KNES 441/443/445 – PRACTICUM COURSE

Practicum Position Title: Children’s Special Needs Program Assistant - Getting Ready for Inclusion Today (G.R.I.T.)

# of Positions Available: One

Industry/Company Description: The G.R.I.T program is a non-profit Early Childhood Education Program for preschool children with disabilities. The G.R.I.T. program is a highly individualized, home, community and school based Educational Program designed to meet the unique needs and aspirations of the child and family. (http://www.gritcalgarysociety.com/)

Location: #117 4615 112th Ave. SE Calgary

Required Hours: 60-72 hours per term – evenly dispersed throughout term (5-6 hrs/week):

Academic Session: Fall and Winter Terms Only

Project Duties/Responsibilities:

• Observe, assist, and participate in Occupational Therapy programs. An example is “feeding group” where the children – either with a disability, behaviour disorder, or recovering tracheotomy patient – are exposed to different foods and allowed to explore and learn through play. Engage, participate and assist the Occupational Therapist and help assess the session.

• Observe and assist in Physiotherapy assessments. Examples include – and are not limited to – tests that involve gross motor skills such as walking in a line or on a balance beam, throwing and catching a ball and jumping. Observe the assessments and if the Physiotherapist allows, assist by demonstrating tasks, motivating the child, recording observations, or setting up and cleaning up equipment.

• Observe and assist in Speech Therapy sessions. When permitted, help children reinforce the designated sounds that the Speech Pathologist is focused on for that session.

• Assist and participate in projects that allow children to develop fine motor skills such drawing, writing, painting, cutting, and gluing. Also helping to develop positive psychological health by increasing self-confidence through encouragement and positive motivation.

• Assist and participate in administrative work by constructing tools and programs tailored to children’s needs. An example is assembling “picture books”. These books contain small images that children and their caregivers can select to show what action they want to perform; examples include going to the washroom, reading a book, putting coat on, or going to the doctor’s. This tool allows children to communicate effectively with the people around them when they are unable to communicate verbally.

Required Student Qualifications:

• Police Record Check and Immunization Record
• Current CPR Certification
• The following classes would be considered assets: KNES 371, KNES 251, KNES 253, and KNES 355. 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 child.

• Ability to adapt programs to meet individual children’s needs; ability to motivate young children with disabilities
• Ability to work in a flexible environment
• Energetic and enthusiastic personality, good leadership, organizational, and communication skills

On-Site Supervisor: Annette Eckel, Fundraising Coordinator/Office Administrator (main contact) - annette@gritcalgarysociety.com