

Student Researchers Present at Research Week | CPD

Sue Reeves

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Photographic activity schedules are used to help ASSERT students interact appropriately on the playground and other situations

Two doctoral students with ties to the ASSERT (Autism Support Services: Education, Research and Training) Program at Utah State University's Center for Persons with Disabilities will present their findings at a Research Week event.

Nina Gerencser and Jessica Akers are students in the Applied Behavior Analysis track of the Disability Disciplines doctoral program under Tom Higbee, director of ASSERT. Gerencser is a third-year student and Akers is a fourth-year student. They will give an oral presentation at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 9, at Merrill-Cazier Library.

Gerencser's research project is an evaluation of interactive computer training to teach parents to implement photographic activity schedules. Akers' research project involved using photographic activity schedules to learn to play appropriately on playground equipment.

"At ASSERT, we use the photographic schedules to promote inclusive play and social interaction," Gerencser said.