

**Research Assistant Position in Preschool Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience**  
**Laboratory for Child Brain Development**  
**Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh**

The Laboratory for Child Brain Development (LCBD-PI: Dr. Susan Perlman) currently has two openings for research assistants. The applicant's main appointment will be in the Laboratory for Child Brain Development (LCBD; <http://www.lcbd.pitt.edu>) in the Department of Psychiatry in the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine (<http://www.psychiatry.pitt.edu/>). The LCBD is dedicated to using multi-modal methodology to understand the trajectories of emotional development from infancy to middle childhood (with a strong preschool focus). Currently, the LCBD has several ongoing projects including: 1) Longitudinal development of preschool irritability as a predictor for psychopathology; 2) Interpersonal brain synchronization in autism spectrum disorders; 3) The impact of treatment for disruptive behavior on brain development and; 4) Brain development in preschool children who were born dependent on opioids, in addition to several local and national collaborations. Research assistants will mostly be working on a new study investigating interpersonal neural synchronization (using fNIRS) between preschool children with high irritability and their parents, however there are opportunities for work on other projects if interested. Projects, funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Brain and Behavior Research foundation, employ intensive, state-of-the-art, multi-modal, neurodevelopmental measurement including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), eye tracking, facial expression and behavioral coding, sleep actigraphy, hair cortisol, and interpersonal neural synchronization between parent and child.

This is an ideal position for a candidate looking to gain research experience before applying to graduate or medical school. The research assistant will be an integral member of this scientific team and will have opportunities to earn authorship on publications and present posters at scientific meetings.

Position requires a bachelor's degree in psychology, neuroscience, or a related field. The ideal candidate will demonstrate interest in child development, strong motivation, work ethic, and organizational skills, and will combine collaborative orientation with the ability to function well independently. This position requires experience in a research laboratory environment (whether through previous work experience or during undergraduate studies). Experience with a brain imaging modality (fMRI, EEG, fNIRS) and/or psychophysiology (heart rate, skin conductance, pupillometry) is preferred. Previous experience with children and families is required.

This position is expected to begin on 10/1/2018, although start date is flexible. Applicants who intend to spend a minimum of 2 years in the position will be preferred. The position will extend 2 years, depending on progress, with the possibility of extending the position pending future funding. Applicants will be considered until the position is filled. For more information, please contact Dr. Perlman directly at [perlmansb2@upmc.edu](mailto:perlmansb2@upmc.edu).