

# Connections Day School

31410 NORTH US HIGHWAY 45 | LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS | 60048

## POPULATION SERVED

- ❖ **Children & Adolescents** with Special Education Eligibilities (Emotional & Behavioral Challenges) **and their Families**
- ❖ Individuals struggling with mild to severe: depression & related mood disorders; anxiety disorders; disruptive, impulse-control & conduct disorders; trauma & stressor related disorders; substance-related & addictive disorders; neurodevelopmental disorders; obsessive-compulsive disorders; psychotic disorders; and personality disorders.
- ❖ CDS Students and their families are diverse in age, culture, ethnicity, race, religion, socioeconomic status, gender identity and sexual orientation.

## TRAINING POSITIONS

- ❖ 4 Therapy Externships (MA, Psy.D. or Adv.)
- ❖ 3 Doctoral Internships
- ❖ 3 Post-Doctoral Fellowships

## EXTERNSHIP/PRACTICUM TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Daily opportunities for Individual, Group, Family & Milieu Therapy and Crisis Intervention
- ❖ 1.5 hours of Individual Supervision, 2.5 hours of Group Supervision & Didactic Training per week (all with full-time, on-site Supervisors)
- ❖ Monthly Family Therapy Seminar & Consultation
- ❖ Monthly Psychiatric Consultation
- ❖ Optional Animal-Assisted Therapy with our Staff Therapy Dogs (& Therapy Guinea Pig ☺)
- ❖ Participation in Multidisciplinary Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Meetings for the students on your caseload
- ❖ Working as a Valued Member of a Multidisciplinary Team which includes: Special Education Teachers, Restorative Intervention Specialists, a Psychiatrist, Art Therapist, Substance Abuse Specialist, Speech & Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, and other well established Psychologists & Professionals in the Field



*Connections Day School follows ACEPT Guidelines for all Doctoral Level Externship/Practicum applicants.*

## EXTERNSHIP/PRACTICUM FORMAT & BENEFITS

- ❖ Externship begin in early-August and runs through the early-July
- ❖ Monthly allowance for therapeutic supplies and incentives
- ❖ Externs must be on-site 3 days per week - 24 hours - with Thursdays being required
- ❖ Hours: 8:00am – 4:00pm
- ❖ Average individual therapy caseload of 4-6 students and 2 groups per week
- ❖ 10 Sick Days and 1 Personal Day for the year
- ❖ Vacation Time: All National Holidays and Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring & Summer Breaks and all National Holidays
- ❖ No pager, crisis line or on-call duties
- ❖ Free lunch available daily from Organic Life (see CDS website for sample menu)
- ❖ Free parking
- ❖ Access to a Clinical Library of books & manuals, and therapeutic resources & supplies
- ❖ Staff Appreciation outings & events and team-building activities throughout the year

## SPECIALIZED DIDACTIC TRAINING TOPICS

- ❖ Diagnosis & Treatment of Complex Child & Adolescent Mental Health Presentations
- ❖ Working Collaboratively & Proactively as Part of a Restorative Therapeutic Milieu
- ❖ Legal & Ethical Issues when Working with Children, Adolescents & Families
- ❖ Equity, Inclusion & Multicultural Competence
- ❖ Strength-Based Treatment Approaches
- ❖ Complex Trauma, PTSD & EMDR
- ❖ Occupational Therapy & Sensory Processing
- ❖ Evidence-Based Treatment Approaches
- ❖ Art Therapy
- ❖ Individual & Family Substance Abuse
- ❖ Autism Spectrum Disorder & Neuropsych
- ❖ Professional Development
- ❖ Crisis Prevention & Intervention (CPI)
- ❖ The Special Education System & Individualized Education Programs (IEP)
- ❖ Data Collection, Progress Monitoring & Outcome Measurements



## LEAD CLINICAL TRAINING STAFF

Kristen Mittl Pollina, Psy.D., CCTP  
Clinical Director & Director of Clinical Training  
Licensed Psychologist & Certified Clinical Trauma Professional  
E-Mail: [kpollina@connectionsdayschool.net](mailto:kpollina@connectionsdayschool.net)

Giovanna Vitullo, Psy.D., CCTP  
Diagnostic Program Director & Clinical Supervisor  
Licensed Psychologist & Certified Clinical Trauma Professional  
E-Mail: [gvitullo@connectionsdayschool.net](mailto:gvitullo@connectionsdayschool.net)

For more information please contact Dr. Pollina, and/or see our Website: [www.connectionsdayschool.net](http://www.connectionsdayschool.net)