BEHAVIOR THERAPIST INTERN
Last Updated: January 14, 2014

ORGANIZATION

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD) is among the world’s largest and most experienced organizations effectively treating children with autism and related disorders. With U.S. and International reach, CARD touches the lives of hundreds of children and their families. Through a network of trained therapists, supervisors and researchers we develop and implement quality, comprehensive and personalized treatment programs which lead to success, and in many cases recovery.

CARD was started in 1990 by renowned psychologist and early researcher of autism, Dr. Doreen Granpeesheh. She designed a unique treatment curriculum based on the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) method and built an organization of dedicated and trained staff. Currently CARD has 29 U.S.-based offices serving in the following states: California, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, New York, Virginia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Illinois, in addition to servicing children and families world-wide. CARD proudly continues to expand our services as the worldwide leader of top-quality autism treatments.

DESCRIPTION

The Behavior Therapist Intern is responsible for the direct implementation of treatment programs to patients with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Under the guidance of CARD Supervisors and Behavior Therapists, Behavior Therapist Interns work with patients in a variety of settings which include the patient’s home, the patient’s school, and the CARD Clinic. Extensive initial and ongoing training in ABA therapy techniques and the CARD curriculum is provided. ABA Therapy sessions are primarily conducted in a one on one format, with mentorship, training and support from Supervisors and Therapist Liaisons in order to ensure the highest quality of treatment. Behavior Therapist Interns are responsible for accurate data collection and reporting on all treatment activities. Additional training is provided throughout your internship as a Behavior Therapist Intern in order to accommodate the many programs and levels of treatment provided. This internship position requires a minimum of 10 hours of availability per week. Dependent on location, specific weekdays and 1 weekend day may be required.

TRAINING

1. CARD Initial Behavior Therapist Training
   a. 15 hour eLearning training on concepts in ABA and treatment programs
      i. Must pass written exam prior to beginning direct client care
   b. Up to 10 hours direct instruction in the form of observing ongoing therapy sessions, review of concepts and role play activities with a CARD trainer
   c. Up to 15 Assisted Therapy sessions with a qualified CARD Trainer
   d. Mentorship and goals will be established and monitored throughout the training process
2. Ongoing Training  
   a. Bi-weekly team meetings for each client on your caseload  
   b. Trainings provided on a variety of topics related to treatment quality  
   c. One on one coaching sessions – to include professional goal development, career and educational counseling, etc.  
   d. Opportunities for continued employment and career development may be available  

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES  

- Represent CARD policy enthusiastically  
- Represent CARD professionally and ethically to internal and external stakeholders  
- Provide top-quality one on one therapy in home, school and clinic settings under the direction of the CARD supervisor  
- Set and meet performance goals for case quality and administrative duties  
- Successfully complete introductory and on-going trainings  
- Report to clinical supervisor on client progress and demonstrate lessons within team meetings or overlap sessions  
- Recommended participation in regular staff meetings as well as client meetings  
- Maintain HIPAA compliance at all times, across all settings  
- Minimize cancellations  
- Maintain minimum billable requirements  
- Must be able to work with children who are seated on the floor, in small chairs, or other home, school and clinic environments  
- Frequently moves throughout the therapeutic setting to gather materials, anticipate and respond to the movement of a patient, and/or provide instruction in settings such as a school, playground, clinic or community location  
- Constantly positions self to anticipate and respond to the movements and behaviors of assigned patients. This may include and is not limited to bending to assist a child, kneeling / crouching to teach a play skill, hurrying to block an open doorway, or reaching to prevent a patient from entering a traffic congested street  
- Must be able to utilize continuous visual tracking order to monitor the movement of patients as well as the items and circumstances in the surrounding environment  
- Occasionally moves to evade aggressive behaviors and / or physically response block attempts to aggress towards others. Responding to behaviors may occasionally require baring the weight of a patient who is leaning, pushing, etc.  
- Frequently teaches patients to use vocal speech. Must be able to articulate sounds, model speaking clearly, as well as listen and shape vocal communication from patients  
- Occasionally uses modeling to teach motor skills such as climbing, jumping, clapping, skipping, etc.
• Must work in both indoor and outdoor settings as they relate to the patient’s natural environment, which may include being outdoors in a variety of weather changes (i.e. community skills, recess in a school setting, etc.)
• May be required to lift up to 30 lbs. while assisting patients

EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

• Experience/interest in working with children
• Must be 18 years of age
• High School Diploma required
• Availability to work a minimum of 10 - 15 hours per week
• Must have ability to provide own transportation with proof of auto insurance
• Proficiency with Microsoft office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
• Must complete criminal background check prior to internship
• Must provide proof of negative tuberculosis test prior to internship

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

• Intern will be paid the equivalent of the prevalent minimum wage
• Potential to transition to full time or part time employment
• Travel time pay and mileage reimbursement
• Comprehensive paid training program
• Company issued iPad for digital data collection and learning tools
• Corporate incentive programs such as raffles / giveaways

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