

# Research Experience in the Early Play and Development Laboratory at the University of Miami

The *Early Play and Development Laboratory*, directed by Professor Daniel Messinger, is actively recruiting highly motivated students and/or volunteers that are looking to gain valuable research experience primarily aimed at understanding the social and emotional development of infants and children. The data collected in our lab is used to examine the development of typically developing children as well as children who are at-risk for or are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

**For more information regarding Dr. Messinger's current and past work, please visit:**

<http://www.psy.miami.edu/faculty/dmessinger/> or <http://umkids.psy.miami.edu/>

## **Lab Location:**

We are located on the Coral Gables campus of the University of Miami at 5665 Ponce De Leon Blvd. We have office space specifically dedicated for data collection, data entry, and other research-related activities.

## **Our Ongoing Research Studies:**

Our current research is focused on multiple facets of infant and child development including:

- Using automated (computer) measurement to examine early infant communication and how that relates to later attachment styles with their mother
- Using a multi-scale data science approach incorporating motion tracking, eye tracking, and neuroimaging to examine network dynamics relevant to indicators of ASD symptoms
- Our lab is also part of a project that studies social interaction in pre-school classrooms

## **What Research Assistants Do:**

- Participate in weekly lab meetings during which we discuss research relevant to our work and ongoing projects within our lab (the day and time of these meetings may vary from semester to semester)
- Help and observe research staff and graduate students with participant visits which may include video/audio-recording parent-child interactions
- Help score assessments and perform data entry using SPSS (a statistical analysis program) and online databases

## **Requirements:**

- Highly-motivated, responsible individual with a strong interest in scientific research and a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Able to commit to two semesters of work for 9 hours per week
- Recommended: experience writing for the social sciences (such as in a psychology course)

*If you are interested in applying to work as a Research Assistant in our lab, please complete the application on the following page and submit your application, a copy of your resume, and social sciences (Eg. Psych) writing sample to the lab at [lxe300@miami.edu](mailto:lxe300@miami.edu)*

**Research Assistant Application**  
***The Early Play and Development Laboratory***

University of Miami, Flipse 116  
5505 Ponce de Leon Blvd  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
305.284.1042

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year in School: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Psychology GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

What position are you applying for (367/368, Prime, Honors, volunteer, etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What psychology courses have you taken?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What computer skills do you have? (Check all that apply)

SPSS: \_\_\_\_\_ Excel: \_\_\_\_\_ Access: \_\_\_\_\_ Digital Video Editing: \_\_\_\_\_

Matlab: \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Second & Third Language(s): (Please indicate the language and check all that apply)

Language #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Language #2: \_\_\_\_\_

#1	None	Intermediate	Fluent	#2	None	Intermediate	Fluent
Reading				Reading			
Writing				Writing			
Speaking				Speaking			

What experience do you have working with children in general and children with developmental disabilities?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you participated in any kind of research program before? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please specify briefly what kind of research activities you were involved in? (e.g., data entry, data analyses, conducting assessments, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how many hours you plan to be available and for which semesters:

\_\_\_\_\_