Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2020

- Organization: Calvin Hill Daycare Center Inc.

- Full street address of organization: 150 Highland Street New Haven CT 06511

- Website: www.calvinhilldaycare.org

- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor: Susan Taddei, Director

- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor: (203)764-9350  susan@calvinhilldaycare.org

- Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, August 7, 2020): Tuesday, May 26 to Friday, July 31, 2020

- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: We will work around the other meeting requirements of the fellowship. Please let us know those dates and times in advance.

- Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): We are open 8-5, Monday to Friday. The fellows work a 7.5 hour shift during that time period. We have three shifts – early (8-3:30), mid-day (9-4:30) and closing (10-5:30).
**Placement Description**

The mission of Calvin Hill Day Care Center and its Kitty Lustman-Findling is to provide high-quality, affordable (tuition is based on a sliding scale), nurturing care and education to children between the ages of 2.9-6 years old from Yale (75% of our families) and the broader New Haven community. The Center’s aim is to serve as a support for families, working in partnership with parents to help meet the emotional, social, physical, language, literacy and intellectual needs of their children. The Center values the diversity of its families and staff and provides opportunities for growth and development in a stimulating learning community for children and adults.

- Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting: The Fellow will work directly with children at Calvin Hill Day Care Center and the Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten and will support overall program quality, integrated and intellectual play-based emergent curriculum, and will create opportunities for children to have more individualized and ongoing interactions with additional caring adults.
• Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.

Initially, the Fellow will observe the classrooms to get to know the children and the teaching style of our staff. The Fellow always works under the supervision of our experienced teachers and is never fully responsible for supervision of children or planning curriculum.

Depending on skill level and interest, the Fellow will take on many helpful roles in the classroom over the weeks of the placement – working with children in small groups, reading to children, observing their play, sitting with children at naptime, helping with the maintenance of the classrooms (setting up outdoor equipment, helping with clean up time, etc.)

The Fellow will work full-time in our classrooms from May 26th- June 3rd (the last day of our regular school year). Then the Fellow will be a full-time staff member for our summer program which runs from June 8th to July 31st. Full-time is 7.5 hours a day with either an early, mid-day or closing shift.

Several Fellows have also been particularly interested in the theory and practice of early childhood education. To that end, we have made available a highly experienced mentor teacher who has provided relevant readings and has met with the Fellow weekly to discuss these readings and other aspects of the learning experience the Fellow is engaged in with the children and staff.

• List specific skills/experience required for the project:
  • Experience working with young children is required such as camp counseling, babysitting or tutoring.
  • Ability to work on a team
  • Interest in child development and early education
  • Good interpersonal skills
  • Flexibility
  • Open to new experiences
  • Able to relate to people from different backgrounds
  • Energy and stamina
  • The ability to find joy in relationships with children and adults

• Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). A car is helpful but Calvin Hill is close to a bus line and can also be reached by Yale transit.
• Briefly describe the work that Yale PPSF Fellows have done with your organization in the past and present. If you have not worked with Yale Fellows, describe any work that Yale students have done with your organization.

We have been privileged to have several Yale Presidential Fellows in past years, most recently in 2019. Our Fellows have observed and assisted in all three of our classrooms and were full-time staff members of our summer program. They worked directly with the children and teachers and took on more classroom responsibilities as their placements went on. Fellows leave our program with heightened observations skills, a better understanding of the day-to-day preschool experience for children, families and teachers, and an appreciation for the complexity of running a high quality, educationally sound childcare program. Two Fellows have gone on to be our Yale undergraduate representative on our Board of Directors (2011-12 and 2015-17).

In addition, each year Calvin Hill provides observation experiences for more than 50 Yale undergraduate students participating in three courses (Theory and Practice of Early Childhood Education, Child Development, and Language, Literacy and Play) taught by Carla Horwitz, our Director Emerita, who is a member of the faculty at the Yale Child Study Center, the Department of Psychology and the Education Studies Program. We also employ many dedicated Yale undergraduate and graduate work-study students throughout the year.