

# JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Vacancy reference:</b>	SRF29808
<b>Post Title:</b>	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 6
<b>School/Department:</b>	Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences
<b>Reports to:</b>	Prof Helen Dodd
<b>Responsible for:</b>	n/a

## Purpose

This is a post-doctoral research role to contribute to and develop the research work on the project examining adventurous play as a mechanism for decreasing anxiety risk in primary school-aged children. The work is funded by a prestigious UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, awarded to Prof. Helen Dodd (see <https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/future-leaders-fellowships/meet-our-future-leaders-fellows/helen-dodd-university-of-reading/>).

The appointed Postdoctoral Research Fellow will work to develop and deliver a program of applied research evaluating whether adventurous play in schools can be increased and how this affects children's risk for anxiety. The work has strong potential to affect policy and practice and involves seven project partners from the play sector including Play England, Learning through Landscapes and Outdoor Play and Learning.

## Main duties and responsibilities

Research:

- Undertake qualitative research to examine the barriers and facilitators of adventurous play in schools under the supervision of the Principle Investigator to develop a program that can be delivered in schools that aims to increase children's opportunities for adventurous play
- Contribute to the scientific design and development of the research proposals and projects
- Manage the process of obtaining ethics approval and other approvals as necessary to the project
- Manage the recruitment of participants for the project, including schools, and gather data from participant interviews to then transcribe and analyse the qualitative data
- Contribute to writing proposals for research grants
- Carry out independent research and supervise the work of research assistants
- Contribute to the writing of papers for publication in leading academic journals and other relevant media
- Disseminate research findings and establish a national reputation through participation in national conferences, exhibitions etc.
- Develop and implement research methodologies that add to knowledge and understanding appropriate to the discipline
- Collaborate with colleagues within the University in the development of original research
- Provide specialist advice to other staff and students within the University
- Use initiative and creativity to synthesise, analyse and interpret research data
- Potential to undertake additional quantitative research on adventurous play and/or to work on datasets and papers that are relevant to risk factors for anxiety in young children.

#### Enterprise & Outreach:

- Liaise with industry partners and other bodies external to the University about the research
- Support efforts to promote the project and to disseminate the project's findings internally and externally
- Attend relevant seminars, conferences, exhibitions and other events
- Participate in relevant school meetings and events

#### Leadership & Management:

- Oversee project progress, and the meeting of deadlines, under the supervision of the Principle Investigator
- Organise and participate in project group meetings
- Work closely with and ensure good communication between colleagues within the School and across the University
- Support the supervision of any project or placement students working in the team

#### **Supervision received**

The postdoctoral research fellow will work closely with Professor Dodd and will receive guidance and supervision through regular meetings. Additional training and supervision will be provided from other members of the research team and/or School as required. Training and experience through the attendance of international conferences, workshops and training schools will be encouraged.

#### **Supervision given**

Applicants will also be encouraged to supervise junior research staff and research students.

#### **Contact**

In addition to the core project team, the post-holder will also have regular contact with:

- colleagues and students in the Anxiety and Depression in Young people (AnDY) research unit
- colleagues in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, University of Reading
- academics supporting the project, specifically, Professor Cathy Creswell, Professor Helen Bilton and Professor Kate Harvey
- academic colleagues at other institutions who share an interest in the area of research
- schools, parents and teachers participating in the research

#### **Terms and conditions**

Full time fixed term contract for 2 years 2 months (ideal start date October 2019 although room for negotiation). There is scope for flexibility in working hours if required. Note that occasional evening or weekend work and travel may be required to accommodate research demands.

There are no specified hours of work, but you will be required to work such hours as are necessary to carry out the duties associated with the post. Overtime is not payable.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

**Date assessed: 8/7/2019**

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Fellow	Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Skills Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills</li> <li>• Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing</li> <li>• Expertise in qualitative methods</li> <li>• Strong computer skills</li> <li>• Ability to work to deadlines</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Ability to work both independently and as a member of a team</li> <li>• Excellent organisational skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research with schools, children or families</li> <li>• Expertise in child anxiety</li> <li>• Expertise in anxiety disorders, education and/or play</li> <li>• Research and project-related administrative skills</li> </ul>
<b>Attainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD (or soon to obtain PhD) in relevant subject or discipline</li> <li>• A good honours degree in relevant subject</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of having a publication record on relevant topics</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child development, education and play, and mental health, particularly anxiety disorders</li> <li>• Knowledge of qualitative research designs</li> <li>• Qualitative statistics and analysis</li> <li>• Knowledge of ethical practice and the processes for obtaining approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of developmental psychopathology of child anxiety</li> </ul>
<b>Relevant Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of conducting psychological research, ideally in an applied setting or with children and families, with human participants</li> <li>• Experience writing and submitting scientific publications</li> <li>• Experience with running experiments, analysing the data and evidence of bringing the results to publication.</li> <li>• Experience in carrying out research with schools, children or families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience conducting research with children and families</li> <li>• Experience conducting research in schools</li> <li>• Experience conducting qualitative interviews and analysis</li> <li>• Experience interacting with teachers, young people and their families</li> <li>• Experience with qualitative methods</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of public speaking at events/exhibitions etc.</li> <li>• Experience of managing a project</li> <li>• Experience of building and maintaining external contacts/partners in order to drive mutual interests</li> </ul>	
<b>Disposition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoys scientific challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committed to developing as a researcher and building research track record</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full UK driving license and access to a car</li> </ul>
Completed by: Helen Dodd		Date: 8/7/2019