

Organization: Lake Superior YMCA

Focus: Early Childhood Education Field Experience

Opportunities: Internships, Student Teaching and Capstone Projects

Location(s): We have opportunities available at any of our Early Learning Centers including the YMCA at the Essentia Wellness Center in Hermantown, the Superior YMCA and the Cook County YMCA in Grand Marais

Reports To: Center Director

Hours: Flexible



The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Position Summary:

Our field experiences are intended to give students a practical, hands-on experience in early childhood development. Students will assist our teachers and program directors with leading activities, preparing materials and supervising young children (typically ages birth-age 5) with evidence-based learning.

Essential Functions:

1. You will have an opportunity to design and implement your own project with support from the Center Director.
2. Work with YMCA staff to develop curriculum where young children can learn through play, exploration and structured activities.
3. Using observation and assessment tools, document each child's growth and learning in relation to their developmental level.
4. Meet children's physical and emotional needs, fostering skill-building & independence.
5. Assist with daily routines such as snack time, outdoor play, rest time and cleanup.
6. Maintain a clean, organized and safe learning environment.
7. Follow all health, safety and child supervision guidelines.
8. Interact with parents warmly and authenticity at pick-up and drop-off.

Learning Outcomes:

- o Gain firsthand experience working with young children.
- o Develop an understanding of early childhood development principles.
- o Learn classroom management and positive behavior guidance techniques.
- o Build professional communication and teamwork skills.

Required Qualifications:

1. Past experience working with children.
2. Solid understanding of child development in the early years.

Desired Qualities:

- o Passionate and curious about teaching.
- o Artful, playful and spontaneous.
- o Finds joy in singing, storytelling and creative exploration.
- o Familiar with play-based learning approaches.
- o Warm, kind and approachable.
- o Confident in working independently.
- o Open and authentic in your communication.
- o Good listening and keen observation skills.
- o Dependable and motivated.

Compensation:

1. Interns do receive a YMCA membership during their field experience. You will also receive a great learning experience working in the non-profit sector with one of the largest non-profit organizations in the nation.
2. Access to selected early childhood and YMCA professional development trainings (we'll cover registration costs).
3. Experience collaborating with teachers, families and administrators in a licensed early learning environment.
4. A meaningful role supporting children's growth and development in a play-based setting.
5. Although this experience is unpaid, we will work with you and your school to assist you in receiving college credit. It is the responsibility of the student to determine if academic credit is available through their degree program.

Application Process:

- o YMCA Internship Application (found at www.lakesuperiorymca.org)
- o Cover Letter
- o Resume
- o Two letters of recommendation

Contact Information:

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Volunteer & Internship Coordinator

Lake Superior YMCA

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