

**Research Technician II – Duke Early Experience and the Developing Brain Lab  
Infant/Toddler Research Position**

The Duke Early Experience and the Developing Brain (DEED; [sites.duke.edu/deed](http://sites.duke.edu/deed)) Lab, an NIH funded lab in Duke's Psychology & Neuroscience department, is seeking a research technician with **a significant interest in infant/toddler development and testing.**

The DEED Lab studies the transactional relationships between early life experiences and brain development, with a central focus on how our understanding of functional brain development during the first six years of life can be used to help children with early emerging disruptions in socioemotional development. Techniques routinely used in the lab to investigate these relationships include functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), electroencephalography (EEG), dyadic head-mounted eye-tracking, and behavioral testing. Children visiting the lab frequently include infants, toddlers, and preschoolers exhibiting early emerging features of depression or autism spectrum disorder. Through our innovative research and training, the DEED Lab strives to inform social policies that will support a strong foundation for young, vulnerable children.

This position will primarily support (~80% of time) ongoing projects using dyadic head-mounted eye-tracking to investigate early emerging features of autism spectrum disorder and their treatment in infants/toddlers. Main responsibilities will include interacting with and testing infant/toddlers with and without early emerging features of autism spectrum disorder and related conditions, operating dyadic head-mounted eye-tracking equipment per study protocol, assisting with the collection, processing, and analyzing of eye-tracking and video data, and assisting with study recruitment/administration.

In addition, this position will also spend a small percentage of time (~20% per week) conducting child testing in support of the Neurodevelopmental Trajectories of Reward Processing in Very Early Emerging Risk for Depression study, a federally funded longitudinal program of research investigating brain development and risk for depression in preschoolers. Responsibilities will include interacting with and testing preschool-age children, operating EEG/ERP equipment per study protocol, and accompanying participant families to MRI/fMRI scans.

The research technician will also have opportunities to co-author research publications and presentations in their own areas of interest and in ongoing projects in the lab.

**Desired Skills/Experience Include:**

- A high degree of comfort in working with young children and their families.
- Previous experience in conducting research with infants/toddlers is highly desirable. However, previous experience leading structured activities for infants/toddlers (e.g., nanny, daycare provider, etc.) will also be viewed favorably.
- Coursework and/or research experience in relevant field(s) (e.g., autism spectrum disorder, clinical psychology, developmental psychology, cognitive neuroscience, socioemotional development, etc.)
- Experience with eye tracking data collection is a plus
- Experience with relevant software is a plus (e.g., Datavyu, R, etc.)

Duke Psychology and Neuroscience has a strong community of researchers (see primary faculty [here](#)). The DEED lab collaborates with this community as well as researchers from other institutions. Travel to visit collaborating investigators and their labs who are not at Duke so that new techniques/software can be brought back to DEED may be possible, though not required.

***(See next page for instructions on how to apply)***

To apply, please send an email to michael.gaffrey@duke.edu with the subject line "Gaffrey DHMET Research Technician Position" and the following items:

1. Current CV (including contact details of 3 references)
2. Letter of Interest highlighting how your background complements the labs' needs and interests.

Applications will be reviewed beginning **July 2<sup>nd</sup>** and will continue until a suitable candidate is selected. This is a one year position with possibility of renewal.

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