

# DR. AMANDA ALZENA SULLIVAN, PH.D.

Research scientist and educator with a focus on STEM learning. Track record of success across academia, industry, and nonprofit sectors.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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Playful STEAM Learning in the Early Years: An Educator's Guide to Screen-Free Explorations

Teachers College Press, 2025

Breaking the STEM Stereotype: Reaching Girls in Early Childhood

Rowman & Littlefield, 2019

20+ Peer-Reviewed Academic Publications

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0143-1641>

## NSF RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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BRITE Girls Online STEM Practices: Building Relevance and Identity to Transform Experiences (NSF# 2215138)

*Curriculum Developer; Leadership Team Member*

Breaking Stereotypes through Culturally Relevant Story Telling (NSF# 2115579)

*Advisory Board Member*

Advancing Innovation in Bio-Design through Reality-Based Interaction (NSF# 1149530)

*Postdoctoral Researcher*

Ready for Robotics: The Missing T and E of STEM in Early Childhood Education (NSF# 1118897)

*Project Coordinator*

Tangible programming in early childhood: Revisiting developmental assumptions through new technologies (NSF# 0735657)

*Graduate Research Assistant*

## CONSULTING WORK

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Research and education consultant. Clients have included:

- PBS Kids
- KinderLab Robotics
- Childcare Education Institute
- WGBH Boston
- Kreativa Technologies

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. in Child Study & Human Development

[Tufts University](#)

📅 2016

M.A. in Child Study & Human Development

[Tufts University](#)

📅 2012

B.A. in Psychology & Drama

[Bennington College](#)

📅 2009

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Senior Researcher

[National Girls Collaborative Project](#)

📅 2024 - Present

- Contributes to the strategic planning and implementation of a National Science Foundation-funded project focused on STEM education reaching 300+ girls, 50+educators, and cultivating partnerships with 20 informal education programs
- Works with internal and external partners to develop research products such as literature reviews, issue briefs, and journal publications
- Serves as National Girls Collaborative's lead developer of STEM curriculum

Senior Program Developer

[National Girls Collaborative Project](#)

📅 2022 - 2024

- Developed 20+ national webinars attended by hundreds of educators, researchers, and industry professionals
- Developed and implemented dozens of professional development workshops for educators on topics related to STEM education

Director of Identity and Educational Research

[Joulez](#)

📅 2018 - 2020

- Led research and evaluation of educational products measuring effects on girls' STEM attitudes, identity, and content knowledge

Associate Director, Early Childhood Technology Graduate Certificate Program

[Tufts University](#)

📅 2016 - 2019

- Launched a new graduate certificate program and managed operations including budget, hiring lecturers, and enrollment/admission
- Lecturer for 3 courses per year (2 online and 1 in-person per year)
- Academic Advisor to 30+ students over three years
- Recognized for excellence in teaching by Tufts University as a Finalist for the Teaching with Technology Award in 2018

Researcher (Doctoral and Postdoctoral)

[Developmental Technologies Research Group](#)

📅 2010 - 2019

- Project coordinator for a National Science Foundation-funded research project focused on robotics and coding in early childhood education
- Led mixed method data collection, analysis, and manuscript submissions
- Developed standards-aligned curricula
- Taught robotics, coding, and engineering in 4 private schools and 4 public schools in the greater Boston area
- Coordinated and supervised a service-learning trip for 30 Tufts students to teach robotics and coding at a public school in Harlem, NYC for one week
- Recognized for research excellence by Tufts University receiving the prestigious Eliot-Pearson Research Practice Integration Award in 2012
- Recognized for excellence in teaching by the Tufts Graduate Student Council receiving the Outstanding Contribution to Undergraduate Studies award in 2012 and 2014