

CURRICULUM VITAE
NOMITA ANNE CHHABILDAS
Colorado Licensed Psychologist, License #2825

Mailing Address:

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
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Educational History:

Bachelor of Science:

Drake University, May 1996
Major: Psychology
Minor: Math
Honors: Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*; outstanding senior in psychology; Phi Beta Kappa; Carpenter Scholarship 1992-1996

Master of Arts:

University of Denver, Spring 1999
Major: Child Clinical Psychology
Honors: Colorado Graduate Fellowship, 1996-1999
Thesis: *The External Validity of the DSM-IV Subtypes of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*
Advisor: Bruce F. Pennington, Ph.D.

Doctor of Philosophy:

University of Denver, March 2003
Major: Child Clinical Psychology
Minor: Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
Honors: National Research Service Award (3-year NIMH Training Grant for research on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder); Social Science Scholar 2000-2002
Dissertation: *A Twin Study of the Validity of the Executive Function Theory of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*
Advisor: Bruce F. Pennington, Ph.D.

Clinical and Teaching Experience:**Research Associate/Part-time Lecturer, University of Colorado at Boulder,
September 2004 to present**

Currently serve as Director of the Attention, Behavior, and Learning Clinic at the University of Colorado. Responsibilities include coordination and administration of psychoeducational assessments for children and adolescents with various learning and emotional difficulties, as well as training and supervision of psychology graduate students at CU Boulder and across the Denver Metro area. External program participants include the University of Colorado Anschutz predoctoral internship, as well as the University of Colorado Denver school psychology doctorate program. Additional duties include publicity for the clinic and community outreach activities, as well as participation in research activities through the clinic.

**Psychology Staff, The Children's Hospital Department of Neurotrauma
Rehabilitation, September 2003 to July 2004**

Worked as a psychology staff member in the Department of Neurotrauma/Rehabilitation. Clinical responsibilities included consultation to inpatients and their families on the Neurotrauma/Rehabilitation unit and other medical floors. My role included assisting with psychological adjustment, parent training and education, as well as psychiatric and cognitive assessment. Also assisted in discharge planning and transition back to school and the community. In addition, provided outpatient psychological therapy to children with various medical disorders and concomitant adjustment or psychiatric problems. Consulted to the outpatient spinal defects clinic regarding behavioral and emotional concerns, as well as cognitive assessment.

Primary Supervisors: Jeanne Dise-Lewis, Ph.D. and Michael Kirkwood, Ph.D.

**Psychology Fellow, The Children's Hospital Department of Neurotrauma
Rehabilitation, August 2002 to August 2003**

Trained as a postdoctoral psychology fellow in the Department of Neurotrauma/Rehabilitation. Received training in assessment of children and adolescents with brain injuries, Spina Bifida, and other medical conditions. Clinical responsibilities included consultation to inpatients on the Neurotrauma/Rehabilitation unit and other medical floors. My role included assisting with psychological adjustment, parent training and education, as well as psychiatric and cognitive assessment. Also assisted in discharge planning and transition back to school and the community. My role in the outpatient clinics included therapy with children with various medical disorders and consulting to the outpatient spinal defects clinic regarding behavioral and emotional concerns. Other training experiences included participating in a neuropsychology seminar weekly.

Primary Supervisors: Jeanne Dise-Lewis, Ph.D. and Michael Kirkwood, Ph.D.

Psychology Intern, The Children's Hospital, Denver, August 2001 to August 2002

Worked in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences as a psychology intern. Completed major rotations in Neurotrauma Rehabilitation, Inpatient Psychiatry, Psychiatric Day Treatment, and with the Child Protection team at the Kempe Center. Training experiences included working with children with traumatic and acquired brain injuries and their families to assist with psychological adjustment, parental education, and cognitive assessment before transition back to school and the community. Responsibilities on the psychiatric inpatient units and in the Psychiatric Day treatment program included individual and family therapy, as well as case management and disposition planning. At the Kempe center worked therapeutically with children exposed to abuse and/or neglect. Additional internship experiences included completing psychiatric and cognitive assessments, as well as seeing outpatients for a variety of behavioral and emotional disorders. Assessment questions included childhood schizophrenia, Autism spectrum disorders, affective disorders, disruptive behavior disorders, and learning disabilities. Focal concerns in therapy included anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation, management of attentional problems, substance use, social skills, and family conflict.

Training Director: Lisa Kaley-Isley, Ph.D.

Primary Supervisors: Jeffrey Dolgan, Ph.D., Michelle Kelly, Psy.D., and Charleana Arellano, Ph.D.

Clinical Trainee, Child Study Center, University of Denver, Spring 1997 to Fall 2001

Duties included supervised psychological evaluation and treatment at the primary training site for the University of Denver Child Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. Assessment questions included learning disabilities, disruptive behavior disorders, affective disorders, and Tourette's Disorder. Provided treatment in both child/family and adult cases. Focal concerns included behavioral management of disruptive behaviors, family conflict, depression and suicidal ideation, social skills deficits, anger management/ affect regulation, identity development, and parent/child interactions. Training modalities included behavioral, cognitive, family systems, and psychodynamic approaches.

Clinic Training Director: Stephen Shirk, Ph.D.

Psychology Extern, The Children's Hospital, Denver, September 2000 to Fall 2001

Primary role was to perform assessments in the child and adolescent inpatient units at the hospital. Also assisted with diagnostic formulation and treatment planning. Assessment questions included Mood Disorders, psychosis, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Separation Anxiety Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, and learning disabilities.

Supervisor: Jeffrey I. Dolgan, Ph.D.

Clinic Assistant, Learning Disabilities and Neuropsychology Clinic, University of Denver, September 1999 to August 2000

Primary role consisted of training and supervision of approximately twenty clinical psychology interns, externs, and graduate students working in the clinic. Training and supervisory duties included specific test administration and scoring, as well as case formulation.

Supervisor: Margaret Riddle, Ph.D.

Instructor, University of Denver, Spring 2000

After completing a course on “Teaching Psychology”, developed and taught an undergraduate course about the neuropsychology of Developmental Disabilities.

Supervisors: Wyndol Furman, Ph.D. and Bruce F. Pennington, Ph.D.

Clinical Trainee, Learning Disabilities and Neuropsychology Clinic, University of Denver, Spring 1997 to Fall 2000

Conducted neuropsychological assessments with children, adolescents, and adults with various presenting problems. Assessment questions included learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Mood Disorders, and assessment of sequela from perinatal birth trauma or early traumatic brain injury. Additional duties included case presentations to clinic staff, treatment formulation, and participation in parental feedback.

Training Directors: Margaret Riddle, Ph.D. and Bruce F. Pennington, Ph.D.

Clinical Trainee, John F. Kennedy Center for Developmental Disabilities, University Affiliated Program, Denver, September 1998 to August 1999

Evaluated children through the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic, and provided consultation to Jefferson County Schools regarding programming for pre-school children with Developmental Disabilities. Assessments were completed within an interdisciplinary team, and diagnostic questions included Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Mood Disorders, learning and cognitive disorders, Landau-Kleffner Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, and Tourette’s Disorder. Consultation to the school system included instruction regarding the use of functional assessment and behavioral teaching strategies, as well as implementation of appropriate structure and schedules within the classroom.

Primary Supervisors: Sally Rogers, Ph.D., Judy Reaven, Ph.D. and Hal Lewis, Ph.D.

Group Mentor, Head Start for Literacy Program, Fall 1998 to Fall 1999

Served as a mentor and teacher for adolescents who taught pre-literacy skills to children in Head Start preschools throughout the Denver area. Also assisted in program development.

Supervisor: Norman Watt, Ph.D.

Group Facilitator, Elementary School Anger Management Group, Spring 1999

Co-led a group for elementary school children with difficulty controlling anger and other emotions. Utilized primarily cognitive-behavioral techniques.

Supervisor: Stephen Shirk, Ph.D.

Applied Behavior Analysis Therapist, February 1997 to August 1998

Worked as a home therapist with a pre-school aged child diagnosed with Autism. Primarily used techniques from Applied Behavior Analysis in order to facilitate the development of language skills, cognitive abilities, social skills, and self-help skills.

Supervisor: Annette Groen, Ph.D.

Volunteer Counselor, Drake University Reachout Crisis Line, 1992-1995

Served as a volunteer crisis counselor for the university crisis hotline. Received extensive training regarding depression and suicidal ideation, peer difficulties, homesickness, and other issues with which callers might present.

Volunteer Aide, Ruby Van Meter School for the Mentally Handicapped, 1992-1995

Volunteered to work with children with Down Syndrome and other disorders at this specialized school. Responsibilities included tutoring and assisting with special school events.

Research Experience/Awards:

Recipient, 2021 Anne K Heinz Staff Award Recipient for Excellence in Outreach and Engagement, May 2021

**Co-Investigator
September 2004 to present**

Currently serve as a Co-investigator on the Colorado Learning Disabilities Research Center (CLDRC) grant studying the etiology of ADHD, RD, and related disorders. Duties include assistance with family feedback, consultation with families regarding mental health or learning difficulties in study participants, as well as study design and dissemination of study results. Current funding is through 2022.

Prior to 2016 was also a funded research consultant on several other NICHD funded projects designed to learn more about attention, learning, and emotional functioning in children.

**Recipient, University of Colorado Outreach Grant
August 2005 to present**

In collaboration with Dr. Erik Willcutt, have been awarded funding for 15 consecutive years to provide psychoeducational evaluations for low-income families through the Attention, Behavior, and Learning Clinic. Current funding period is through Summer 2021.

Recipient, Individual National Research Service Award Predoctoral Fellowship

Received a 3-year training grant through the National Institute of Mental Health for research on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Completed my Master's thesis on the external validity of the DSM-IV subtypes of ADHD by exploring evidence of differential psychiatric and neuropsychological correlates of the subtypes. My dissertation will explore the validity of the executive function deficit theory of ADHD, one commonly purported primary deficit theory of ADHD. Reasons for the frequent comorbidity between reading disability and ADHD have also been investigated as part of this training grant.

Research Assistant, Colorado Learning Disabilities Twin Project, Fall 1996-Fall 2001

Responsibilities included assisting in the design, data collection, analysis, and publication of results from a large NICHD funded study of twins in Colorado. The study focuses on reading disability and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), as well as comorbid psychiatric disorders. Served as a Case Manager for this project, interviewing parents and giving feedback regarding testing. Also served as a tester for the project, administering a battery of neuropsychological and emotional measures to the twins.

Supervisor: Bruce F. Pennington, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Boystown Dyslexia Research Project, Fall 1998-Fall 2001

As part of an NIH funded study on the genetics of dyslexia, assisted in the study design and data collection for this project. Responsibilities included research conceptualization, administration of a battery of experimental reading measures, and feedback to participating families.

Supervisor: Bruce F. Pennington, Ph.D.

Data Analyst, MRI research study, Fall 1996 to Fall 1998

Responsibilities included completing behavioral genetic analyses on volumetric

data from an ongoing MRI study. The primary focus of the study during my involvement was the heritability of different cortical and sub-cortical brain structures.

Supervisors: Bruce F. Pennington, Ph.D. and Dianne Lefly, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Drake University EEG laboratory, Spring 1994-1995

Assisted in study design, data collection, and data analysis for the EEG laboratory. The primary research topic was the relationship of the P-300 Event Related Potential to Operant Conditioning.

Supervisor: Steven F. Faux, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Drake University Physiological Psychology lab, Spring 1995

Assisted with data collection for a project using borderline hypertensive rats to investigate potential environmental contributors to hypertension.

Supervisor: Brian Sanders, Ph.D.

Publications:

Boada, R., Willcutt, E. G., Tunick, R. A., Chhabildas, N. A., Oglie, J., Olson, R. K., DeFries, J. C., & Pennington, B. F. (2002). A twin study of the etiology of high reading ability. *Reading and Writing, 15*, 683 - 707.

Chhabildas, N., Pennington, B.F., & Willcutt, E.G. (2001). A comparison of the neuropsychological profiles of the DSM-IV subtypes of ADHD. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, 29*, 529-540.

Friedman, M.C., Chhabildas, N., Budhiraja, N., Willcutt, E.G., & Pennington, B.F. Etiology of the Comorbidity of Reading Disability and ADHD: Exploration of the Nonrandom Mating Hypothesis (2003). *American Journal of Medical Genetics (Neuropsychiatric Genetics), 120*, 109-115.

Pennington, B.F. & Chhabildas, N. (2003). *The Neuropsychology of ADHD*. In T.E. Feinberg & M.J. Farrar (Eds), Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychology. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Professional.

Willcutt, E.G., Betjemann, R., McGrath, L., Chhabildas, N. A., Olson, R. K., DeFries, J. C., & Pennington, B. F. (2010). Etiology and neuropsychology of comorbidity between RD and ADHD: The case for multiple-deficit models. *Cortex, 46*, 1345 - 1361.

Willcutt, E.G., Boada, R., Riddle, M., Chhabildas, N., DeFries, J.C., & Pennington, B.F. (2011). Colorado Learning Disabilities Questionnaire: A Parent-Report Screening Questionnaire for Learning Difficulties in Children. *Psychological Assessment, 23*, 778-791.

Willcutt, E. G., Brodsky, K., Chhabildas, N., Shanahan, M., Yerys, B., Scott, A., & Pennington, B. F. (2005). The neuropsychology of ADHD: validity of the executive function hypothesis. In D. Gozal and D. Molfese (eds.), *Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: from genes to practice*, pp. 185-213. Humana Press: Totowa, NJ.

Willcutt, E. G., Chhabildas, N., Kinnear, M., DeFries, J. C., Olson, R. K., Leopold, D. R., Keenan, J. M., & Pennington, B. F. (2014). The internal and external validity of sluggish cognitive tempo and its relevance to DSM-IV ADHD. *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, *42*, 21-35.

Willcutt, E.G., Chhabildas, N., & Pennington, B.F. (2001). Validity of the DSM-IV Subtypes of ADHD. *The ADHD Report*, *9*, 2-5. Pennington, B.F., Filipek, P.A., Lefly, D., Chhabildas, N., Kennedy, D.N., Simon, J.H., Filley, C.M., Galaburda, A., & DeFries, J. (2000). A twin MRI study of size variations in human brain. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, *12*, 223-232.

Willcutt, E.G., Pennington, B.F., Boada, R., Tunick, R., Ogline, J., Chhabildas, N., & Olson, R.K. (2001). A comparison of the cognitive deficits in Reading Disability and ADHD. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, *110*, 157-172.

Willcutt, E.G., Pennington, B.F., Chhabildas, N., Friedman, M.C., & Alexander, J.A. (1999). Psychiatric comorbidity associated with DSM-IV ADHD in a community sample. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, *38*, 1355-1362.

Willcutt, E.G., Pennington, B.F., Olson, R.K., Chhabildas, N., & Huslander, J. (2005). Neuropsychological analyses of comorbidity between reading disability and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: In search of the common deficit. *Developmental Neuropsychology*, *27*, 35-78.

Presentations:

Chhabildas, N and Willcutt, E (2019, March). Strategies for Learning and Attention: How to Help Your Child Thrive. Invited presentation at University of Colorado Brain Awareness Week.

Chhabildas, N. (2016, February). *Dyslexia: How to Help Your Child Learn More Effectively*. Invited presentation to Parent Resource Group, Hillside School, Boulder, CO.

Leopold, D., Chhabildas, N & Schneider, R. (2015, October). *Unpacking a Diagnosis. The Mind and Brain Behind Learning, Attentional, and Emotional Functioning*. Invited Presentation, Annual Reading in the Rockies Conference, Vail, CO.

Chhabildas, N. (2014, October). *Dyslexia: The Link Between Research and Practice*. Invited presentation to Parent Resource Group, Hillside School, Boulder, CO.

Chhabildas, N. (2014, November). *EF Deficits: From Theory to Practice*. Invited presentation at High Peaks Elementary, Boulder, CO

Chhabildas, N. (2014, April). *EF Deficits: From Theory to Practice*. Invited presentation at Boulder Community School for Integrated Studies, Boulder, CO

Chhabildas, N. (2013, November). *Comprehensive Assessments of Children: The Attention, Behavior, and Learning Clinic*. Invited presentation as part of the University of Colorado Psychological Resource Fair, Boulder, CO

Chhabildas, N. (2011, April). *The Attention, Behavior, and Learning Clinic*. Invited presentation to the Fairview High School Counseling Department.

Chhabildas, N. (2010, October). *Helping Students Thrive: The link Between Research and the Classroom*. Invited presentation to parent engagement network at Alexander Dawson School.

Chhabildas, N. (2008, April). *Autism Spectrum Disorders*. Invited presentation to staff at the First Presbyterian Church, Boulder, CO.

Chhabildas, N. & Willcutt, E. (2008, April). *Comprehensive Assessments of Children: The Attention, Behavior, and Learning Clinic*. Invited presentation to the University of Colorado Outreach Staff. Department of Continuing Education, Boulder, CO

Chhabildas, N. (2006, April). *Dyslexia: Assessment and Treatment*. Invited presentation to the psychology intern class, Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO.

Chhabildas, N. (2005, May). *Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: What we know and what we still have to learn*. Invited presentation to staff at Boulder Community Hospital's Department of Pediatric Rehabilitation, Boulder, CO.

Chhabildas, N. (2005, April). *How to manage attention deficits in the classroom*. Invited presentation to staff at Watershed School, Boulder, CO.

Kirkwood, M. & Chhabildas, N. (2003, October). *Executive Function Deficits Following Traumatic Brain Injury: What they are and how to manage them*. Presentation at the Brain Injury Association of Colorado's Annual conference, Vail, CO.

Chhabildas, N., & Willcutt, E. (2001, April). *A comparison of the cognitive deficits of the DSM-IV subtypes of ADHD*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.

Tunick, R.A., Boada, R., Willcutt, E.G., Chhabildas, N., Oglie, J., Olson, R.K., DeFries, J.C., & Pennington, B.F. (2001, February). *A Twin Study of the Etiology of High Reading Ability*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychology Society, Chicago, IL.

Willcutt, E., Chhabildas, N. & Pennington, B.F. (2000, February). *ADHD and Reading Disability: The Etiology of Comorbidity*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychology Society, Denver, CO.

Chhabildas, N. (1999, April). *The External Validity of the DSM-IV Subtypes of ADHD*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Albuquerque, NM.

Chhabildas, N. & Willcutt, E. (1999, April). *The Effects of Comorbid Anxiety on Symptoms of ADHD*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Albuquerque, NM.

Willcutt, E. & Chhabildas, N. (1998, October). *Relationships Among Reading Disability and Comorbid Disorders*. Poster presented at the Kansas Conference on Clinical Child Psychology, Lawrence, KS.

Willcutt, E., Chhabildas, N. & Pennington, B.F. (1998, October). *A Twin Study of the Validity of DSM-IV Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*. Paper presented at the Kansas Conference on Clinical Child Psychology, Lawrence, KS.

Willcutt, E., Brelsford, K., Chhabildas, N., & Pennington, B.F. (1997, April). *A twin study of the DSM-IV subtypes of ADHD*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Washington, D.C.

Chhabildas, N., Sauer, L., Faux, S.F. (1995, November). *Relationship between the P-300 ERP and learning*. Poster presented at the annual Drake Research Days, Des Moines, IA.

Research Interests:

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Childhood Psychopathology
Developmental Neuropsychology

Professional Organizations:

Colorado Neuropsychological Society
International Dyslexia Association
Learning Disabilities Association of Colorado
Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder

Professional References:

Bruce F. Pennington, Ph.D.
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