

Council on Undergraduate Research ~ Posters on the Hill
Congratulations to Adrienne Skelton for being selected to represent the state of Missouri at the 24th annual CUR Posters on the Hill event! Her mentor is Dr. Chad Rose (Special Education). This year's event was held virtually on April 21st #POH2020



MISSOURI

Student(s): Adrienne Skelton

Research Institution: University of Missouri

Lead Student Home Institution: University of Missouri

Lead Student Home State: Missouri

Faculty Advisers: Chad Rose

Division: Education

The Impact of Social and Communication Skill Intervention on Reducing Bullying Involvement

Bullying is a pervasive problem facing the nation's youth that impacts the social, behavioral, and academic functioning of those involved. Two of the most notable predictors of bullying involvement are social and communication skill deficits (Rose et al. 2019). It is critical for schools to implement programs and practices for social and communication skill acquisition to improve the lifelong outcomes of all youth, as well as reduce the likelihood of current and future bullying involvement. The present study was designed to reduce and/or prevent bullying involvement by identifying students in grades K-5 with social and communication skill deficits using a behavioral risk screener (i.e., SAEBRs; Kilgus et al. 2012) and providing them with a 10-week social and communication skill intervention in a small-group setting. Pre/post data were collected from all participants and their teachers with the aim of evaluating their involvement in bullying, as well as social, behavioral, and academic functioning. Initial analyses of pre/post data using a repeated measures MANOVA (i.e., mean level differences) revealed that students reported significant increases in prosocial behaviors, academic self-efficacy, and decreased victimization. Students' teachers reported increased prosocial behaviors, emotion regulation, and academic competence. These findings demonstrate the importance of implementing a skill-based intervention designed to improve the social and communication skill acquisition of school-aged youth as a vehicle for reducing bullying involvement and increasing academic, behavioral, and social functioning. This is especially germane for schools, because all 50 states and Washington, DC, have adopted legislation to address bullying among school-aged youth.