THE BARTON BUNCH

MOLLIE TODT, M.ED.

HERE'S THE STORY OF A LOVELY RESEARCHER... MOLLIE!

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Meet Mollie, a 1st year doctoral student!

She has not one but two quarantine puppies! Almond and Pistachio are rescues and they are just one month apart in age. She collects data on their training sometimes.

She used to be a professional ballet dancer. During her training, she danced with Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and Joffrey Ballet.

She has a fourth degree black belt in taekwondo!

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A few of her research interests include...

Methods for identifying reinforcers for children with challenging behavior and who are minimally verbal to inform how teachers deliver reinforcement in the classroom to improve the effectiveness of interventions and promote social interaction. This would also involve identifying the natural reinforcement contingencies occurring in the classroom for both the challenging behavior and appropriate behavior.

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What have you been researching in Barton Lab?

"I loved working on my master's thesis, which involved teaching preschoolers with disabilities how to imitate their peers during a play activity in the classroom. It was my first study as the project lead and it was the best learning experience. It made me realize that I wanted to pursue a career in research. Most important, the play sessions with my participants were so much fun! We were so goofy with the kiddos, singing baby shark and playing smelly feet, while teaching them such invaluable skills!"

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What do you hope to do after you graduate from Vanderbilt?

"I hope to not only conduct research, but teach and train future teachers and researchers. One of my favorite things about being part of a research team like Barton lab is training new students on research projects. I love their readiness to learn and they teach me so much by bringing in new perspectives!"