Graduate Research Assistant: SPEAK CAT

The TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health at the University of Chicago is seeking a qualified PhD student to support a new initiative. Learn more about the TMW Center here: https://tmwcenter.uchicago.edu/.

We are seeking a Graduate Research Assistant to work on a project that aims to create the next iteration of a tool, the Scale of Parent/Provider Expectations And Knowledge (SPEAK), that has been developed and validated at by the TMW Center. The SPEAK is a clinical and research tool that fills a critical, previously unmet need in the early childhood field. Given the pivotal role that parents and caregivers play in shaping young children’s cognitive and language development, it is necessary to assess what they know and believe about that process. As part of the TMW Center’s commitment to investing in cutting-edge R&D to support scalability, the Center is developing a version of the SPEAK that uses computer-adaptive testing, called the SPEAK CAT. This version will streamline assessment by adapting to the individual responding to the questions and issuing new questions based on the level of knowledge they’ve displayed. The results of the SPEAK CAT will provide a more complete and useful picture of respondents’ knowledge and beliefs, which can be used to deliver information and interventions tailored to their needs.

Under guidance and direction from the Principal SPEAK Researcher, the RA will:

1. Contribute to the literature review for the SPEAK computer adaptive test.
   a. Build upon and expand the current outline of SPEAK subdomains. Identify and incorporate missing topics and/or restructure current topics.
   b. Compile and organize new references as needed for the literature review.
2. Write new survey items.
   a. Create weekly and monthly output goals. Maintain quality and quantity of writing outputs.
   b. Construct new survey items in accordance with the writing standards for the SPEAK CAT.
   c. Review and edit previously written survey items to match new writing standards.
   d. Prepare cognitive interview probes for new survey items.
   e. Track progress in item development using appropriate spreadsheets.

We strongly prefer that the candidate commit for the 2020-2021 academic year (through June 2021). This is a remote position.

Our ideal research assistants are detail-oriented, organized, responsible, enthusiastic and passionate about issues of poverty, justice, and health disparities.

Requirements:
- Previous experience in psychology, education, or direct service strongly preferred
- Pursuing a PhD with a focus in psychology, particularly developmental psychology or cognition
- Undergrad major in psychology or early childhood education
- Research interests in language development, cognitive development, or early literacy
- Technical skills: Microsoft Word/Excel proficiency; experience with survey design (preferred)
- Strong written communication skills
- Highly detail oriented
- Ability to manage multiple projects at once, while ensuring deadlines are met
- Takes initiative, and is able to work independently once given a task
To apply, please send resume and which position(s) you are applying for to Andy Lewis at andrewlewis@bsd.uchicago.edu

The University of Chicago is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity / Disabled / Veterans Employer.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, protected veteran status or status as an individual with disability. Job seekers with a disability in need of a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should contact the Employment Office by calling 773-702-8900 or by emailing employment@uchicago.edu with their request.

Qualifications: Bachelor’s Degree; candidates currently seeking PhD in psychology preferred

Employer: BSD/ Surgery
Categories: Research

Work Study Offered: Yes – restricted to students enrolled at The University of Chicago.
Non-Work Study Offered: Yes
Hours/Week: 8-10
Pay/Hour: $20