

**CLARITZA PENA**  
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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey**

National Institute for Early Education Research

Research Coordinator II, March 2022- Present

- Collection of data statewide for various research studies.
  - Manage data sets, conduct reliability with field staff, communicate with project partners including administrators, teachers, data collectors.
  - Provide support to field staff.
  - Conduct trainings using various evaluation instruments that rate teachers and settings in early childhood and early primary grades.

### **Central Jersey Family Health Consortium**

Bilingual Early Childhood Specialist, May 2019- March 2022

- Facilitate linkages and referrals for families birth to eight who are involved in child protection services to NJ's maternal, infant, and early childhood (MIEC) system of care.
- Design programmatic protocols and processes for effective implementation of services.
- Participate in statewide continuous quality improvement activities with the NJ Department of Children and Families, including PDSA cycles to test and scale small changes.
- Participated in the federal *Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Impact* grant to promote infant and early childhood development and school readiness. Provided monthly data to monitor system outcomes.
- Administer developmental screening and consultation, connected children to Part B services as needed.
- Assisted caregivers in identifying and obtaining quality childcare and preschool utilizing GrowNJ Kids QIRS and the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency subsidies.

Bilingual Parent Educator, September 2015-May 2019

- Utilized the evidence-based home visiting model, Parents as Teachers to support the parent-child relationship amongst Spanish speaking Latino families
- Monitored and screened early childhood development, facilitate referrals to Early Intervention services
- Provided case management and screened families on an array of risk factors to promote family well-being including substance usage, interpersonal violence, and substance usage.

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## **CERTIFICATION/ADVANCED TRAININGS**

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**Intensive Fellowship in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Montclair State University, Oct. 2021**

**Endorsed Infant Family Specialist, NJ Association for Infant Mental Health, Jan. 2020**

**Brazelton Touchpoints, Montclair State University, Jan 2020**

**Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) and Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE-2), NJ Department of Children and Families, Jul 2019**

**Implementing Evidence-Supported Services for Children and Families, NJ Department of Children and Families, Sept 2017**

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## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health

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## **EDUCATION**

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Kean University, Union, NJ

**Bachelor of Arts** in Psychology, May 2014