

## EARLY Childhood Practicum at DePaul FCS

DePaul Family & Community Services (FCS) is pleased to offer a practicum placement for predoctoral psychology graduate students with a focus on the Early Childhood population. Preference will be given to practicum students who commit to a 20-hour weekly practicum placement by participating in the combination of all three (3) therapeutic intervention and assessment programs listed below. “Add-on” or “contained” practicum experiences with a focus on a single Early Childhood program may be available but are at the discretion of the attending psychologist. The three Early Childhood clinical training programs are as follows:

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### **Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Clinic:**

**Program:** Treatment program for children with primary or secondary disruptive behaviors  
**Hours:** 5 hours per week (2p – 3:30p on Wednesdays required; other hours flexible scheduling)  
40-hour didactic training 07/23/17 – 07/27/17 required  
**Population:** Children ages 2 – 6 years and their caregivers  
**Prerequisites:** Completed 1 year graduate coursework in psychology or social work  
**Supervision:** Weekly group and live supervision; ad hoc individual supervision  
**Attending:** Christina Warner-Metzger, Ph. D., [cwarner5@depaul.edu](mailto:cwarner5@depaul.edu)

**Description:** PCIT is an evidence-based family therapy for children exhibiting primary or secondary disruptive behaviors. Diagnoses typically include disruptive behavior disorders, although children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, developmental delays, or internalizing disorders are also treated. DePaul FCS serves a population diverse in ethnicity and socioeconomic status. For training, students complete 40 hours of didactic training introducing the founding theories of PCIT (attachment, behavior, and social learning theories), as well as basic play therapy skills and parent training skills. Students also learn a structured behavioral coding system for parent-child interactions that is used during diagnostic evaluations and as part of the weekly sessions. During the clinical services phase of PCIT, which takes 16-20 weeks per case, students are expected to carry a caseload of 2 to 4 clients throughout the academic year and gain experience working in a co-therapy dyad. Live, group, and individual supervision are provided by a PCIT International Certified Master Trainer.

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### **Early Assessment and Recommendations for Learning in Young Children (EARLY) Clinic:**

**Program:** Assessment program for children with developmental concerns  
**Hours:** 10 hours per week (8:30a – 6p on Tuesdays required)  
**Population:** Children ages 0 – 7 years  
**Prerequisites:** Completed psychological assessment coursework  
Completed 1 year assessment practicum experience  
**Supervision:** Live and individual supervision  
**Attending:** Christina Warner-Metzger, Ph. D., [cwarner5@depaul.edu](mailto:cwarner5@depaul.edu)

**Description:** EARLY requires a rigorous full-day schedule in which a developmental assessment battery is conducted, scored, and interpreted. Preliminary results and recommendations are given to the family during a feedback session on the day of testing. The training opportunity requires extensive knowledge of test administration, behavioral management for young children (especially those with developmental considerations), diagnostic conceptualization, and skill writing technical, integrated reports in a timely manner. The typical developmental battery includes assessments of cognitive, adaptive, school readiness/academic, socioemotional, and relational functioning. Students will receive exposure to specialized assessments, such as the Bayley Scales of Infant Development, Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI), and Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS).

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### **Relational and Early Learning Assessment Team (RELATe):**

Program: Assessment program for children and caregivers with relational concerns  
Hours: 4 hours per week (Mondays from 9a – 12p required; other hours, flexible scheduling)  
Population: Children ages 1 – 7 years and their caregivers  
Prerequisites: Completed 1 year of practicum experience Supervision: Group and live supervision  
Attending: Cecilia Martinez-Torteya, Ph.D., [cmart121@depaul.edu](mailto:cmart121@depaul.edu)

Description: RELATe offers assessment services from a developmental-relational perspective on early childhood mental health, using evidence-based relationally-focused assessment and feedback tools. RELATe serves children and caregivers with relational concerns, including children with histories of maltreatment of family violence, caregiving disruptions or losses (adoption, foster care, maternal or paternal separations), caregivers with a history of interpersonal trauma or mental illness, or other factors that impact the caregiver-child relationship. The 90-minute assessment includes unstructured and structured tasks (e.g., free play, clean-up, separations and reunions), as well as semi-structured interviews to assess parental working models of relationships and insightfulness (two important predictors of parent-child relationship quality). A 60-minute video-feedback session focuses on clarifying relationship strength and weaknesses, promoting insightfulness and enhancing motivation for change.

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### **Additional Optional Training Opportunities**

Practicum students who participate in any of the above Early Childhood experiences (PCIT, EARLY, or RELATe) may also attend **Weekly Training Inservices** provided at DePaul FCS. The inservices are typically scheduled from 10a – 12p on Wednesdays (2 hours per week).