

Curriculum for the Seedlings Teaching Fellowship in Child Development and Early Childhood Education

The Seedlings Fellowship in Early Childhood Education and Child Development is designed as a supervised and supported entry into the professional world of early childhood education, child care and teaching. It is a unique combination of engagement in a high quality preschool classroom setting and participation in related courses in a nationally renowned child development clinic.

Seedlings Fellows spend one year training at Calvin Hill Day Care Center and the Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten, nationally accredited, model educational preschool programs for the children of Yale and New Haven community families. The center is an inclusive community, serving more than sixty children from a wide variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds. Families pay tuition based on a sliding fee scale. Both 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 center is known for the longevity and professionalism of its staff, its integrated arts and play based curriculum, and its commitment to parent involvement.

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. They are involved in all aspects of the program including planning curriculum for large and small groups, leading activities, maintaining the classroom and materials, and participating in parent conferences. Their growing participation enables them to become immersed in all aspects of the early childhood classroom environment. They attend occasional evening meetings, center sponsored events, and other professional workshops in the community.

Opportunities through the Yale Child Study Center

Depending on the fellows' preparation and background, they may have the opportunity to participate in early childhood seminars offered by the Yale Child Study Center. These seminars focus on understanding the emotional development of young children and their ability to express their inner strivings, conflicts and feelings through their play, explore issues of child development, child psychopathology, clinical evaluation and interventions with young children and their families, and developmentally appropriate curriculum and instruction for young children.

General Responsibilities of the Fellowship

Fellows meet regularly with a senior teacher mentor at Calvin Hill. With their mentors, they set individual goals and participate in mid and end of year evaluations.

Fellows keep an ongoing journal, consisting of reflections about their experiences in the classroom at Calvin Hill, lesson plans, and their particular interests in early childhood education.

Fellowship Stipend and Benefits

Fellows receive a stipend of \$13,000. Checks are issued twice a month beginning in 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

A background in early childhood education or college course work in early childhood education and/or developmental psychology is preferred. Applicants may hold non-matriculated credits in child development and/or early childhood education.

Applicants must have maturity, stability, and flexibility. They must have a serious interest in working with young children, preferably as a teacher. 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. They should be interested in issues of child care, early childhood education and advocacy on behalf of young children.

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.