

GEORGE BUDZIUS

Department of Occupational Therapy, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80521

EDUCATION

Colorado State University Fort Collins, CO

Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD) Expected December 2026

GPA: 3.879 / 4.0

Capstone: “Loose Parts Play for Increased Child Play Autonomy”

Capstone Advisor: Dr. Paul Yoo | Capstone Mentor: Dr. Anita Bundy

Relevant Coursework: Neuroscience, Biomechanics, Pediatrics, Occupational Processes Across the Lifespan

University of Minnesota–Twin Cities Minneapolis, MN

Bachelor of Arts, Developmental Psychology August 2019 – December 2022

GPA: 3.686 / 4.0 | Dean’s List: Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Minors: Spanish, Philosophy

Relevant Coursework: Brain Development, Social Development, Abnormal Psychology, Language Development & Communication

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Pediatric occupational therapy; neurorehabilitation; traumatic brain injury recovery; child development and play; acute care; community reintegration following acquired disability

DOCTORAL CAPSTONE PROJECT

Colorado State University, Department of Occupational Therapy Fort Collins, CO

Research Capstone Track – Mentor: Dr. Anita Bundy 2025 – Expected December 2026

- Designing and implementing a loose parts playground intervention paired with caregiver risk reframing education at Dunn Elementary School, Fort Collins, CO
- Evaluating impact on unstructured play participation and social engagement for elementary aged children, including those with disabilities, at a population level
- Grounded in the Person–Environment–Occupation–Performance (PEOP) model; aligned with the evidence base established by the Sydney Playground Project
- Developing a replication guide for program administrators to support long term sustainability and potential expansion to additional Fort Collins schools

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Budzius, G., & Sorensen, K. (manuscript in preparation). Recovery Ruler: Development of a clinical measurement tool for practitioners treating patients with Disorders of Consciousness. METEOR/SHARE Lab, Colorado State University.

PRESENTATIONS

Budzius, G., & Sorensen, K. (May 2026). Traumatic brain injury recovery: Findings from the METEOR Lab. Presented at the Colorado State University Department of Occupational Therapy Knowledge Exchange, Fort Collins, CO.

Budzius, G., & Sorensen, K. (March 2026). Traumatic brain injury recovery: Findings from the METEOR Lab. Presented at the Colorado State University Department of Health and Human Sciences Research Symposium, Fort Collins, CO.

Budzius, G. (August 2025). Occupational therapy in acute care: An American perspective. Invited guest presentation at Yamagata Prefectural University of Health Sciences, Yamagata, Japan.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Colorado State University – METEOR and SHARE Lab Fort Collins, CO

Research Assistant – Supervisor: Dr. Jennifer Weaver April 2025 – Present

- Collect and transcribe qualitative interview data, categorizing codes for the Meaningful Measurements in Rehabilitation Research Lab
- Collaborate with Dr. Jennifer Weaver on code validity and methodology for studies examining recovery following Disorders of Consciousness
- Codevelop the Recovery Ruler Tool, a clinical outcome measurement instrument for practitioners treating patients with Disorders of Consciousness

Early Language and Experience Lab, University of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN

Research Assistant – Supervisor: Dr. Melissa Koenig February 2020 – December 2021

- Administered behavioral experiments and recruited participants for two doctoral research labs examining child cognition and trust
- Compiled and analyzed data from studies on moral reasoning, trust, and environmental knowledge in children ages 3–7
- Contributed to research resulting in: Afshordi, N., Han Li, P., & Koenig, M. (2024). Trusting information from friends: Adults expect it but preschoolers do not. *Developmental Psychology*, 60(6), 1161–1173. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0001761>

CLINICAL FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab Chicago, IL

Pediatric Rehabilitation – OTD Level II Fieldwork May 2026 – August 2026

- Treated pediatric patients with traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, paraplegia, quadriplegia, and burn injuries in an inpatient rehabilitation setting
- Designed and implemented a student project adapting play activities for children with high-level cervical spinal cord injuries, extending capstone work on play autonomy to a clinical population
- Completed 480 hours of supervised clinical treatment, documentation, goal planning, and patient education

TheraSWIM Fort Collins, CO

Pediatric Aquatic Therapy – OTD IEL Fieldwork October 2025 – November 2025

- Observed and participated in aquatic outpatient therapy for children with cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, and behavioral disorders
- Supported therapy targeting sensory processing, physical disabilities, and reflex integration

Teton Therapy Cheyenne, WY

Outpatient Orthopedics – OTD Level II Fieldwork May 2025 – August 2025

- Treated and educated patients with upper extremity injuries, stroke-related TBI, mental health conditions, and pediatric behavioral diagnoses across a diverse caseload
- Served older adults, active military members, and children in outpatient orthopedic settings
- Completed 480 hours of supervised clinical treatment, documentation, goal planning, and patient education

Denver Health Medical Center – Inpatient Psychiatric Unit Denver, CO

Inpatient Psychiatry – OTD IEL Fieldwork March 2025 – April 2025

- Observed acute inpatient mental health therapy for adults admitted voluntarily or through criminal court mandate

- Observed court competency training sessions and evidence based mental health group intervention programming

Trials MMA – B-Bold Adaptive Martial Arts Fort Collins, CO

Adaptive Martial Arts – OTD IEL Fieldwork September 2024 – December 2024

- Led adaptive martial arts classes for clients with Parkinson’s Disease, amputation, traumatic brain injury, and stroke
- Provided evidence based instruction on Parkinson’s specific nutrition and exercise protocols

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Children’s Hospital Minnesota – Rehabilitation Unit Minneapolis, MN

Clinic Assistant March 2022 – May 2024

- Supported Speech Language Pathologists, Physical Therapists, and Occupational Therapists across inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings
- Coordinated daily care with nursing staff, orthotic services, and physical medicine physicians to deliver intensive and acute rehabilitation
- Implemented a pediatric stander program for patients under age 5 with traumatic brain injuries, improving mobility outcomes

Colorado State University – Health and Medical Center Fort Collins, CO

Medical Care Receptionist August 2024 – Present

- Collaborate with medical staff to coordinate direct care for urgent health concerns on campus
- Operate electronic medical record (EMR) software to manage appointments, verify insurance eligibility, and review provider notes

Beyond Behavior LLC Hudson, WI

Registered Behavior Technician June 2021 – August 2021

- Delivered direct ABA therapy to 6 children ages 3–7 with autism spectrum disorder, targeting cognitive, educational, and adaptive life skills
- Collected behavioral data and authored daily activity reports to track client progress
- Coordinated individualized and team based care to support clients’ transition into early schooling environments

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Minnesota – College of Liberal Arts, Office of Student Experience Minneapolis, MN

Section Leader August 2020 – May 2022

- Mentored and counseled 32 students per semester on career development, academic preparedness, and independent living skills
- Distributed weekly course communications and completed 20+ hours of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion professional training

University of Minnesota – College of Education and Human Development Minneapolis, MN

Teaching Assistant – Supervisor: Dr. Anne Larson September 2022 – December 2022

- Collaborated with Dr. Anne Larson to design, implement, and grade a First Year Experience course for 24 undergraduate students
- Mentored students in exploring academic majors, career interests, and strategies for university success

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Red Cross Club, University of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN

Volunteer September 2021 – December 2022

- Organized and executed monthly blood donation drives; registered donors and recruited new volunteers

Boy Scouts of America

Eagle Scout – Order of the Arrow Brotherhood Member Awarded June 2018 / September 2017

- Earned Eagle Scout rank by designing, planning, and leading a large scale community service project with a team of volunteers

CERTIFICATIONS

Trauma Informed Care Provider: National Council for Mental Wellbeing

Basic Life Support (BLS) & CPR: American Heart Association

LANGUAGES

Spanish – Certified proficiency (University of Minnesota, 2019)

Portuguese – Certified proficiency (University of Minnesota, 2021)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), Member, 2024–Present

Occupational Therapy Association of Colorado (OTAC), Member, 2024–Present