Postdoctoral Research Training in Special Education: Response to Intervention (RTI) In Early Childhood

This Postdoctoral Training Program at the Juniper Gardens Children’s Project (JGCP) is recruiting for 2 postdoctoral researchers, full time, for a two-year period beginning August-September, 2014, at 100% FTE. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide the Postdoctoral Researcher with experience that will enable their ability to conduct high quality special education research in early childhood settings. The goal of the training program is to prepare early childhood researchers with the content, methodology, and competitive proposal development skills necessary to conduct the next generation of research on the RTI approach in early intervention and early childhood special education.

Postdoctoral researchers will learn first-hand of advances in the RTI prevention approach in early childhood and interrelated research and methodological foci. These foci include:

(I) The Knowledge and Content domain of RTI the prevention/intervention framework; advances in early childhood RTI models; language, social-emotional, and early literacy competency domains; instructional interventions, curricula, and multiple tiers of support; and research communication (e.g., publications, presentations).

(II) The Measurement and Research Methods domain embracing universal screening and progress monitoring measurement in RTI models including their unique psychometric properties as well as website supports for achieving scalability; rigorous experimental study designs (i.e., single case and randomized control trials); and univariate and latent growth modeling techniques (i.e., HLM, SEM) for use in RTI research.

The program is housed at the Juniper Gardens Children’s Project (JGCP), a community-based urban research facility affiliated with the Institute for Life Span Studies at the University of Kansas. Six researchers and faculty at the JGCP and the KU Center for Research Methods and Data Analysis who are collaboratively engaged in early childhood RTI research will provide mentoring and training for the Postdoctoral Researcher.

Previous Post-Doctoral Fellows at the Juniper Gardens Children’s Project have gone on to research and faculty positions at major universities including Florida International University, University of Washington, Kent State, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, University of Indiana, Iowa State University, University of Kansas, and Kennedy Krieger Institute.

This position requires a two-year commitment. Granting agency requires that the candidates for this position be either U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents. Candidates must successfully pass a background check. The position is based at JGCP, located at the Children’s Campus of Kansas City in Kansas City, KS.
Responsibilities:

The Researcher will work with faculty mentors as follows:
1. Affiliate with a Research Faculty Mentor and their research program for research participation in order to collaborate with this research team in the conduct of applied research with young children at risk/with delays and from diverse subpopulations including attending weekly meetings and conducting a complimentary intervention study (50%)
2. Complete IES grant preparation including literature reviews, pilot studies, and grant applications in order to learn how to write a competitive application (20%)
3. Produce professional research documents and communications for dissemination findings to the larger community of early intervention, early childhood special education, and early education and submit to peer-reviewed journals, and professional organizations for presentation at their national conferences (10%)
4. Use RTI relevant measurement tools (i.e., progress and mastery monitoring) to identify and design learning experiences for children at 3 tiers of risk (10%)
5. Attend/monitor agreed upon courses and seminars to increase knowledge in the content and methods foci of the project (8%)
6. Develop, maintain, and evaluate an annual Individual Fellow Plan (IFP) based on the Postdoctoral Researchers strengths, weaknesses, and interests that can be used to organize and evaluate individual progress in the training program (2%).

Required qualifications:

1. PhD in a discipline related to children’s learning, education, and development such as language/communication disorders, early intervention or early childhood special education, early education, applied behavior analysis, or the psychology disciplines (e.g., quantitative, child, developmental, educational, school psychology, etc.).
2. One year minimum experience conducting research studies
3. Excellent writing skills as evidenced by quality of application materials, peer-reviewed publications, dissertation, or writing sample.

Preferred qualifications:

1. Experience with children with/at risk for developmental delay, language delays, social-emotional problems, and/or delays in early literacy
2. Experience with statistics and quantitative methods (e.g., growth modeling)
3. Research experiences with the implementation of a) single subject experimental design studies, or b) randomized control trials developing/evaluating intervention techniques for young children
4. Interests in the uses of information and communication technologies in research
5. Publication in peer-reviewed journals.
6. Strong oral communication skills as evidenced by work and/or education experience.

FTE: 100%
**SALARY:** $52,500 annually plus health benefits.

Candidates must successfully pass a background check.

**DEADLINE:** The review of applications will begin April 22, 2014 and continue until position(s) is filled.

**HOW TO APPLY:** For more information and to apply go to [http://employment.ku.edu/staff/162BR](http://employment.ku.edu/staff/162BR)  
EOE M/F/D/V

Please submit an online application, cover letter, vitae and contact information for three professional references. In the cover letter, please indicate how you see this particular training experience helping advance your professional skills and goals in preschool RTI research. **In your letter, please include paragraphs describing what you would like to accomplish in each of the two content domains: (1) early child RTI knowledge, and (2) measurement and research methods.**

*Applicants must also submit a professional writing sample (e.g., publication, dissertation) to Dr. Greenwood ([greenwood@ku.edu](mailto:greenwood@ku.edu)).

*Applicants must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident.*

Information on this Postdoctoral Research (Job Posting 162BR), can be viewed at [http://employment.ku.edu/staff-jobs](http://employment.ku.edu/staff-jobs)

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 parental status. **EO/AA**