KNES 441/443/445 – PRACTICUM COURSE

Practicum Position Title: Occupational Therapy Assistant

Number of Positions Available: 1 or 2

Industry/Company Description: Renfrew Educational Services - Renfrew Educational Services offers early childhood services and elementary education programs for children with special needs, and their typically developing peers. Renfrew offers a broad range of specialized programs and is an acknowledged leader in program development for children with a variety of special needs. Using a transdisciplinary model, Renfrew brings together a wide range of professionals who work with families to develop individualized programs based on family priorities and the child’s abilities.

Location: Students will be working out of one of the following 5 school locations in the city:
- Janice McTighe Centre (NE Calgary)
- Park Place Centre (NE Calgary)
- Bowness Centre (NW Calgary)
- Child Development Centre (NW Calgary)
- Thomas Buchanan Centre (SE Calgary)

Required Hours: 60-72 hours per term – evenly dispersed throughout term:
- 5-6 hours per week during fall and winter terms (13 weeks)

Academic Session: Fall and Winter terms

Specified Schedule: All required hours (5-6 hours/week) must be completed within one day.

Project Duties/Responsibilities:

Under strict supervision, the student will work with children in the classroom, individually and in small groups. The student will work alongside therapists, therapy assistants and teachers in kindergarten and elementary classrooms in order to:
- Assist with development of fine motor skills such as drawing preprinting shapes, using crayons and pencils, cutting with scissors
- Assist with planning and overseeing activities that focus on the students’ goal areas. Examples of these activities may include crafts, games and learning how to print
- Assist with development of executive functioning in small group and classroom environments. The practicum student will assist children with keeping track of time, making plans, multitasking and making sure work is done on time.
- Assist with development of social skills in small group and classroom environments. The student will demonstrate how to take turns and respect personal space/boundaries
- Prepare classroom schedules and visuals using powerpoint and other methods. Students will investigate new methods for providing visual material for children with special needs.

Student Qualifications:
- KNES 201 – Activity: Essence and Experience required
- KNES 367 – Adapted Physical Activity required
- KNES 355 – Human Growth and Development an asset
- Police check and child intervention check
- First aid and CPR would be an asset

Interested students must contact the individual below to arrange an interview at the Child Development Centre. Please specify which location you prefer in your email.

Main contact: LoisBladon@renfreweducation.org.