

## **Curriculum for the Harris Fellowship in Child Development and Early Childhood Education**

Harris Fellows spend one year training at Yale's Calvin Hill Day Care Center and the Yale Child Study Center. Calvin Hill Day Care Center and the Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten are model, preschool educational programs for the children of Yale and New Haven community families. Calvin Hill was one of the first childcare programs in the nation accredited by the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), and values diversity in its children and its staff. Families pay tuition based upon a sliding fee scale and the center is an inclusive community, serving more than sixty children from a wide variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds. Both the Calvin Hill Day Care Center and the Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten provide a site for training and research. The programs aim to serve as a support for families, working closely with parents to meet the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of their children.

The Harris Fellowship is an entry level training position appropriate for individuals who have recently completed their Bachelor's or Master's degree.

### **General Responsibilities of the Fellowship**

- Fellows have a teacher mentor at Calvin Hill and a clinical mentor at the Child Study Center. They regularly meet with their mentors for support, focusing on blending educational and clinical understandings of young children and families.
- With their mentors, they set individual goals and have mid and end of year evaluations.
- Fellows keep an ongoing journal, consisting of reflections about their experiences in the classroom at Calvin Hill, their coursework at the Child Study Center, lesson plans, and their particular interests in both early childhood education and clinical child development.

### **Responsibilities at Calvin Hill**

- Fellows work a full schedule at Calvin Hill and become integral members of the highly experienced teaching team. Under the supervision of their mentor, they gradually assume all the responsibilities of a teacher over the course of the year.
- Fellows are involved in all aspects of the program including planning curriculum for large and small groups as well as individual children, leading activities, maintaining the classroom and materials, and participating in parent conferences. Their growing participation enables them to become immersed in and to share all aspects of the early childhood classroom environment.
- Fellows attend occasional evening meetings, center sponsored events, and other professional workshops in the community.

## **Responsibilities at the Yale Child Study Center**

- Fellows participate in the Clinical Child Development seminar at the Yale Child Study Center one morning a week, fall and spring semesters. This seminar explores issues of child development, child psychopathology, and clinical evaluation and interventions with young children and their families. Seminar members observe senior clinicians conducting developmental assessments and participate in the ongoing discussion of diagnostic formulations. Relevant readings are assigned throughout the seminar.
- During the fall semester, fellows also participate in the early childhood seminar, “Theory and Practice of Early Childhood Education” which explores the development of curricula for preschool children – infants, toddlers, three, four, and five-year-olds – in light of current research and child development theory.

## **Fellowship Stipend and Benefits**

- The fellowship begins in August 2012 and ends in July 2013. Fellows receive a stipend of \$14,000. Checks are issued monthly beginning at the end of September.
- Full health coverage is provided through the Yale Health Plan. Health Plan application forms must be submitted in August.

## **Housing**

- Housing is not provided as part of the fellowship but affordable apartments are available in the Calvin Hill area.

## **Applicant Requirements**

- Applicants should have some previous experiences with children (preferably young children) in an actual classroom setting as well as tutoring, babysitting, camp counseling or the like.
- A background in early childhood education or college course work in early childhood education and/or developmental psychology is preferred. Applicants should be passionate about and interested in issues of childcare, early childhood education and advocacy on behalf of young children.
- Applicants must have maturity and flexibility in working with young children. They must be able to interact sensitively, tactfully, respectfully and warmly with young children and their parents. They must be able to work as a member of a team of teachers.
- Reliability and responsibility are essential, as the fellows will be counted on as members of the teaching staff. They must have a good prior record of attendance and punctuality.

## **Additional Information**

- Visit the website [calvinhilldaycare.org](http://calvinhilldaycare.org) for more information about the Harris Fellowship and to read the reflections of past fellows.