KNES 441/443/445 – PRACTICUM COURSE

Practicum Position Title: Occupational Therapy Assistant

# of Positions Available: One per term

Industry/Company Description: Lead Foundation
The teams at Lead Foundation work with children and their families to help children develop the best possible language, social, play, and motor skills, and to promote their independence and functioning throughout their daily activities. They work with all children, from those who have mild speech, motor, or behavior delays, to those with more complex challenges, including Autism Spectrum Disorder. Lead believes in have a natural, play based approach, and works with families in their homes, schools and out in the community. The team includes child development specialists, speech language pathologists, psychologists, clinical coordinators, program and behavior specialists, physical therapists and occupational therapists.

Location: 5271 Memorial Dr. SE

Required Hours: 60-72 hours per term – evenly dispersed throughout term:
- 5-6 hours per week during term 13 week term

Academic Session: Fall Term only

Specified Schedule: Willing to work around student’s academic schedule.

Duties/Responsibilities:
Under strict supervision of Occupational Therapist:
- Assist in the evaluation of child’s developmental skills including balance, attention span, sensory processing skills, visual motor integration skills, gross and fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and bilateral coordination using a variety of activities. Assessment tools include the Miller Function and Participation Scales (M-FUN), Peabody and Developmental Motor Scales 2nd edition (PDMS-2), Beery test of Visual Motor Integration (B-VMI), Sensory Processing Measure (SPM-P), Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI) and others.
- Alongside the Occupational Therapist (OT), attend sessions at various preschools and community outings throughout the city
- Assist the OT with the development of fine motor skills such as threading beads, tying shoelaces and cutting with scissors
- Assist OT with the development of plans and activities to target self-care skills such as eating, toileting, dressing etc
- Engage children in a variety of play activities to target various goals.
- Support various group sessions run at the office, including food school (based on the SOS approach, this group targets picky eating) and busy bodies (active play group that targets gross motor skills and sensory regulation)
- Implement and develop strategies to support children in increasing independence and engagement in classroom activities
- Develop visual supports to provide families to assist with their program goals
- Oversee arts & crafts activities; provide assistance with cutting, coloring and gluing as required.
- Alongside occupational therapist, meet with parents to set goals and program priorities.
- Investigate two new activities to target fine motor, self-care or sensory processing development that the occupational therapists could use in the future to build children’s skills level. At the end of the term, present OTs with a 2-page document outlining new activities including rationale, references and visuals.

Student Qualifications:
Required: KNES 373 Exercise Physiology
Required: KNES 367 Adapted Physical Activity
Required: Security/Vulnerable Sector Check (fees apply)
Required: Up to date copy of immunization record
Required: Access to own vehicle

For more information on Lead Foundation’s mission, philosophy and therapeutic approach, please visit the website at www.leadfoundation.ca

On-Site Supervisor: Santina Cimino Deschenes – sciminodeschenes@leadfoundation.ca