



The SPARK Center
Supporting Parents and Resilient Kids
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Psychology Practicum Training
The SPARK Center/Boston Medical Center
2022-2023

Program Description:

The SPARK Center is a model program offering comprehensive, integrated, state-of-the-art services for young children and families whose lives are affected by medical, emotional and/or behavioral challenges. This placement site is part of Boston Medical Center (BMC). The SPARK Center is community-based, culturally sensitive outpatient program for children and families. The SPARK Center is committed to advocacy and promoting equity of access for communities that are overburdened and under resourced.

Clinical Responsibilities:

Under supervision of licensed psychologists, licensed social workers, and licensed mental health counselors, the practicum student will have to opportunity to provide a range of different mental health services to children and their families.

Developmental Assessment: The SPARK Center is an off-site location for Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics at BMC. Psychologists and developmental behavioral pediatricians provide comprehensive developmental and diagnostic evaluations of young children, many of whom present with concerns for autism spectrum disorder.

Good Grief Program: The Good Grief Program provides specialized grief services to children and youth impacted by a significant loss. Clinicians provide a range of services including urgent consultation for caregivers supporting children in the acute aftermath of a loss, ongoing grief counseling for children and youth, dyadic and family-based counseling options, and consultation and training with schools and other community partners supporting grieving children.

Trauma Clinic: Trauma-focused intervention is a core focus of the work at The SPARK Center. Comprehensive trauma screening and assessment, as well as evidence-based treatments, such as Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), are conducted with extensive supervision.

Early Childhood Behavior Therapy: Dyadic, evidence-based treatment is provided to families with young children who are experiencing behavioral difficulties, many of whom are in high-adversity situations. There are specific opportunities to get exposure to and training in Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and Parent Child Interaction Therapy-Toddler (PCIT-T).

Feeding Clinic: BMC's Pediatric Feeding Clinic provides interdisciplinary care to children and adolescents who are experiencing significant feeding difficulties and/or having trouble gaining weight. These difficulties are typically rooted in overly avoidant and restrictive behaviors and/or medical conditions that make it difficult to eat sufficient quantities or varieties of foods. Our team includes a GI physician, speech/language pathologist, dietician, and behavioral psychologist. Some components of the Feeding Clinic may take place at the main campus of Boston Medical Center.

Schedule:

The practicum starts in early September and is between 16 to 24 hours (two to three days) per week. Specific days may be required for certain training opportunities. Trainees will participate in weekly individual supervision. Additional group supervision and consultation opportunities are prevalent. Didactic seminars on relevant topics will be provided at the SPARK Center, as well as throughout the Pediatrics and Psychiatry departments at Boston Medical Center.

Location:

The SPARK Center: a comfortable and inviting child development center of Boston Medical Center, located in a beautiful park-like setting at 255 River Street in Mattapan. There is free parking and accessibility by public transportation.

Applications:

Interested candidates should send:

- A cover letter describing your professional development goals and your interest in the SPARK Center.
- A current CV.
- Two letters of recommendation (sent with other materials or directly by recommender).

to: Alyssa Orinstein King, Ph.D.: alyssa.king@bmc.org

Process:

We will be accepting 3-4 practicum students for the 2022-2023 training year to join a training cohort that also includes pre-doctoral interns from the Center for Multicultural Training (CMTP) at Boston Medical Center and master's levels interns from various area programs. A portion of applicants will be invited by email for an in-person interview. The remaining applicants will be informed by email that they were not selected for an interview. On notification day, we will call our top candidates, and then move down our ranked list until our spots are filled. We will inform the remaining candidates by email once our training cohort is identified.

Application Due Date: January 3, 2022

Notification Date: February 14, 2022

*The SPARK Center has committed to following the MPA Practicum Training Collaborative program policies for the 2022-2023 training year.