**Ashley Watkins, M. Ed., RBT - Nov. 2019**

Within a few years of graduating with her Bachelor’s in Mass Communication, Ashley was inspired from her experience working as an after-school aide for a student with special needs. She decided to pursue a Master’s in Special Education from UAB and hasn’t looked back since. She began her career as a special educator at Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center in Birmingham, AL and is in her 5th year of teaching there. In 2016, she became a certified Registered Behavior Technician, which has exposed her to many evidence-based instructional methods associated with applied behavioral analysis including naturalistic teaching. She has recently become very interested in Pivotal Response Training, which is also based on tenets of ABA and plays on the interests of the student. Ashley has become very passionate about building her repertoire of effective educational strategies for individuals with autism, and she thoroughly enjoys discussing and learning effective educational strategies with other educators.