**Researcher Opportunities**

We are looking for two or three researchers to support our Welsh Government funded research project. The researchers will be employed at Swansea University and line managed by Dr Jacky Tyrie – If you are interested please contact on j.tyrie@swansea.ac.uk

Project Title: **Young Children's educational experiences during COVID-19: Amplifying their voices to enhance our understanding**

**Overview:** The research aims to explore the educational experiences of young children aged 3-5 in Wales, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent return to schools. We intend to access the voices of a diverse range of young children. Using participatory methods in multiple sites, the research will gain a better understanding of the experiences of COVID-19 for this demographic group from their own perspective, supported by the voices of the adults around them as required. This project seeks to provide insight into the experiences of this group in order to make strategic recommendations that a) mitigate adverse impacts of COVID-19, and b) highlight positive impacts, in order to inform the direction of travel through recovery.

Please see below for the two roles we are looking to appoint 1) Research Assistant and 2) Children’s Researcher.

**Role 1: Research Assistant (can be full time or split into part time roles)**

**Start date:** 1st Nov or as soon after as possible.

**Duration:** 5 Months or until 31st March

|  |
| --- |
| Main Duties:* Support project administration.
* Facilitate participant recruitment
* Communication
* Support the development and design of research instruments
* Undertake interviews with adult participants (parents / school staff)
* Organisation and storage of data
* Undertake qualitative data analysis
* Write up / report findings in reports, academic publications and for conferences
 |
| Essential requirements: * A degree in relevant social sciences subject – Ideally at master’s or PhD level
* Evidence of the ability to actively engage in and contribute to writing and publishing research papers, particularly for refereed journals.
* A demonstrable ability to conduct research in line with the objectives of the project
* Evidence of planning skills to contribute to the research project
* Experience of contributing to high quality academic research
 |

**Role 2: Children’s Researcher**

**Start date:** 1st Dec or as soon after as possible.

**Duration:** 12 weeks**.**

|  |
| --- |
| Main Duties:* Support the development and design of research instruments with children
* Undertake visits to schools to undertake research with children (see further info below)
* Organisation and storage of data
* Undertake qualitative data analysis
* Contribute towards write up / report findings in reports, academic publications and for conferences
 |
| **Essential requirements:** 1. Working with children aged 3-5 – ideally experience of undertaking research with children
2. A degree in relevant social sciences subject – Ideally at master’s or PhD level
3. A demonstrable ability to conduct research in line with the objectives of the project
4. Evidence of planning skills to contribute to the research project
 |

**Further information:** The research adopts participatory methods for eliciting young children’s voices. Its goal is to pro-actively explore the experiences, perceptions and recollections of the young children involved through the use of innovative and creative methods, drawing on the Mosaic approach (Clark & Moss 2001, 20211; Clark 2017; Smith et al 2005; Einarsdottir et al 2009) and the use of drawings and conversations (Jordan 2004). This is to ensure the voice of the children themselves is visible in the data. A researcher with experience in play practice will conduct participatory research methods with children to explore their recollections, and current experiences of learning and life during the COVID-19 pandemic. This approach to research seeks to ensure benefits for those involved and reduces the extent to which young children’s voice is simply accessed as data for research purposes.