

About the Site & Role of Psychology

Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) within Vancouver Coastal Health is an outpatient program for young children (0 to 5 years of age) and their families to promote children's mental health and to treat a wide range of behavioural issues as well as parenting concerns (e.g., parent-child relationship concerns, feeding, sleeping, aggression, anxiety, toileting issues, adjustment to adoption). Psychologists are members of interdisciplinary team. They work closely with other health professionals on the team such as psychiatrists and social worker, as well as with various professional outside the team such as speech/language pathologists, school support teams, and preschool staff. Psychologists provide comprehensive assessment and treatment, and is done through direct service to clients, families and direct consultation and support to community partners that the child may be involved in. Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, most of the experience will be primarily "virtual based", and hence will be more suitable for a senior student. More information about Early Childhood Mental Health Program can be found at: http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=270

Practicum Clinical Training Experiences Available.

This practicum is designed to give students clinical exposure in working with young children and their families. Practicum student will learn and practice how to complete assessments of young children and their families and to see follow-ups in areas including developmental and behavioral issues, parental bonding and attachment. It also includes exposure to various types of psychotherapeutic interventions with this population including parent-child psychotherapy, couple/family interventions, and play therapy. Possibility of participating in outreach visits to community organizations and to do daycare/school observations. Possibility of participating in a reflective parenting group therapy.

Objectives:

ECMHP :

1. To acquire knowledge of early childhood mental health/psychiatric problems and their clinical presentation.
2. To develop clinical interviewing skills of young children and their families.
3. To become aware of treatment approaches and community resources for this population

Assessment Experience: Practicum students will conduct comprehensive assessments of young children and their families. Assessment will include clinical interviews with young children and their parents/caregivers, and at times, conduct cognitive, academic, adaptive functioning and socio-emotional assessments, to identify appropriate interventions for the children and their family. Practicum students will be involved in interviewing, test administration and scoring, case conceptualization, and report writing. They will also provide feedback to clients and their families and provide treatment recommendations.

Treatment Experience: Practicum students will be involved in individual and group intervention opportunities. Potential opportunities for individual intervention include consultations with parents on parent behaviour management, adapted parent-child interaction therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy for young children, trauma-focused CBT, etc. Potential opportunities for group intervention include Incredible Years Parenting Program, Reflective parenting, Circle of Security, Yoga for preschoolers, etc.

Consultation Experience: Practicum students will interact and shadow our interdisciplinary team colleagues (e.g., child psychiatrists) to gain exposure to a wide range of experience (e.g., psychiatric consultation, autism assessment)

Access to Special Populations: ECMH involve working with young children aged 0 to 5 with their families. Exposure to developmental characteristics of mental illness, community liaison, child/parent psychotherapy, and work with interpreters and families with a different cultural background (e.g, exposure to multi-cultural issues due to large Asian (Chinese), South Asian/Indo-Canadian, Middle-Eastern, Filipino and Russian populations).

Other Didactic Opportunities

Depending on their workdays, practicum students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of clinical rounds, infant mental health journal club, and weekly case discussions.

Structure & Duration Practicum placements will begin in the second week of September, 2021 (start time can be flexible). The duration, hours per week, and days of work are negotiable within the range of 1 day per week for 4-6 months.

Stipend

None available.

Application Requirements

Suitable applicants will have: 1. Some experience with conducting clinical interviews, administering and scoring cognitive, adaptive functioning, and socio-emotional tests. 2. Some experience with psychological assessment report writing 3. Basic psychotherapeutic skills, as demonstrated through intervention coursework with a practicum component and/or prior practicum training. 4. Strong interests in early childhood mental health and demonstrated ability to work with young children and their caregivers

Application Process

Please submit a package containing the following by February 22, 2021. 1. Cover letter that (a) provides a brief summary of your training in assessment, consultation, intervention, and any related experience and (b) outlines your training goals for the practicum. 2. Curriculum vitae. 3. Names and contact information for two references.

Please send applications to:

Dr. Sharon To, R.Psych

Sharon.To3@vch.ca

Early Childhood Mental Health Program, Richmond Hospital
7000 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC V6X 1A2

We will conduct interviews early in March and notify applicants on March 29, 2021.