



Language & Literacy

Improving Language & Literacy Outcomes for Children with Communication Disorders in High-Need Populations: A Personnel Preparation Grant

Improving Language & Literacy Outcomes for Children with Communication Disorders in High-Need Populations (L&L) is personnel preparation project at Florida State University funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. L&L supports pre-service training of SLPs with specialized training in speech, language and literacy disorders in high-need populations. L&L scholars will develop specialized knowledge and skills in:

-  Prevention and assessment of speech, language and literacy disorders in high-need populations
-  Evidence-based language and literacy interventions
-  Roles and responsibilities in early intervention and school-based service delivery

Scholars will be equipped to function in a variety of settings and roles important to early intervention and school-based programs serving young children and youth with speech, language and literacy disorders who may be at risk for literacy disorders and academic failure due to living in poverty, achieving far below grade level, homelessness, or being English learners (“high-need children with disabilities”).

L&L includes the following unique features: (a) participation in three community practicum experiences with children with speech/language disorders in high risk populations; (b) models of community programs will serve as the basis for a required applied research experience; (c) national leaders, family members, and community providers will be active participants in the practica/seminars/courses supported through technology; and (d) a series of three specialized seminars will address (1) prevention, early identification and dynamic assessment of speech, language and literacy disorders in high-need populations, (2) school-based service delivery and collaborative teaming to support literacy skills and academic success for children with speech/language impairments, and (3) translation of research-to-practice for evidence-based speech, language and literacy interventions.

Stipends (\$4000 per semester) and tuition waivers (11 graduate credits per semester) will be available for 5 trainees. Trainees also will be eligible for travel funds to attend and present at state and national conferences. Trainees should be aware that stipends and tuition waivers are considered forgivable loans as per the U.S. Department of Education. Forgivable loans can be repaid through training-related work whereby trainees perform full-time work related to their preparation in a setting serving children with special needs anywhere in the U.S. for a period of two years for every year of financial assistance.

Interested students should submit the following application to Emily Lakey, School of Communication Science and Disorders, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306

E-mail: emily.lakey@cci.fsu.edu



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Application Process for Participation in L&L

Interested students admitted to the School of Communication Science and Disorders at Florida State University are invited to submit an application for a traineeship. Applications will be reviewed by project personnel and initial decisions about traineeships will be made by April 1st.

The application should include your name and contact information (mail, phone, and email), two names and contact information of previous or current faculty who have agreed to serve as references, and three brief essays in response to the following three queries:

1. Describe your own experiences or interests that draw you to this training project.
2. SLPs play an important role in language and literacy instruction and intervention in school-based and early intervention settings. Identify a question or concern that you feel should be studied or a program that could be developed that would enhance the quality of intervention/service delivery for children with communication disorders in high-need populations. Provide a rationale for the importance of your identified topic and what benefits could result from the study or model project.
3. Participation in this project obligates you to employment in a school or other agency that serves children with special needs. What would you be looking for in your ideal job when you graduate?

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Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306
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