

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Early Childhood Translational and Applied Research
Brazelton Touchpoints Center
Division of Developmental Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Position Description:

The Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC) in the Division of Developmental Medicine through the Division of Psychology at Boston Children's Hospital offers a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Early Childhood Translational and Applied Research.

The BTC Postdoctoral Fellow will engage in research on interventions with young children and families, including early care and education, dual-generation programs (e.g., Head Start and Early Head Start), child welfare, pediatric health care (including medicine and nursing), home visiting, and other early childhood programs in the community. In addition, postdoctoral research will focus on translating and applying knowledge on parent, family, and community engagement, as well as young children (prenatal to age eight) and families living with adversity. The nature of our work is in keeping with the philosophy of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center and the goals of the Division of Psychology at BCH. The goals for this post-doctoral fellowship are in keeping with the philosophy of BTC as well as the Division of Psychology. Our overall aim in every aspect of the experience is to increase knowledge about diversity issues, to emphasize the latest practice and research techniques with demonstrated efficacy, and integrate a developmental perspective, and support ethical, collegial and responsible practice.

This position provides the Postdoctoral Fellow access to a wide array of evaluation and research projects that are currently active at BTC. The studies vary in their specific objectives, but share the common goal of bridging research and practice in the field of early childhood with attention to promoting child wellbeing and positive parent-child relationships in the face of various adversities. Most studies focus on determining the effects of interventions on direct service providers, families, and children. Some investigations examine the role of community-level interventions in the lives of vulnerable families. Others explore the impact of trauma and adversity (e.g., child abuse and neglect, poverty, family conflict) on children's development, and the role of risk and protective factors in program outcomes. A second key role for the BTC Postdoctoral Fellow is to support the synthesis of research in the field and to contribute to conceptualizing and writing practice-focused materials for the Office of Head Start National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (NCPFCE).

Primary projects available to the Postdoctoral Fellow are evaluations of ongoing intervention studies on the Touchpoints Model of professional development, community multi-level studies on implementation of a range of services in early care, health care, and other social and community organizational, and home visiting. A central focus of each of these evaluation studies is how the interventions impact provider and family relational and strengths-based skills, knowledge, and practices with one another. Other projects include a longitudinal follow-up study of Early Head Start on child welfare involvement and community-level evaluations of early childhood systems of care and home visiting programs in Native American communities.

The BTC Postdoctoral Fellow also will extend his or her expertise to the use of multiple analytic strategies (both quantitative and qualitative) to: (1) examine data from existing projects, (2) contribute to the development and design of new research projects, (3) participate in a program of grant writing, (4) develop materials that support the translation and application of research to practice in early childhood settings (e.g., research-to-practice briefs), (5) contribute to papers submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals, (6) develop presentations for scientific conferences, and (7) write evaluation reports. The fellowship also will provide opportunities to work with other members of the Research and Evaluation Unit at BTC to design and develop surveys and other measures, create systems for data management

and analysis, and assist in the development of a system for continuous quality improvement. Further, the Postdoctoral Fellow will receive training in the Touchpoints model and have the option to work with trainers to craft and implement professional development offerings. Opportunities to connect be engaged with other fellows from Psychology is an integral part of the fellowship.

Eligibility:

Candidate must hold a PhD/EdD in psychology, child development, or a related degree with some emphasis on early childhood. BTC actively encourages applications from women and members of historically underrepresented groups.

Please note that this is an open fellowship. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants should complete the Boston Children's Hospital Postdoctoral Fellowship application ("Application for Postdoctoral Psychology Fellowship") and send the completed application, letter of interest, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, two first author publications (or publications in which the candidate took a primary role), and a one-page cover letter describing career goals, research interests, and certified transcript of doctoral work to Ms. Carol Berne, Department of Psychiatry, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.

To find out more, please contact Catherine C. Ayoub, RN, EdD., Catherine.Ayoub@childrens.harvard.edu

