



Our mission is to help all children reach their full potential by supporting the relationships and environments that shape early development.

Mental Health Training Program

CDI Training Program

The Child Development Institute is held in high regard by several local universities and colleges as one of the best training institutes for gaining high quality supervision and training in working with the 0-5 population and their families. At CDI, Mental Health Trainees/Associates provide relationship based early intervention focused on supporting the parent/child dyad to improve early attachment and developmental outcomes.

Application/Interview Process

CDI accepts Mental Health Trainee/Associate applicants approximately twice a year. Primarily in January and July, however these dates are subject to change due to fluctuations in clientele and staffing. Interested applicants may send a resume and letter of intent to Wendy Lara, Human Resource Coordinator at wlara@cdikids.org.

CDI values applicants who are experienced in working with young children and have a beginning knowledge of child development. Previous experience with children with special needs is helpful, but not mandatory. Qualities needed for this internship include; high level of interest in supporting young children and their families, understanding of the value of personal relationships and relationship based interventions, strong communication and organizational skills, desire to work with adults as well as with children, eager to learn and take initiative and possesses an overall level of maturity and professionalism.

CDI Orientation Training Program

Orientation training classes are offered twice a year. Dates are subject to change.

- January/February
- July/August

Class List:

- *Early Relationships/Attachment/Neurobiology*
- *Child Development: Birth-6 years*
- *Development of Play: Birth-6 years*

- *Individual Differences: Autism Spectrum Disorders/Regulatory Disorders/Other Disorders of Early Childhood*
- *Building Relationships/Parent Coaching*
- *Strengthening Families & Protective Factors*
- *DIR Model and Scaffolding Social-Emotional Development Through Play*
- *Addressing Challenging Behaviors through a Relational Model*
- *Reflective Practice*
- *Intake, Treatment Planning, Goals, Notes and Reports*
- *Allied Health – Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Sensory Integration*
- *Roles and Relationships - Interdisciplinary Treatment*
- *Social Skills Groups & Parent Support Groups*
- *Promotion, Prevention & Intervention Model*
- *Law & Ethics*
- *CDI Funding Sources and Procedures*

During orientation, Trainees/Associates observe live cases:

- 20+ hours of observations

The amount of time observing and being observed is flexible, depending on individual learning styles and the needs of a specific case.

Supervision

CDI provides Reflective Supervision to Trainees/Associates for 1 hour a week of individual supervision and 2 hours a week of group supervision (held on Fridays from 12-2pm). Additional supervision is available as needed. Videos of live sessions and/or live observations by supervisors are also required.

CDI Mental Health Supervisors have a depth of training in the following areas; Reflective Practice, Trauma Informed Care, Strengthening Families and Protective Factors, Interpersonal Neurobiology, Attachment/Early Relationships, and Maternal Mental Health.

- **Certifications:**
 - Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist Endorsement
 - Infant-Family and Early Childhood Reflective Practice Facilitator II Endorsement
 - Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI)
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst

Ongoing Training

CDI staff receive monthly In-Service Trainings and Interdisciplinary Team Meetings and Trainees/Associates receive additional training on various theories and topics related to the field; Psychodynamic and Family Systems theory, Trauma Informed Care, the Watch Wait Wonder technique, the DIR/Floortime Model as well as ongoing Reflective Practice and Parent Coaching techniques.

Training and direct client application in the following Developmental Screeners/Mental Health Screeners:

- The Survey of Wellbeing of Young Children (SWYC)
- Parent Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire, Social Emotional (ASQ-SE)
- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT)
- Edinburgh's Depression Scale

Developmental Assessments:

- Battelle Developmental Inventory
- PEDS DM: Developmental Milestones

Additional Certificate Programs Available:

- Center for Prevention and Early Intervention (CPEI) Early Start Online Professional Development Certificate
- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Certificate
- Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist Endorsement through The California Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health

Review Process

After the first three months of employment, new staff complete a probationary review meeting with his/her supervisor and Director of Clinical Programs or Program Specialist. Annual reviews occur each year from the start date of employment and are based on expected core competencies.

Commitment

The CDI internship is a 1 year (12 month) commitment. If the current CDI Trainee/Associate is interested in staying beyond the first year, he/she will need to apply for a Level Two Associate.

Qualities needed for a Level Two Associate include; career focus of specialization in young children and family mental health, proficiency in child development and working with families using a developmental, relationship based model, excellent communication skills, excellent case management skills, team player, high interest in training members of staff and members of the community, high interest in learning to administer developmental assessments and overall confidence in quality of work delivery.

Child Development Institute
6340 Variel Avenue, Suite A
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
818-888-4559

CDI Early Learning Center
7260 Owensmouth Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91303
818-712-0453

www.cdikids.org · facebook.com/childdevelopmentinstitute

Mental Health Trainee/Associate

(1st Year, Level One)

Reports to: Tessa Graham, Director of Clinical Programs

Responsibilities:

- Provide direct early intervention and mental health services to children, ages 0-7 and their families at CDI, in the home, in school and/or in the community for a minimum of 12 client hours, max of 30 client hrs. /wk.
- Participate in weekly supervision regarding the needs of all assigned cases, minimum two hours a week of group supervision and one hour a week of individual supervision
- Attend staff meetings, in-services and trainings
- Collaborate with other disciplines including, occupational therapy, speech therapy, educational therapy, school districts, regional centers and CDI staff. Coordinating program services with team members and other community agency representatives
- Complete case management of all assigned cases. This includes charting, report writing, managing client hours, communication with other service providers and interventionists on assigned cases
- Produce all required reporting and assessment of assigned children, such as note taking, billing and any other paperwork necessary on a weekly basis
- Identify, request, and obtain additional intervention services for assigned children as needed
- Participate in all IFSP/IPP/IEP meetings for assigned children, acting as coordinator of information between family and other members of the team
- Observe health and safety precautions in all activities
- Ensure treatment areas are clean, safe and organized before and after each session

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in early childhood mental health or education related field, early childhood teaching credential, therapy licensure or certification
 - Minimum of one year experience working with toddlers and young children
 - Demonstrated ability to work in a family centered, collaborative way with parents and professionals
 - One year commitment
 - Current enrollment in graduate program or working toward licensure
- Level 1 Associates/Trainees are paid for billable client contact hours, two hours per progress report and mileage.

Physical Requirements:

Must be able to:

- Ability to bend, squat, turn and move to respond and physically interact with children ages 0-8
- Lift at least 25 pounds.
- Effectively use a computer and telephone to conduct business.
- Travel occasionally for in-home sessions during the morning, day, and/or weekend hours.

Exemption Status: Non-Exempt, Part-Time position