



EARLY YEARS NUTRITION COACH

Mobilizing knowledge-to-action for responsive feeding in early childhood

An interdisciplinary research team requires an Early Years Nutrition Coach in Nova Scotia (NS) and Prince Edward Island (PEI) to support the project, *Mobilizing knowledge-to-action for responsive feeding in early childhood*.

Creating supportive food environments for young children fosters healthy behaviours that provide a foundation for lifelong health. Responsive feeding supports self-regulation by recognizing children's cues for hunger and fullness and responding appropriately. The purpose of this project is to use a theory-based approach to develop, implement and evaluate an intervention to support responsive feeding environments in the early years in the Maritimes. Achieving the research aims is two-fold: 1) Develop, implement and evaluate a theory-informed intervention for supporting responsive feeding environments in the early years using a pre-post intervention design; 2) Identify the feasibility of the intervention to inform integration and potential scaling up within the broader early childhood system.

The research project is positioned within the research programs of Dr. Jessie-Lee McIsaac (Tier II, Canada Research Chair in Early Childhood: Diversity and Transitions, Director of the Early Childhood Collaborative Research Centre at Mount Saint Vincent University) and Dr. Misty Rossiter (Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at the University of Prince Edward Island). This project is funded through the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Early Years Nutrition Coach will collaborate with the Principal Investigators, MSVU and UPEI research team members and a Research Advisory Committee; work with early childhood educators and regulated child care centres to develop goals and action plans related to responsive feeding; coach educators and centres in achieving their goals; support data collection and analysis; and support knowledge mobilization and scaling up with the research team.

The incumbent will also be required to perform related administrative office and other tasks as needed. Travel throughout the province will be occasionally required.

ABOUT YOU:

- Master's degree in Human Nutrition, Child and Youth Study, Health Promotion or another related field is required. At least 3 years of working experience in a coaching, coordination, management role.
- Knowledge of nutrition in the early years and experience with supporting goal setting and actions plans.

- An awareness of early childhood programs and related guidelines that influence responsive feeding practices.
- Knowledge of the research process, and assessment tools for nutrition.
- Self-motivated and able to work independently, as well as a member of a team.
- Excellent writing, interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills.
- Experience with basic administrative functions and working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- The successful candidate is required to show proof of a valid driver's license when offered employment.
- French language skills are an asset.

Classification: Flexible: 12 month-term contract with the possibility of renewal; ideally part-time fall 2021, leading to full-time in January 2022

Pay Scale: \$22-\$25 per hour, plus fringe benefits

Preferred Start Date: Negotiable, ideally September 2021

Deadline for application: August 30, 2021

Applications will be reviewed as they are received. We thank all applicants; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Interested parties should forward a cover letter, current CV as well as a list of 2-3 references (with contact information) to:

Marlene Ramos (marlene.ramos1@msvu.ca)
 Research Projects Manager
 Early Childhood Collaborative Research Centre
 Mount Saint Vincent University

Mount Saint Vincent University is strongly committed to fostering diversity and inclusion within our community and encourages applications from all qualified candidates including women, persons of any sexual orientations and gender identities and/or expressions, Indigenous persons, African Canadians, other racialized groups, persons with disabilities, and other groups that would contribute to the diversification of our campus. Candidates who identify as being from any of these groups are encouraged to voluntarily self-identify in their application materials. All qualified candidates are welcome to apply; however, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. We thank all candidates for their application but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.