

**Sirsa A. Qursha**  
P.O. Box 143947  
Amman 11844, Jordan  
Home (+9626) 5825-831 Mobile (+926) 777842-006  
Email: sirsa.qursha@gmail.com

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### **Educational Background**

Yale Parenting Center, Yale University, New Haven CT, USA

**Certification: Kazdin Parent Management Training, October 2013**

University of Connecticut, Storrs CT, USA

**Major: Master of Arts in Human Development and Family Studies, May 2006**

Concentration: Parent Education / Program Implementation

GPA: 3.9/4.0

Master of Arts Thesis: "Child Labor in the U.S. and Jordan: A Comparative Study"

University of Connecticut, Storrs CT, USA

**Major: Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies, May, 2004 -Magna Cum Laude (Degree with Distinction)**

Concentration: Child and Adolescent Development

GPA: 3.5/4.0

Senior Thesis: "Planning an Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Service for Adolescents in Jordan"

Al-Ahliyyah School for Girls, Amman, Jordan,

**General Certificate of Education (GCE), University of London, June, 2000**

### **Work Experience**

**Child Development & Parenting Specialist/Programming Consultant-** Private Practice, Amman, Jordan, January 2014-Present

- Offer parenting consultations with a focus on child problem behavior
- Provide child centered and developmentally appropriate plans and programs for NGO's, schools and preschools
- Offer consultations on the review, development and implementation of child, youth and family centered programs/activities and policies and procedures to entities
- Design and provide training and capacity building programs for professionals working with children, youth and parents
- Conduct qualitative research projects on child, youth and family centered services
- Develop proposals on child, youth and family centered services

Jordan River Foundation, Amman, Jordan, September 2011-December 2013

**Program Development Unit Manger**, Jordan River Child Safety Program

- Innovated and developed new programs and projects based on the organization vision/strategic plan
- Responsible for managing all activities of program development including community and needs assessments, program design, proposals and donor reporting
- Took the lead in developing the program's strategic plan
- Developed, assessed and reviewed financial budgets for proposals
- Oversaw the implementation of numerous projects; ensuring quality assurance

Jordan River Foundation, Amman, Jordan, October 2007-September 2011

**Technical Supervisor**, Queen Rania Family & Child Center

- Responsible for monitoring and evaluating the delivery of activities and programs related to children and youth within a Local Community Center
- Responsible for the design, facilitation and implementation of national and international Child Protection focused events
- Initiated, designed and facilitated a national youth leadership program targeting youth across Jordan
- Conducted and developed the content of the workshops and programs delivered within Center; with a specific focus on material related to Child Protection, ECD programming, Parent Education and Youth Empowerment programs
- Supervised and promoted the professional development of a team of five Child Trainers and a Youth Programs Coordinator
- Offered counseling and referral services to child/youth beneficiaries of the Local Community Center
- Prepared reports, concept papers and reviewed proposals related to Center activities

Jordan River Foundation, Amman, Jordan, September 2006-2007

**Family Support Specialist**

- Member of a six person multidisciplinary team responsible for establishing and delivering the first national child and family helpline
- Formulated concepts and various initiatives for public service outreach campaigns for families and school aged children across the country
- Conducted research, critiqued and composed a number of literature reviews and working papers on various topics related to child development, public/national family policy and child/family mental health
- Submitted reports to the Foundation concerning the helpline's internal functioning and assisted in the preparation of proposals to various donors for the helpline's outreach initiatives
- Offered counseling and child development consultations to families from different socioeconomic and educational backgrounds

School of Family Studies Graduate Assistantship, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, August 2004-May 2006

**Academic Advisor for Undergraduates in the School of Family Studies**

- Offered scheduling, career counseling and academic advising for undergraduates within the Family Studies program

School of Family Studies Dean's Office, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, 2000-2006

**Office Management Assistant**

- Performed financial transactions follow-up to include billing, record maintenance and computing and assisted the School's professors with research, teaching and examination tasks

University of Connecticut - Child Development Laboratories, Storrs, CT, Fall 2002

**Fieldwork Participant/Student**

- Participated in basic child care for infants and toddlers and took part in brainstorming initiatives on classroom setup and activity development
- Presented weekly reports on the development of children as well as an integrative case study on the development of an infant

**Additional Experience**

**Researcher, Management Systems International, Amman, Jordan 2016**

- Responsible for conducting key informant interviews and data collection for an independent evaluation of the Jordan Loan Guarantee Facility

**Consultant, Civic Initiatives Support Program, Amman, Jordan 2016**

- Offered a two phase capacity building program on Qualitative Research and the Focus Group Methodology to seven Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as part of the Disability Rights and Inclusion Grant Program through two training programs and one to one technical assistance sessions

**Researcher, Jordan River Foundation & UNICEF, Amman, Jordan 2016**

- Member of a three-person team responsible for conducting an evaluation of the national Family Protection System; with a focus on cases of Child Protection and Violence against Women
- Responsible for the design and delivery of evaluation tools for: focus groups, interviews and case file review

**Consultant, UNICEF & Ministry of Social Development, Amman, Jordan 2016**

- Offering capacity building and technical supervision for three cohorts of professionals working with foster care and juvenile delinquent families
- Responsible for the design and delivery of a training model for professionals to be adopted by the Ministry

**Researcher, Integrated Services-Indigenous Solutions, Amman, Jordan 2015**

- Member of a three-person team responsible for conducting an impact evaluation study for the *Queen Rania Award for Excellence in Education* using both qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Responsible for designing and facilitating 23 focus groups across Jordan with educators, administrators parents, and students and 11 key informant interviews with educators and stakeholders of the Award
- Conducted documentation, analysis and reporting activities for the study

**Researcher, RAND Corporation, Amman, Jordan 2015**

- Responsible for conducting qualitative research on the study for *Evaluation of the UNICEF-Government of Jordan Programs to Provide Education to Syrian Refugee Children and Support to Host Communities*

- Participated in the facilitation and co-facilitation of 31 focus group across Jordan with Syrian refugee children, parents and teachers as well as Jordanian educational service providers

**Consultant, Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan 2014- Present**

- Offering specialized capacity building programs on: Fundamental Skills for Working with Children and Concepts of Child Protection to various staff
- Conducting on-the-job training, including individual and group supervision sessions to Foundation staff currently working with children
- Providing in-service training and technical support to the Knowledge Path Children's Library team leader on various issues related to: technical supervision, recruitment and hiring as well as team management
- Leading the process for the development of Child Protection Policies and Procedures (Foundation wide) which includes the development of technical tools including a Code of Conduct as well as accompanying documents which reflect programmatic reassurances, responses and interventions undertaken by the Foundation to protect the children they serve
- Designing a training model for the dissemination and adoption of the Child Protection Policies and Procedures within the Foundation's different departments

**Technical Supervisor, JRF's Queen Rania Al Abdullah Center for Community Empowerment (QRCCE), Aqaba, Jordan 2011**

- Led the recruitment, hiring and capacity building process of staff, including local community center trainers and coordinators
- Designed the Center's annual action plan targeting the local community
- Offered technical supervision and support to the implementation of projects, daily programs and initiatives of the center

**Peer Trainer & Mentor; Focus Group Research, Amman, Jordan 2011**

- Member of a five person pool of Qualitative Research Mentors responsible for training and mentoring a group of civil society personnel on the Focus Group Methodology
- Led a three person team on the execution of a focus group project in Mafrqa, Jordan

**Consultant, Nour Al Hamied Organization, Tripoli, Lebanon 2010**

- Offered technical background and consultations on issues related, but not limited to: organizational structure, staffing, recruitment and interviewing, procurement of materials and equipment needed for the establishment of an orphanage in Tripoli
- Conducted field visits and interviews as part of a preliminary needs assessment in Tripoli to determine partners, referral networks and stakeholders for the set up of the orphanage

**Regional Master Trainer, Aflatoun: Child Social and Financial Education, 2010**

- Offer specialized trainings in the Aflatoun program which focuses on a child centered teaching methodology and a balanced approach to Child Social and Financial Education to both professionals and teachers. Participated in the creation of a core group of Master Trainers for the MENA region who have become equipped to deliver the Aflatoun Program

## **Skills**

Languages: Proficient in Arabic and English

Computer: Proficient in all Microsoft Office applications

## **Publications**

Khoury, Z., Qursha, S. (2015). *I am Human: A Child Friendly Version of the Human Rights Declaration*. Amman, Jordan. Jabal Amman Publishers.

Bishara-Rizeq, S., Qursha, S., & L., Abdul Majeed. (2012). An Integrated Approach to Advancing Children's Rights and Participation in Jordan. In J. Heymann & A. Cassola (Eds.), *Making Equal Rights Real: Taking Effective Action to Overcome Global Challenges*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.

Miller, J.M., Gustafson, G.E., Qursha, S.A., Lauretta, E.A., & Martin, J.E. (2004). Mood Changes and Care-giving Behaviors in Response to Infant Crying. Poster presented at the International Infant Cry Research Workshop, June 16-18, 2004, Turku, Finland

## **References**

References and writing samples available upon request