Yale University President’s Public Service Fellowship
Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2020

- Organization: Creating Kids at the Connecticut Children’s Museum
- Full street address of organization: 22 Wall Street New Haven, CT 06511
- Website: www.creatingkids.org
- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow’s direct supervisor (the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow on a daily basis): Sandra Malmquist -- Director
- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor:
  (203) 562-5437 creatingkids@snet.net
- Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 26 and Friday, August 7, 2020):
- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: We would prefer the full summer, but could be flexible about the final week, if needed.
- Proposed work schedule (placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week): Between 8 and 5:30 (with ½ day off) Monday-Friday.

Placement Description

- Organization description (mission statement, population served. 150 words or less.):

  Creating Kids Childcare Center is an accredited, fulltime, innovative early childhood program dedicated to serving the needs of children -- ages 6 weeks through preschool age -- and their families in an urban setting. Our curriculum is thematic and literacy-based, using the Connecticut State Department of Education’s Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and its assessment template Documentation & Observation for Teacher System (DOTS). The Theory of Multiple Intelligences grounds
our educational philosophy and is the template for the curriculum. The oldest preschool children participate in the City School, taking their work into nearby city settings as they prepare for kindergarten. We are a School Readiness site and provide support for preschool enrollment of children from diverse neighborhoods throughout the City of New Haven.

• Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting

The PPSF fellow will be working alongside early childhood master teachers, teaching infants and toddlers or our preschool children. In preparation for the preschool children’s transition to kindergarten, the fellow will focus on curriculum development, social/emotional skill-building and early reading readiness through active and engaged project-based learning, storytelling and book reading.

• Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow. (Suggested length: one to two pages.)

Creating Kids Childcare Center uses a project-based curriculum to support skill-building and to focus on messages critical to the social-emotional development of young children. For example, the Bridge Week curriculum used the theme to emphasize the importance of bridges throughout the world to connect communities. Families were engaged in a bridge-building activity using unusual materials. Children became bridge designers, using their imaginations and fine motor skills to draw a bridge and then construct it.

We propose that the PPSF fellow for 2020 would work primarily in the Creating Kids Childcare Center alongside our master teachers. Helping to design and implement innovative preschool curriculum would be central to the work of the PPSF fellow. Additionally, the PPSF fellow would learn about early childhood education in our community by accompanying the director to meetings of the New Haven Early Childhood Council.
The PPSF fellow would be invited to attend weekly Professional Development events at the on-site Early Childhood Resource Center in late May and early June.

The mission of the programs housed at The Children’s Building is to provide all children, their families and teachers with innovative and inclusive, exciting educational programs and learning opportunities. Supporting community-wide early childhood education and the development of early literacy competency are two driving forces of our work. We realize these goals through our many programs, with the Creating Kids Childcare Center providing the template and model for our museum’s Educational Field Trip Program, Family Visits and the Saturdays @2 Creating Readers Program.

- List specific skills/experience required for the project:

  Experience with young children.
  Interest in early childhood education.
  Patience.
  Flexibility.
  A sense of humor.
  A love of books.
  Appreciation for the outdoors.
  Creativity.
  Team player.
  Very responsible.
  Know a little Spanish, Chinese, German, and/or Hebrew (not required, but helpful).
• Additional requirements (e.g. a car or weekend working hours). If a car is required, include information regarding parking arrangements and mileage reimbursement):

n/a

• 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.

*PPSF fellows have worked as Student Teachers in the Creating Kids Childcare Center over the course of many summers. Fellows have been important to the development of curriculum, particularly as children prepare to go to kindergarten.*