

# THROWBACK

# THURSDAY

## **Lauren Gomez, M.Ed., BCBA**

Meet Lauren, a Barton Lab graduate!

- Graduated with a Master's in Early Childhood Special Education and specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis from Vanderbilt in 2019
- She is starting a new job working in Olathe School District in Kansas City. For the last year, she has been working in an early intervention clinic for children with ASD.



Swipe for her story!




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What will your role look like?

I will be a behavior coach, so I will primarily be working with teachers and helping them to conduct Functional Behavior Analyses and develop Behavior Support Plans for children in their classrooms. I will also help teachers with students who are transitioning out of their emotional behavioral disorder program and into a less restrictive environment.



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**How did VU  
prepare you  
for this role?**

Vanderbilt did such a great job of preparing me by teaching me how to find and evaluate evidence based practices that can be used with a variety of children. Knowing how to find strong interventions has been so useful. Also, at Vanderbilt there is a huge emphasis on collaboration and teamwork, which has helped me immensely in my job, where collaboration with other clinicians, RBTs, and parents has been so important.

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What are two of your greatest accomplishments since graduating from Vanderbilt?

**1** Passing the exam to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst!

**2** Really growing my skillset in ABA in the last year. I have become comfortable with several new assessments, and writing goals to best support the children that I am working with. I've also had to adapt my practice to a telehealth model in the last few months, which has taught me so much about new ways to work with parents and teach new skills.



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**Lauren Gomez, M.Ed., BCBA**

What is one piece of advice you would give to current or prospective Early Childhood Special Education students?

Take advantage of the resources that you have! You will be surrounded by smart, kind people who want you to succeed. Everybody is so willing to help support you and share their knowledge, so make sure to take advantage!