

Bridging the Gaps: Incorporating Race, Class, Gender, and Culture in disproportionality work to enhance achievement NASSPE Convention, Atlanta, GA

2008 Drama Club Presentation Ann Arbor Parent Advisory Committee, Ann Arbor, MI

Drama and Autism Spectrum Disorder: Teaching Theory of Mind, Ann Arbor, MI

Marriage and Disability Parents Who Care, Saline, MI

Use of Visual Strategies to Implement Special Education Programs: From Goals & Objectives to Self-Determination MI Council for Exceptional Children, Grand Rapids, MI

2007 Brain and Learning Ypsilanti Public Schools, Ypsilanti, MI

Rosebud Transition Series for Middle Schoolers with ASD Asperger Society of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI

Response to Intervention Planning Group Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ann Arbor, MI

Brain Based Gender Differences in Learning Parenting Fair, Walled Lake, MI

Psychosocial Aspects of Coping with Degenerative Disorders - Successful Social Interactions Pediatric Rehabilitation Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Best Practices in Early Intervention for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) 2007 Early On Conference, Frankenmuth, MI

The Use of Drama in Teaching Social Information Processing Skills Traverse City Autism Collaborative, Traverse City, MI

Visual Strategies and Technology for Students with Disabilities Bowling Green State University Visual Communication Technology Department, Bowling Green, OH

Child Assessments Institute for Social Research Child Development Survey- Phase III, Ann Arbor, MI

Special Considerations: Developmental Issues Institute for Social Research Child Development Survey- Phase III, Ann Arbor, MI

Brain Based Gender Differences in Learning Gurian Institute Training for Huron Valley Schools, Milford, MI

2006 Brain Based Gender Differences in Learning- Part II, Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ann Arbor, MI

Brain Based Gender Differences University of Michigan Department of Education Programs for Educational Opportunity, Ann Arbor, MI

Use of Dramatic Techniques to Teach Social Information Processing Skills Washtenaw Intermediate School District Teacher Consultants, Ann Arbor, MI

Brain Based Gender Differences in Learning Gurian Institute Training for Clarenceville Schools, Livonia, MI

Best Practices in Early Intervention for ASD Children: Part 1& 2 Washtenaw Interagency Coordinating Council, Ann Arbor, MI

Brain Based Gender Differences County Wide School Psychology Meeting, Ann Arbor, MI

Developed Teacher Training on Parent Communication Series

2005 Brain Based Gender Differences in Learning- Part I, Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ann Arbor, MI

Developing Functional Behavior Analysis and Behavior Intervention Plans Workshop Series Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ann Arbor, MI

2004-1998 Numerous presentations on a variety of topics including:

- Mindfulness, Neuroscience and Learning
- Use of Movement in the Classroom
- The Brain and Learning
- The Drama Club: Teaching ASD students Social-Emotional Skills
- Importance of Race, Class, Culture and Gender in the Disproportionality Problem
- Marriage and Disability
- Brain Based Gender Differences
- Data Based Medication Reduction
- Increasing Engagement in Psychiatric Populations
- Psychological Variables in Test Reporting for Court Use
- Relationships and Sexual Problems of the Hearing Impaired
- Writing Behavioral Goals and Objectives
- Psychological Impact of Eating Disorders
- Suicide Research and Current Treatment Strategies
- Behavioral Treatments for the Reduction of Hallucinatory Behavior
- Active Treatment Approaches to Smoking-Related Problems
- Foster Grandparenting Programs Sexual Dysfunction in the Hearing Impaired
- Identification of Stimulus Control of Aggression via Multiple Baseline Methods
- Behavioral Treatment in an Inter-Agency Context
- Neuropsychological Assessment with the Hearing Impaired
- Behavioral Treatment of Self-Injurious Behavior

## PUBLICATIONS

Spence, M. (2014). Portrait of Practice in The Mindful School Leader: Practices to Transform Your life and School. Valerie Brown and Kirsten Olson, Corwin Press, 2014.

Spence, M. (2010.) Special Education: Screening Instruments, Rating Scales, And Self-Report Instruments Principles and Practice of Child and Adolescent Forensic Mental Health, American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

Ross, P. & Spence, M. (1990). Development and implementation of a community-based foster grandparent program utilizing hospitalized psychiatric patients: Results and community response. Behavior Management Quarterly, Vol. 6, No. 3, 137-147.

Spence, M. & Haynes, J. (1988). Psychological assessment in court dispositions. Behavior Management Quarterly, Vol. 4, No. 4, 33-40.

Spence, M. (1986). Behavioral treatment of self-injurious behavior in a psychiatric setting. Behavior Management Quarterly, Vol. 3, No. 1, 25-29.

Ventura-Cook, E. & Spence, M. (1985). Prolonged hospitalization does not produce decreased engagement levels. Behavior Management Quarterly, Vol. 2, No. 4, 47-50.

## **PRE-PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### *Graduate Intern*

Oakland County Juvenile Court  
Pontiac, MI  
1983

Conducted court evaluations of children, adolescents, and adults. Also provided individual treatment for adolescents residing in a court residential setting.

### *Graduate Assistant*

Institute for the Study of Children and Families  
Ypsilanti, MI  
1981-1983

Provided consultation to schools on parenting and family issues. Assisted in the development of multiple federally funded grant initiatives.

Family Caseworker

Lucas County Children's Services Board  
Toledo, OH  
1979-1981

Provided case management services to abused and neglected children, their parents and foster parents.

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

*Current Connections*

Michigan Collaborative for Mindfulness in Education Board

Social Foundations of Education Board

Urban Ashes Tornado Project

Huron Valley Watershed Council

*Past Connections*

Children's Resource Center  
Bowling Green, OH  
Volunteer of the Year Award  
1978-1979

Volunteer Service Belfast  
Belfast, Northern Ireland  
1975

Patchwork Players Children's Theater  
Mankato, MN  
1973-1975

Youth Emergency Services  
Mankato, MN  
1971-1973