



Postdoctoral Fellow in Pediatric Neuropsychology

Elizabeth Stuart, PhD

Please describe the area of psychology you practice. For example, what does your day-to-day schedule look like?

I am currently a postdoctoral fellow in pediatric neuropsychology at a group practice. My day-to-day schedule is varied and includes a mix of clinical work, research, and administrative duties. My primary responsibilities include battery preparation, administration, and scoring. I prepare neuropsychological batteries tailored to each child's unique needs, selecting the appropriate standardized tests to evaluate cognitive functions such as memory, attention, language, and problem-solving skills. I administer these tests to children with a range of conditions, and ensure a comfortable and supportive testing environment to get the most accurate results. After administration, I spend a significant portion of my day scoring the assessments and interpreting the results. This involves analyzing the data to identify functional deficits related to brain impairments and providing a comprehensive understanding of the child's neuropsychological profile. I also provide detailed feedback to families, explaining the findings and recommendations, and collaborate with schools and other healthcare providers to ensure appropriate support for the child. Additionally, I have the opportunity to supervise advanced-level trainees. I am able to work with them on administration, scoring, and interpretation. Beyond clinical work, I also engage in research in pediatric neuropsychology. In this role, I get to design research projects, collect and analyze data, and generally contribute to the advancement of knowledge in this field.



Were there specific factors that led you to choose this area of psychology? Was there a critical moment that changed your career trajectory?

It's hard to pinpoint a singular or "critical" moment that changed my career trajectory; but, the most important point in my career was when I learned about neuropsychology as an option! Although it may sound reductionistic or overly simple, I was not aware that neuropsychology was a specialty for me to pursue. It was not until my last year of undergrad that I learned that neuropsychology could even be an option for me. At that point, I did not have enough mentorship or support to truly pursue this area of psychology. Part way through my graduate school experience, I was able to obtain a supervisor who encouraged me to consider neuropsychology as an option and to secure mentorship in that area. With the support of these mentors, I have been fortunate enough to be able to pursue a career in pediatric neuropsychology. For that reason, I am a tremendous fan of organizations like New2Neuropsychology. They are providing support and guidance and mentorship and awareness to the next generation of possible neuropsychologists in a way that I did not have.



What advice would you give to an ECP who wants to pursue a position or additional training opportunities in this area of psychology?

The first and most important thing I think anyone can do to pursue a career in pediatric neuropsychology is to find mentorship. I highly recommend organizations such as New2Neuropsychology or APA to help connect you with mentors. Mentors can offer valuable advice on career development, research opportunities, and clinical practice. My mentors have helped me navigate the complexities of the field and introduced me to my professional networks.

Next, I highly recommend joining professional organizations. In addition to the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN) within APA, consider becoming a member of other neuropsychological organizations such as the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN), the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), and the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN). These organizations offer valuable resources, networking opportunities, and continuing education. Similarly, I strongly recommend attending workshops and conferences. They are a great way to stay updated on the latest research, techniques, and trends in pediatric neuropsychology, as well as give you the opportunities to network with other professionals and experts in the field.

Whenever possible, I strongly encourage all trainees (whether in high school, undergraduate, or graduate school), to seek comprehensive and well-rounded training. Although the field appears to be encouraging more specialized and pointed training experiences, I cannot overstate the value of a comprehensive training program in my experience. As part of this, I firmly believe that becoming involved in research early and consistently will both enhance the trainee's knowledge and can help build a strong CV.

Contact us: earlycareer@apa.org

For further resources, please click [here](#) to check out our ECP website.