

Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Communication, Advertising

Head Start Placement: Family & Community Partnerships

Practicum Opportunity:

SUU Head Start must advertise the program on a regular basis to gather child applications for enrollment.

SUU students will experience designing advertisements to post in the community via

- Flyers
- Newspapers
- Radio

Expected Benefit:

- Students will learn about working with customers, meeting their needs and advertisement goals.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Foreign Languages and Humanities, Spanish

Head Start Placement: Family & Community Partnerships

Practicum Opportunity:

SUU Head Start enrolls many Spanish speaking children as well as other languages.

SUU students will assist with interpretations during parent conferences, class parent meetings, home visits, and other Head Start functions. Students will also translate Head Start materials such as newsletters, parent handbooks, “home-play” calendars, curriculum materials and more.

Expected Benefit:

- Students will enhance their real world interpretation and translation skills.
- Students will learn to interact effectively with teachers



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Sociology

Head Start Placement: Family & Community Partnerships

Practicum Opportunity:

SUU Head Start must conduct a comprehensive community assessment every three years and update on the intermediate years. This assessment must include information for the six counties we service; i.e., vital statistics, demographic data, available services, economic data, etc. The assessment may serve as an opportunity for a senior capstone. SUU Head Start must also conduct a family satisfaction survey each year. Students will experience:

- Design the assessment.
- Design a survey.
- Collecting existing statistics.
- Compiling the information into a report.
- Creating a survey
- Designing the sample
- Assist with gathering survey data (phone vs written)
- Inputting data to compile the information.
-

Expected Benefit:

- Students will gain experience in survey design, sampling methods, IRB approval process, gathering and analyzing existing data. Students will also gain experience in rural communities and low income families.
- Students will learn about survey design, sampling, compilation, and analysis. Students will also gain general knowledge of low income families in the Head Start program.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Family Life and Human Development

Head Start Placement: Pre-School Student Teaching in Head Start Classrooms

Head Start Need:

Head Start has an on-going need for teachers who have experience in Head Start classrooms and a background with the individualized curriculum planning process used by the SUU Head Start program.

Practicum Opportunity:

SUU Students will spend a semester working in a Head Start classroom under the guidance of a Head Start Teacher. During this experience students will have the opportunity to be involved in every aspect of Head Start. They will participate fully in the individualized lesson planning; classroom set up and will interact with parents and children as they assume the role of lead teacher in the classroom.

Expected Benefit:

- Students will learn to interact positively with parents as partners in the curriculum planning process.
- They will learn to create appropriate learning centers, plan engaging circle times and lead small group learning activities that are all designed to teach specific objectives to individual children.
- They will learn to individualize for each child while still meeting the needs of the all children in the classroom.
- They will learn to record children's growth and development daily and will practice using this running record to guide the next day's planning.
- They will learn to support parents in their role as their child's most important teacher and will help them to understand and fulfill this role with greater expertise.
- During their student teaching experience they will become familiar with the master teacher skills indicated on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and will be guided to set goals to improve in these skills.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Family Life and Human Development

Head Start Placement: Practicum in Head Start Classrooms and Parent Meetings

Head Start Need:

SUU Head Start has a Family Advocate in each classroom. They are responsible to help Head Start parents become integrally involved with their child's education, improve their skills as their child's most important teacher, and help them find services and resources to meet their family's employment, health and education needs. Family Advocates need ongoing support to find needed community resources for families in the various communities served by the program.

Practicum Opportunity:

SUU students will have real life experience working with parents and gaining their trust as they participate in all the aspects of parent involvement including curriculum brainstorming, home visits, parent meetings, and parent/teacher meetings. They will be given opportunities to research and become familiar with community health, education and social services and they will work with the members of parent committees to determine the best methods of disseminating this important information to parents.

Expected Benefit:

- Students will be able to observe and be mentored by experienced Family Advocates as they fill the Family Advocates role.
- They will have the opportunity to research and become familiar with local community resources.
- They will learn to support parents as they gain leadership experience organizing and directing parent meetings, volunteering in the classroom and participating as members of class presidencies or Head Start Policy Council.
- They will have experience training and informing parents in meaningful ways and see parents grow in their ability to meet their child's individual needs.

Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Special Education

Head Start Placement: Head Start & Early Intervention Classrooms

Head Start Need:

At least 10% of Head Start's total enrollment slots must serve children with diagnosed disabilities. SUU Head Start saves at least 10% of the enrollment slots for school district, mental health and doctor referrals that usually fills these slots. During the school year several children who have not been previously diagnosed are also referred to school districts, assessed and diagnosed. This often leads to classes where a much higher percentage of the children have Individual Education Plans. Teachers always need and appreciate extra support to help each of these children continue to progress in all domains of the curriculum.

Practicum Opportunity:

Special Education students will have the opportunity to work directly with children with diagnosed disabilities in a Head Start classroom. They will help teachers with the specific goal of helping these children continue to advance in all areas of development. Students will schedule consistent time in the classroom each week. They will meet at least weekly with the teaching team during their daily planning sessions and meet with teaching teams and the children's parents as they brainstorm to individualize learning activities for their child.

Expected Benefit:

- Special Education students will have the opportunity to observe, work and play with young children with disabilities in an integrated classroom setting.
- Students will learn to record child observations as they interact with the children individually and in small groups and will assist in the record keeping system used to track each child's growth and development.
- They will learn to individualize learning experiences for each child they are supporting based on the on-going record of their development
- Students will gain firsthand experience working with and support the parents of children with diagnosed disabilities.

Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Physical Education

Head Start Placement: Head Start Classrooms, Teacher In-Service and Parent Meetings

Head Start Need:

SUU Head Start needs the children and families who are enrolled in the program to leave Head Start with healthier habits and a more active life style than when they entered the program. Currently teachers are providing up to an hour of adult directed moderate to vigorous exercise every day using a program called “I am Moving I am Learning. Students will have the opportunity to be involved in the classrooms working with the children on proper exercise. They will be able to teach the children and their parents on the benefits of health, exercise and a proper diet.

Practicum Opportunity:

Physical Education students will have the opportunity to learn how the stress of living in poverty impacts the health of all family members and how even small changes in diet and daily exercise can positively impact the future for each member of the family.

Expected Benefit:

- Physical Education students will learn to break down physical skills such as catching a ball, skipping, etc. to the very basic level needed to teach pre-school children.
- Students will learn firsthand how to integrate physical exercise into a classroom each day.
- They will have opportunities through presentations at parent meetings and/or creating articles for the parent newsletter to provide parents with informative and activities that will help support their whole family in becoming more active and healthy.
- Students would also share physical education presentation with the entire teaching staff during their monthly In-service training



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Nutrition

Head Start Placement: Central Office, Classrooms, Parent meetings

Practicum Opportunity:

Student will have the opportunity to help conduct the programs nutritional parental survey. They will be able to review and make recommendations for improvement. They will be able to review daily menus and help plan menus for the children. They will also help with follow-up on the children with allergies or special nutritional needs and work with the parents to improve the diets of the children.

Expected Benefit:

Students can expect hands on/real life experience with children and parents.

Better understanding of accommodating allergies and special dietary needs of children.

Learn the benefits and pitfalls of menu planning for over 400 students.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Nursing

Head Start Placement: Central Office, Classrooms, Parent meetings

Practicum Opportunity:

Students will be able to learn how to interact with children and their parents in the 6 county service area. They will perform physical exams, finger pokes (lead testing), height/weight, hearing and vision screenings for 440 children who do not have access to a regular health care provider.

Expected Benefit:

- Students will get to interact with children and their parents.
- Assess children that might need further help with diagnosis of conditions.
- Practical experience with drawing blood from a finger poke.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Botany

Head Start Placement: Head Start Central Office and Classroom Playgrounds

Head Start Need:

SUU Head Start needs help to redesign 13 Head Start playgrounds to create safe, naturalized play settings for Head Start children.

Practicum Opportunity:

Botany students will have the opportunity to plan and help implement revisions in each of the thirteen SUU Head Start playgrounds. These changes will be made to incorporate non-poisonous plants, trees, wood, soil and stone making playgrounds more natural extensions of the classrooms.

Expected Benefit:

- Botany students will have the opportunity to use their knowledge of plants and nature to create, safe, beautiful outdoor environments for young children.
- They would have the opportunity to learn about the need, young children have to interact with and investigate their environment.
- They will have the experience of helping to create naturalized settings where young children have the opportunity to play, learn and grow in environments which allow investigation, experimentation and creativity to blossom and flourish.
- They will have firsthand experience learning to plan within a limited budget, work with volunteer labor to see their plan reach fruition.

Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Mathematics

Head Start Placement: Head Start Central Office

Head Start Need:

SUU Head Start needs support in the design and completion of a validity and reliability study of the Core Curriculum. The Core Curriculum a locally designed system of individualized curriculum development based on the domains and elements of the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework.

Practicum Opportunity:

The statistics students involved would work closely with the Head Start Assistant Manager to design, set up, analyze and report on the results of a reliability test that determines the consistency of the results of the assessment tool and a construct validity test to determine the extent that what is intended to be measured with the Core System of Curriculum development is actually what is being measured.

Expected Benefit:

- Math students will be given an opportunity to apply their math skills to solve a real world problem.
- They will have the opportunity to work through the planning process involved in setting up the assessment protocol.
- They will be involved in collecting, analyzing and interpreting the data.
- They will have the experience of writing a final report that supports the validity and reliability of the Core Curriculum Development System or they will write a report which recommends the changes that need to be made to the system before it could be judged valid and reliable.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Computer Science & Information Systems

Head Start Placement: Teacher In-service and Parent Meetings

Head Start Need:

Head Start parents, teachers and office staff have a wide range of abilities with commonly used computer programs. Many parents are underemployed or unemployed and improved computer skills would be very helpful for them. Head Start employee's work abilities would also be improved with improved computer skills.

Practicum Opportunity:

SUU students will have opportunities to provide basic to advanced computer training to small groups of teachers and/or parents during monthly In-service and parent meetings. Students could also use email to answer questions and serve as distance mentors for these same parents and staff members between training sessions.

Expected Benefit:

- Students will gain experience helping computer illiterate adults maneuver through basic computer programs without offending them.
- They will also learn to answer questions and teach computer skills at different levels as they individualize for the novice and assist the more experienced adults in their group.
- Computer Science students will gain volunteer experience in their field of study to add to their resume.

Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Art and Design, Graphic Design

Head Start Placement: Family & Community Partnerships

Practicum Opportunity:

SUU Head Start maintains a website, advertises the program and provides monthly parent newsletters.

SUU students will experience:

- Redesigning the website
- Creating advertisement flyers
- Designing monthly newsletters

Expected Benefit

- Students will learn about working with customers and meeting their advertisement and public image goals.

suu.edu/headstart/

SUU SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

SUU Home | A to Z Index | Contact Info | Search

Head Start

[About](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Centers & Staff](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Donations & Volunteers](#)

[Early Intervention/Baby Watch](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Enrollment](#)

[Incident Report Form](#)

[Useful Websites](#)

SUU Government Relations & Regional Services

SUU Head Start is a program of the [SUU Office of Government Relations & Regional Services](#).

Report an Error

Last Update: Thursday, October 11, 2012

Was a Question?

Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Art and Design

Head Start Placement: Art Education in Head Start Classrooms and Parent Meetings

Head Start Need:

The Head Start curriculum encourages young children's exposure to fine art, the various techniques and uses of art media, and daily opportunities to express themselves with art materials. It also encourages parents to become more familiar with fine art and recognition and encouragement of their child's experiences with art.

Practicum Opportunity:

Students will have the opportunity to teach young children to see and appreciate both fine art, the art in their environment and their own growing abilities to create with different art media. They will have opportunities to teach and interact with children individually and in large and small groups in Head Start classrooms. They will also have the opportunity to enrich parent's knowledge and appreciation of art during presentations at parent meetings and as parents volunteer in the classrooms

Expected Benefit:

- Students will see firsthand the value of teaching young children and their parents to see and appreciate both fine art and the art they see around them in their environment each day in books, nature and life.
- They will also have the opportunity to teach children new skills and introduce them to new art media.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Music

Head Start Placement: Teacher In-service, Head Start Classrooms and Parent Meetings

Head Start Need:

The SUU Head Start curriculum requires and encourages the introduction of musical instruments and an on-going opportunity to see and be involved in live musical performances for preschool children.

Practicum Opportunity:

Music students would be given an opportunity to adopt a Head Start classroom and work with the Head Start teachers to introduce as many musical instruments as possible and provide an on-going variety of live music experience for the children in the class. They would have the opportunity to help children create their own instruments in the classroom and help them perform for their parents in parent meetings. They could also present music workshops and help to Head Start teaching staff during teacher In-service meetings.

Expected Benefit:

- Student will experience firsthand the wonderful effect music has on the development of young minds.
- Student will have the opportunity to use their skills and talents to introduce, teach and inspire young children, their parents and their teachers to love and appreciate music in their lives.

Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Art and Design - Photography

Head Start Placement: Head Start Classrooms

Head Start Need:

SUU Head Start needs a professional photographic history of children and staff members participating in classroom learning experiences, playground activities, and field trips. These photos would be framed and hung to enliven each of the 13 Head Start facilities. They would be used to add interest to brochures, news articles and other advertisement promoting Head Start. They would add an inviting 'face' to the Annual Report and to the on-going reports sent to our stake holders and finally they could be used to document needs for grant proposals.

Practicum Opportunity:

Students would have an opportunity to build their skills photographing active children and adults in interesting settings. They could also have experience framing their work, using their photos in brochure and report layouts.

Expected Benefit:

- Students will gain experience photographing active pre-school children in a variety of settings.
- They will learn to take pictures which document the learning experiences in Head Start classrooms.
- Students will have real world experience using their photographs in a variety of settings and for a variety of useful purposes.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Theater Arts

Head Start Placement: Teacher In-service, Head Start Classrooms and Parent Meetings

Head Start Need:

Head Start's curriculum encourages creative art expression in all of the arts including drama. Most young children use dramatic play as a learning experience which allows them to try out new roles and work through problem. Some children however, come from such stressful homes that they have never had an opportunity to develop this type of play. These children need adult mentors who show them what is possible and permissible. These children need to see it is safe to dress in costumes and pretend you are someone else. They need to see adults help children act out the story or put on a puppet show using different voices for each character. They need adults they can trust to mentor them through their first experiences with drama until this form of play and learning becomes natural to them.

Practicum Opportunity:

Theater students would spend scheduled time in the Head Start classroom on a weekly basis. They would become familiar with the drama objectives used in the Head Start program. They would observe children's play and work with teaching staff to plan appropriate dramatic play activities to teach these objectives. As planned with the teacher, students would work with children one-on-one, in small group interactions and with all children together in dramatic play activities.

Expected Benefit:

- Theater arts students will be able to use their skills and talents to expand the creative abilities of all young children in a Head Start classroom.
- They will work with Head Start staff to individualize dramatic play experiences for specific children.
- These students will also help Head Start teachers develop new creative approaches to teaching the drama objectives from the Head Start Core Curriculum.

Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Library Science

Head Start Placement: Central Office, Teacher In-service and Parent Meetings

Head Start Need:

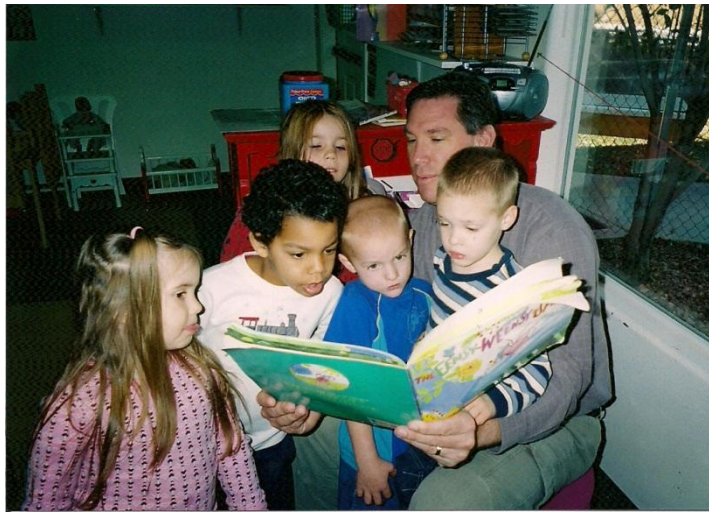
Head Start teachers and central staff members are constantly seeking the best children's books to peak children's interest, promote their literacy skills and meet the requirements of the SUU Head Start curriculum while staying within the limited Education budget.

Practicum Opportunity:

Library Science students would have the opportunity to do searches of children's literature to provide SUU Head Start the best books available to meet children's needs in each domain of the Core Curriculum. These booklists would be used for the formation of a large central library which could be used by all teaching staff members.

Expected Benefit:

- Library Science students would have the opportunity to see their research skills and efforts turned into a lasting resource for countless teachers, parents and children.
- They will have real world experience researching and working within a limited budget.
- They will gain knowledge about the needs of young children and the importance of the books and literature chosen for them.



Southern Utah University Head Start

Practicum Opportunities

SUU Department: Computer Science and Information Systems

Head Start Placement: Family & Community Partnerships

Practicum Opportunity:

SUU Head Start must conduct a family satisfaction survey each year. Students will experience:

- Converting paper survey into a usable electronic form (with Head Start Input)
- Creating a data base to compile the information.

Expected Benefit

Students will gain hands on experience with the survey process; i.e., efficiency of survey, compilation, and ease of access (user friendly). Students will learn how to generate reports of the existing data.