

Graduate Research Assistant
Life Span Institute, University of Kansas
JUNIPER GARDENS CHILDREN'S PROJECT
Position Description

The Juniper Gardens Children's Project is a community-based research unit affiliated with the University of Kansas. We are seeking a graduate research assistant (Part time; .50-.75 EFT) to join our research team in a study of classroom practices that promote language and literacy learning for preschool children. The GRA will conduct preschool literacy and language assessments, will conduct classroom observations, and will assist with data entry and other research tasks. Candidate must have strong organizational and communication skills as evidenced by work history. Must have reliable transportation and must be able to work during times the classrooms are in session. Reimbursement for local travel in addition to salary. If the position is offered, the applicant must pass a background check. Continuation is dependent on yearly funding and satisfactory yearly evaluation.

Job Duties

1. Administer assessments of language and early literacy to preschool children, to measure children's growth and outcomes prior to kindergarten.
2. Conduct observations of teachers and children in preschool classrooms, within the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. The purpose is to assess children's engagement in classroom activities and classroom support for language and literacy.
3. Through training provided by the project, achieve and maintain standards for accurate and reliable data collection.
4. Complete and score assessment forms.
5. Assist with data entry and data checking.
6. Participate in team meetings.
7. Assist the investigators and coordinators with other research tasks as needed.

Required Qualifications:

1. Current enrollment (6+ hours) in a KU graduate program in Special Education, Child Development, Education, School Psychology, or a related field
2. Experience working with young children (minimum 6 months)
3. Experience with Microsoft Office

Note: Candidate must pass a background check.

Preferred Qualifications

1. Work experience with preschool children (1 year or more)
2. Experience conducting standardized assessments or observations (6 months or more)

FTE: Salary is based on 20-30 hours per week.

SALARY: \$15.71--\$17.00, hourly; \$628.40--\$680.00 biweekly, at .50 FTE, commensurate with education and work experience. **Reimbursement for local travel in addition to salary.**

DEADLINE/START DATE: Review of applications will begin November 20, 2009, and will continue until the position is filled. Starting date is when the position is filled.

TO APPLY: All applicants must provide a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 professional references. To apply, send application materials to Jane Atwater – janea@ku.edu, 913-321-3143.

The University of Kansas is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The University encourages applications from underrepresented group members. Federal and state legislation prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability, and veteran status. In addition, University policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, marital status and parent status. **EO/AA**