

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICUM

About the Site & Role of Psychology

Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) within Vancouver Coastal Health is an outpatient program for young children (0 to 5 years of age) and their families to promote children's mental health and to treat a wide range of behavioural and socio-emotional issues as well as parenting concerns (e.g., parent-child relationship concerns, feeding, sleeping, aggression, anxiety, toileting issues). Psychologists are members of an interdisciplinary team. They work closely with other health professionals on the team such as psychiatry and social work, as well as with various professionals outside the team such as speech/language pathologists, school support teams, and preschool staff. Psychologists provide comprehensive assessment and treatment, which is done through direct service to children and their families, and direct consultation and support to community partners that the child may be involved in. Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, the experience will be a mix of in-person and "virtual based" sessions, and hence will be more suitable for a senior student. More information about Early Childhood Mental Health Program can be found at: http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=270

Practicum Clinical Training Experiences Available.

This practicum is designed to give students clinical exposure in working with young children and their families. The practicum student will learn and practice how to complete assessments of young children and their families and to provide intervention in areas including developmental and behavioral issues, parental bonding, and attachment. The practicum also includes exposure to various types of psychotherapeutic interventions with this population including parent-child psychotherapy, family interventions, and parent-mediated intervention. There is a possibility of participating in outreach visits to community organizations and to do daycare/school observations.

Objectives:

ECMHP :

1. To acquire knowledge of early childhood mental health/psychiatric problems and their clinical presentation.
2. To develop clinical interviewing skills of young children and their families.
3. To become aware of treatment approaches and community resources for this population

Assessment Experience: Practicum students will conduct comprehensive assessments of young children and their families. Assessment will include clinical interviews with young children and their parents/caregivers, and at times, conducting cognitive, academic, adaptive functioning and socio-emotional assessments, to identify appropriate interventions for the children and their family. Practicum students will be involved in interviewing, test administration and scoring, case conceptualization, and report writing. They will also provide feedback to clients and their families and provide treatment recommendations.

Treatment Experience: Practicum students will be involved in individual and group intervention opportunities. Potential opportunities for individual intervention include consultations with parents on behavioural parent training, adapted parent-child interaction therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy for young children, and parenting strategies for children with

neurodevelopmental disorders. Potential opportunities for group intervention include Incredible Years Parenting Program, Being Brave anxiety parenting program, Circle of Security, reflective parenting group, and Yoga for preschoolers, etc.

Consultation Experience: Practicum students will interact and shadow our interdisciplinary team colleagues (e.g., child psychiatrists) to gain exposure to a wide range of experience (e.g., psychiatric consultation, autism assessment).

Access to Special Populations: The ECMH program involves working with young children aged 0 to 5 with their families. Exposure to developmental characteristics of mental illness, community liaison, child/parent psychotherapy, and work with interpreters and families of diverse cultural backgrounds (e.g, exposure to multi-cultural issues due to large Asian (Chinese), South Asian/Indo-Canadian, Middle-Eastern, Filipino and Russian populations).

Other Didactic Opportunities

Depending on their workdays, practicum students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of clinical rounds, infant mental health journal club, and weekly case discussions.

Structure & Duration Practicum placements will begin in the second week of September, XXXX (start time can be flexible). The duration, hours per week, and days of work are negotiable within the range of 1 -2 days per week for 8 or 12 months. The primary days of work must be Mondays and/or Tuesdays. There may be flexibility for a portion of the work hours on another day of the week to accommodate participation in a group run by other team members (psychiatry).

Stipend : None available.

Application Requirements

Suitable applicants will have: 1. Some experience with conducting clinical interviews, administering and scoring cognitive, adaptive functioning, and socio-emotional tests. 2. Some experience with psychological assessment report writing 3. Basic psychotherapeutic skills, as demonstrated through intervention coursework with a practicum component and/or prior practicum training. 4. Strong interests in early childhood mental health and demonstrated ability to work with young children and their caregivers

Application Process

Please submit a package containing the following by (date). 1. Cover letter that (a) provides a brief summary of your training in assessment, consultation, intervention, and any related experience and (b) outlines your training goals for the practicum. 2. Curriculum vitae. 3. Names and contact information for two references, as well as a letter of reference.

Please send applications via email to:

Dr. Sharon To, R.Psych & Dr. Mary Turri, R.Psych

Sharon.To3@vch.ca & Mary.Turri@vch.ca

Early Childhood Mental Health Program

620 – 8100 Granville Avenue, Richmond BC

We will conduct interviews in (month) and notify applicants on (Date).