

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood (DIEEC) is looking for undergraduate students interested in gaining applied research experience in early childhood education. Located within the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, DIEEC collaborates with the Delaware Department of Education and other partners to study professional development for early childhood educators and conducts research related to early childhood policy.

Our undergraduate research assistants contribute to the following projects:

Early Head Start

A new study will examine the effectiveness of a parent-training intervention carried out by Early Head Start staff. We are looking at child stress and parent-child interactions in Early Head Start families, and will collect saliva (cortisol) samples from children to measure their stress levels. Undergraduate assistants will primarily enter data and assemble questionnaire packets and cortisol collection kits. There may also be opportunities to assist with home visits, videotape assessments, and collect cortisol samples.

Child Care Training Surveys

Our research assistants at DIEEC are also vital to our goal of collecting and analyzing data from thousands of teachers and childcare providers across the state. A major component of our work involves providing and evaluating professional development training courses for early childhood education providers. Students participating in this work will primarily be responsible for entering survey data and assembling teacher survey packets.

Quality Rating and Improvement System: Delaware Stars

Undergraduates can help collect information on how quality enhancements and supports are assisting in increasing the quality of child care programs across the state. Students participating in the Delaware Stars initiative will also have opportunity to enter quality data, transcribe interviews with early childhood personnel, and assist with recruitment activities for Delaware Stars.

Healthy Lifestyles

In conjunction with Nemours Health and Prevention Services we offer programming in healthy eating and physical activity as well as social emotional support. This project allows students to participate in data transcription and collection as well as on-site visits to help deliver training and support.

We also offer the opportunity to do independent studies for course credit, and internships. If you are interested in speaking about undergraduate research opportunities at DIEEC, please contact Jason Hustedt at jhustedt@udel.edu.