

KNES 441/443/445 – PRACTICUM COURSE

Practicum Position Title: Child Development Assistant

of Positions Available: 2

Industry/Company Description:

Connect Society Early Childhood Services provides daily on-site preschool and kindergarten programming for children who have hearing loss (potentially with other challenges) and also for children who have a family member with hearing loss. The program encourages a child's whole development with a strong emphasis on speech /language skills. Occupational and Physical Therapy Services are available to the children as needed. Education and therapy goals are targeted during a wide variety of individual, small group and larger group play/therapy activities.

<http://www.connectsociety.org/services/early-childhood-services>

Location: Belvedere Parkway Elementary School
4631- 85 Street NW (North Entrance)

Required Hours: 60-72 hours per term – evenly dispersed throughout term:

- 5-6 hours per week during fall and winter terms (13 weeks)
- 10-12 hours per week during spring term (6 weeks)

Academic Session: Fall/Winter/Spring

Specified Schedule: Hours to be determined. Monday to Friday (9:00- 2:00)

Project Duties/Responsibilities:

Assisting the teachers and therapists with:

- Planning and implementation of developmentally appropriate gross motor and fine motor play activities for individuals and small groups in classroom, gym and outdoor play environments.
- Supporting and encouraging children's participation in language- focused play based activities (stories, drama, art, learning centres). Engaging with children as an active listener and communication partner.
- Planning and implementation of a variety of sensory exploration activities that support learning and attention through multiple modalities.
- Observing and assisting Speech and Language Therapist during small group therapy sessions. Help in the development of visual teaching supports used to augment language comprehension and expression.

Individual project such as:

- Create a resource manual of developmentally appropriate gross motor activities/games that can be implemented using existing equipment as well as generating a wish list of gross motor equipment for future purchasing consideration.

Required Student Qualifications:

- Police Record Check and Immunization Record
- Current CPR Certification
- KNES 201 (Activity: Essence and Experience) - required
- KNES 355 (Human Growth and Development) - required
- Other courses such as psychology and linguistics may be useful in interpreting the child's development and behaviour, whereas anthropology and sociology courses may be useful in interpreting how others people interact with the children.
- Desire and ability to engage and motivate young children
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with a multidisciplinary team
- Creative, energetic with an ability to be flexible as the situation demands

On-Site Supervisor: Teresa Foy (B.Ed)
Program Manager (TFoy@ConnectSociety.org)