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**Background:** Children are our future. Just as we have more Baby Boomers living longer, we have sicker and smaller infants living longer as well. This poses interesting challenges through early development as well as lasting effects once children begin school. My research interests are in both of these critical time periods but my projects will only be focusing on one area for next year. Once children get into school, what can be done to enhance their success primarily related to handwriting and keyboarding skill function is of interest to me. School systems are one of the number one employers of occupational therapists. The most common reason for referral to occupational therapy within the school system is handwriting difficulty.

**Research Interests:** Infant regulation, NICU, handwriting skills, handwriting assessment, effectiveness of handwriting curricula, student success in school, use of technology related to written communication.

**Research skills:** Most experimental/quantitative studies; Single subject design as appropriate; Surveys.

**Research Directions:**

- *What is the concurrent validity of the KWT Assessments as compared to a speed typing test to determine keyboarding skills?* This group of 2 project students will look into the use of newly developed keyboarding assessments within the Keyboarding Without Tears (KWT) application ([www.kwtears.com](http://www.kwtears.com)) as a valid way to measure keyboarding skill. This study will be part of a large 2 year keyboarding study involving approximately 2000 students. It will not involve direct occupational therapy intervention but will involve collaboration with a thesis student on important data collection and analysis in a very important research study that will be used to inform occupational therapy practice. (project)