



Child Development Specialist

POSITION SUMMARY

The Child Development Specialist supports the learning and development of young children with visual impairments through early intervention services and group programs.

DGC's early intervention service model is family-centered and involves a holistic, multidisciplinary team approach to build the family's capacity to care for the child and promote the child's growth and development in natural environments where families live, work, and play. The EI team brings critical resources to children, their families, and caregivers during the early years of development.

Group programs at the Delta Gamma Center include early childhood groups for children six and under, family fun activities, and family education and support groups. DGC's early childhood group programs foster the development of social skills, friendships, and independence through fun and challenging activities. Family fun activities provide families opportunities to meet and get support from other families in similar situations, build confidence to go out into the community and have fun as a family.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Early Intervention

- Conducts developmental assessments as needed
- Collaborates with parents and other professionals to develop and monitor child and family goals and the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Consults and collaborates with team professionals to assure high quality and coordinated service delivery to achieve IFSP goals
- Supports parents and other professionals in understanding child development and provides resources on how to work with children with a disability and other topics as needed
- Plans and provides individualized developmental services supporting IFSP goals at home, in the community and at DGC when appropriate

- Uses modeling and coaching strategies to increase family confidence and competence in promoting the child's learning and development
- Supports the family in adapting everyday activities to promote the child's optimal development and learning
- Prepares the family and the child for transition to preschool and other community-based programs
- Respects the unique interests, culture, needs, and priorities of each child and family and builds on their strengths and abilities
- Provides oral and written reports of assessments, treatments, and progress updates to parents, team members and management
- Maintains attendance records and client files in compliance with DGC and early intervention system requirements
- Attends DGC and EI team meetings and consults with other agencies/professionals as needed
- Stays current on best practices, evidence-based interventions, emerging trends and technologies by reviewing professional journals and research, participating in professional associations, and/or attending workshops and conferences

Group Activities

- Plans and facilitates regular groups and special activities for children six and under, providing a safe, fun, and challenging environment in which participants can build social skills and friendships, as well as independence
- Participates as an active member of family fun activity planning team and provides staff support for events
- Participates in planning, development, and implementation of child and parent workshops and activities in collaboration with other DGC staff

- Other duties as assigned such as assisting with other DGC activities for families and older children, special events, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum of bachelor's degree in early childhood special education, special education, early childhood education, or child/human development from an accredited school
- One-two years of experience working with children (0-5) with disabilities is required; five years of experience in early childhood development/education is preferred
- Experience working with children with visual impairments or related experience in a home-based setting is a plus; interest in working toward a certification to teach students who are visually impaired is a plus
- Experience planning and facilitating early childhood groups or parent child activities is a plus
- Possesses strong interpersonal and communication skills with children and families from diverse backgrounds and professionals from other fields
- Flexibility in scheduling to meet needs of families and program
- Excels at collaborating and communicating with team members from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds
- Capable of functioning independently to effectively meeting deadlines and other service requirements seeking supervisory consultation when necessary
- Ability and willingness to travel independently to provide home and community-based services as assigned

REPORTS TO

Early Intervention and Early Childhood Program Manager

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

- Full-time (37.5 hours per week) or PRN (providing a minimum of 12-15 billable hours on average per week)

- Enroll as **a DGC provider** with Missouri and/or Illinois early intervention systems
- Complete specialized training and other requirements to obtain required certification and/or licensure and early intervention credentials
- Complete training related to working with infants and toddlers with visual impairments and other disabilities and providing home visiting services as needed
- Background check, drug screen and health certification completed upon offer of employment
- Must have a car and maintain a valid driver's license, auto insurance and acceptable driving record to meet travel requirements of service area
- Must be physically able to lift or move 30-50 pounds; push/pull and lift equipment and supplies; assist children by bending, crouching, kneeling, sitting in chairs and/or on floor and reaching in all directions; and stand, sit or drive for long periods

TO APPLY

1. Submit a cover letter explaining why you are interested in this position and how your personality, skills, and professional experience make you the ideal candidate for the position outlined in the job description.
2. Submit a resume outlining your professional experience and achievements, education, and relevant training and credentials, and
3. Email cover letter and resume to **employment@dgckids.org** or fax to 314.776.7808.