

# Delta Gamma Center

## Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments & Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Delta Gamma Center's mission is to help children who are blind or visually impaired reach their full potential through family-centered, specialized services and community support.

### POSITION SUMMARY

Early intervention (EI) providers at Delta Gamma Center (DGC) support the learning and development of infants and toddlers with a visual impairment most of whom have additional disabilities. Our 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.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conducts assessments including developmental, functional vision, CVI range, learning media, and orientation and mobility assessments
- Collaborates with parents and other professionals to develop and monitor child and family goals and the Individual 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 the child's visual impairment, its effect on the child's development, and orientation and mobility; and provides resources on how to work with children who are blind or have low vision and other topics as needed
- Serves as a liaison between the medical and school communities and the family
- Plans and provides individualized vision, orientation and mobility, and 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
- Recommends adaptations of the environment to optimize the child's use of sensory information and to encourage self-initiated movement, exploration, and engagement
- Helps the child become confident to move purposefully, independently and safely through their environment using an adapted mobility device (pre-cane) or cane as needed
- Plans and facilitates group child and parent workshops and activities as needed

- 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
- 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 special education from an accredited school with a valid Missouri or Illinois certification to teach students who are visually impaired
- Valid certification as an orientation and mobility specialist by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) is required
- TVI/O&M experience is a plus
- Experience working with young children (birth to six) with visual impairments or related experience in a home-based setting 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**

Director of Early Intervention Services

## **TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT**

- Full-time (37.5 hours per week) or PRN (providing a minimum of five 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 maintain required certification and/or licensure and early intervention credentials
- Complete training related to working with infants and toddlers 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

## **BENEFITS**

Benefits offered to full-time employees include:

- Competitive salary, performance and retention bonuses
- Medical, dental, short-term and long-term disability, and life insurance
- Defined contribution pension (5% employer contribution) & tax-deferred annuity plans
- Paid time off: vacation, sick leave, personal time, holidays, winter (one week) and summer (one week) breaks, parental leave
- Professional development opportunities: educational reimbursement, training, conferences, and memberships
- Mileage reimbursement at IRS rate and cell phone reimbursement
- Access to assistive equipment and supplies and a toy and book lending library

Benefits offered to PRN employees include:

- Competitive wages
- Paid staff meetings
- Participation in a tax-deferred annuity plan depending on number of hours worked
- Financial support for professional development opportunities: conferences and trainings
- Mileage reimbursement at IRS rate
- Access to assistive equipment and supplies and a toy and book lending library

## TO APPLY

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- 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.
- Submit a resume outlining your professional experience and achievements, education, and relevant training and credentials, and
- Complete a brief questionnaire that should take no more than 10-20 minutes.

Click on the link below to complete the questionnaire and upload your documents. You won't be able to save your answers and come back, so please make sure you have your documents ready to upload and have enough time to complete the questionnaire.

Please make sure the file names of your documents include your name and type of document (e.g. lname\_fname\_cvrltr, lname\_fname\_resume).

<https://dgckids.typeform.com/to/JoDQkz>