

**Ariana Riccio**

Research Associate, Education Development Center  
96 Morton St., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10014  
212-807-4227 | ariccio@edc.org

**a. Professional Preparation**

City University of New York, Graduate Center	Developmental Psychology	Ph.D., In progress
City University of New York, Graduate Center	Psychology	M.A., 2018
Tufts University	Biology & Community Health	B.S., 2013

**b. Appointments**

*Education Development Center*

**Research Associate**, *IDEAS2: Inventing, Designing and Engineering for All Students* (2019-Present). Involved in all research activities of this NSF-funded ITEST proposal with the goals of making engineering design Maker programming available and sustainable in a wide range of autism inclusion schools in New York City and building knowledge about how Making can benefit autism inclusion efforts in general.

*City University of New York*

**Doctoral Research Fellow**, *Ph.D., Program in Developmental Psychology* (2015-2020), Completed various research projects as part of doctoral training including (1) a two-year study to assess effects of maker-based technology workshops on transition, soft skills, and autistic identity development in autistic adolescents through classroom observation, mixed-methods questionnaires, and in-person interviews. (2) a survey study to better understand experiences of autistic college students across institutions with measures to assess institutional supports and programming, community-building, autistic identity, and other factors which may contribute to success at university and (3) the creation of a multi-modal scale of emotions and autistic identity as a methodological tool to assess identity across the spectrum. The scale was designed with a participatory group of autistic and non-autistic researchers.

*Tech Kids Unlimited*

**Program Evaluator** (2016-Present), Collects and analyzes qualitative and quantitative data on social-emotional and technological skill outcomes to inform an iterative and maker-based technology curriculum for children with autism and other learning disabilities. Produces annual reports to disseminate evaluation findings, which serves 250+ students/year through weekly and summer-long workshops.

*Project REACH, College of Staten Island*

**Program Coordinator** (2017-2019), Coordinate group and on-on-one mentorship for students enrolled in Project REACH, an initiative to better serve the growing population of college students with autism. Designed weekly training modules focused on self-advocacy, leadership, social, and academic skills for college students. Adapted program evaluation methods to capture measures of student progress and program fidelity/efficacy through qualitative and quantitative analyses.

### **c. Publications and Presentations**

Martin, W., Vidiksis, R., **Riccio, A.**, Chen, Y., & Koenig, K., *Integrating Making into Inclusive Classrooms*. Poster to be presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, 2020.

**Riccio, A.**, Jordan, A., Kapp, S. K., Dorelien, A., & Gillespie-Lynch, K. *Examining Potential Developmental Consequences of Parental Decisions to Disclose Their Child's Autism Diagnosis to Their Child*. Poster presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, 2019.

**Riccio, A.**, Delos Santos, J., Kapp, S. K., Jordan, A., Shane-Smith, D., DeNigris, D., & Gillespie-Lynch, K. *Development of a Visual Autistic Identity and Emotions Scale*. Poster presented at the INSAR Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, 2019.

**Riccio, A.**, DeNigris, D., Kofner, B., Jordan, A., Tricarico, N., Delos Santos, J., Hossain, M., & Kapp, S., Gillespie-Lynch, K., *Using a Participatory Approach to Identify Factors that Promote Positive Identity Development and Success in College among Autistic College Students: Project REACH@CSI*. Talk to be presented at the College Inclusion Summit. Nashville, TN, 2019.

**Riccio, A.**, Herrell, J., Hossain, M., Rosenberg, B., Gillespie-Lynch, K., *A Participatory Evaluation of an Innovative Technology-Based Program for Adolescents with Autism*. Paper presented at the Connected Learning Summit, Cambridge, MA, 2018.

**Riccio, A.**, Herrell, J., Goodman, C., Hossain, M., Rosenberg, B., Gillespie-Lynch, K. *Learning about Learning: Evaluating and Iterating Curricula for Neurodiverse Youth using Universal Design*. Talk presented at the CUNY Neurodiversity Conference, New York, NY, 2019