ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT) COACH

This is a part-time position with no University of Delaware benefits. Current UD employees (faculty, LTR, postdoctoral fellows and researchers, exempt and non-exempt staff) are ineligible. Funding for this position is available through December 2017.

Context:
Assistive Technology (AT) Coaches are needed to serve as part of the Delaware Early Childhood Assistive Technology Model Demonstration (DECATD) project team. DECATD is a federally-funded program expected to promote and sustain promising practices for the effective use of assistive technology by infants, toddlers, and preschool children with special needs and disabilities and, as a result, improve their functional outcomes and increase opportunity for full participation in daily life activities. Funding for the program was awarded to the Center for Disabilities Studies at the University of Delaware in January of 2013.

AT Coaches will provide “just in time,” imbedded and ongoing coaching for early childhood education staff. The primary focus will be to assist early education staff to successfully integrate the use of effective AT strategies and multiple technologies in order to differentiate and enhance student learning.

Overall, the job of the AT Coaches is to build the capacity of the early education program and its staff to meet the learning needs of all students. The goal is to ensure that program staff acquires the understanding and skills to:
1. Enhance assistive technology practices at the service-delivery level and
2. Raise the level of student achievement of functional outcomes.

Expectations:
- Participate in all relevant training sessions and activities sponsored by DECATD.
- Work with early education staff (e.g., classroom teachers, teams and/or therapy staff) directly to refine their knowledge and skills. Vehicles could include on-site coaching, modeling of technology integration strategies and multiple technology devices; guiding teachers in considering and trialing technology device options; assisting with the development of IEP objectives, measures; etc. to include assistive technology; etc.
- Facilitate embedded professional development in which early education staffs learn to effectively integrate AT devices and strategies into the daily curricular activities.
- Model the effective use of technology integration strategies and use of devices into curriculum and instructional practices across the daily schedule.
- Build and maintain confidential relationships with early education staff. The conversations and interactions that the coach has with teachers must always remain confidential so that a high level of trust is created and maintained between the teacher and the coach. Exceptions to this include imminent physical or psychological danger to the students.
- Guide staff in the development and use of child-specific assistive technology plans as well as a planning process that reflects the SETT framework for gathering data in order to make effective assistive technology decisions.
The effective AT Coach will spend the majority of the time working on-site with early education program staff (e.g. modeling, demonstrating, observing, etc.). Some work may be appropriate for remote coaching (virtually) via on-line video software (e.g., Skype) and/or phone. Coaches may facilitate professional development groups in which they analyze student work and lesson plans and plan for the enhancement of assistive technology strategies.

AT Coaches report directly to and are held accountable by the DECATD director.

**We seek individuals with the following qualities:**
- Evidence of having done similar coaching work previously;
- Personal capability and relevant experience;
- The flexibility of the coach (in terms of techniques and willingness to work with others);
- A focus on delivering or improving results;
- Consciousness of and consideration for return on effort;
- Personal integrity, trustworthy and solid reputation
- Interpersonal, problem solving, and organizational skills required to effectively facilitate coaching and staff development;
- Concerned with the practical issues of setting goals and achieving results within specific time-periods

**Qualifications:**
- Bachelor’s degree and 3-years of experience using assistive technology with preschool-age children or high school diploma/GED with a minimum of 8 to 10-years of experience using assistive technology with preschool-age children
- Working knowledge of and experience with implementing the SETT framework
- Knowledge of Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology (QIAT)
- A minimum of 3-years of experience in using coaching techniques and strategies in a structured environment (e.g., quality improvement program)
- Knowledge and understanding of the coaching process as well as the variety of styles, skills and techniques that are appropriate to the school context in which the coaching takes place
- Proven track record of interpersonal, problem solving, and organizational skills required to effectively facilitate coaching and staff development
- Valid driver’s license and reliable means of transportation

State of Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF) Child Registration clearance and a State of Delaware fingerprint and criminal background required.

Hours: up to 20 hours per week (combination of on-site and virtual coaching is possible)
Wages: $40.00/hour

To apply, submit a current resume, one-page cover letter and names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of at least two references to suzanne@udel.edu.

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