



Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

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VIA SERVICES FIRST STEP EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

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Organizational Profile

The mission of Via is to help children and adults with disabilities achieve greater self-sufficiency and lead richer lives. The agency serves over 3,000 people annually with developmental, physical, communicative and learning disabilities, as well as children who are at-risk for developmental delays. Arrupe placements will be in Via’s First Step Early Intervention Non-Categorical Classroom which serves children 0-3 years old.

Each First Step program provides intensive early intervention treatment for children ages birth to three years with disabilities and developmental delays. First Step utilizes the Infant Mental Health Model, respecting the needs of the entire family. The staff provides parent education and support, counseling and modeling in the classroom, as well as through home and community visits. Parents participate in a language-enriched program and learn and participate in socialization through play-based activities. Consequently, parents are always present in the classroom to learn how to apply early intervention strategies with their child within various settings. The program’s professional staff includes occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, and early childhood educators.

SCU Student’s Role

SCU students will be working in the non-categorical classroom which involves parent participation and children three years and younger in a center-based program. Children in this program may have autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, language delays, or other developmental challenges. Participation is the responsibility of all program staff: helping in the preparation of materials and snacks, greeting of families, facilitated play, clean-up, and assisting in the transitions between activities are appreciated when time permits. Bilingual Spanish, Vietnamese and Mandarin speakers are welcome. Students who choose this placement must be comfortable in taking initiative when interacting with the children.

To Do Before Orientation

- Visit organization’s website above to learn more about their work.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.
- Livescan fingerprints are required. Refer to attached instructions and begin process immediately.