

General description. As an independent study student, you will gain insight in the field of child development with an emphasis on infant/toddler temperament, emotion-regulation, attachment security, and early mother-infant interaction. We will concentrate on collecting and coding observational data of mother-toddler interaction. We will read and discuss related articles, discuss data analysis and dissemination of previously collected data, and consider plans for a follow-up phase when the children are 3 years old. **Duties will include: attending regularly scheduled meetings, videotaping mother-toddler interaction, babysitting toddlers while mothers are interviewed, transcribing interviews, entering data, and other duties as needed.**

Scheduling. During the semester, you will spend an average of 9 hours a week engaged in research related activities in addition to attending a weekly group meeting and completing readings. You will submit a weekly time-sheet detailing your activities.

Academic component. The independent study experience must also include an academic component. This semester we will meet for one hour a week to discuss current literature in the field of family processes that influence social and emotional development. *Each student will be responsible for participating in the discussion (i.e., by sharing questions, concerns, and ideas).* In addition, we will negotiate a mutually agreeable written or oral assignment. Successful completion of the independent study requires that you complete both the academic and research related work components well.

Expectations. Our expectations are that all work requirements be completed in a timely manner with great attention to detail (e.g., transcribing is accurate). Once you are trained, we assume you understand your responsibilities. It is essential that you clarify any details that are unclear. You will need to plan ahead and be somewhat flexible in scheduling when you work to accommodate the schedules of others. **If you cannot complete your tasks on a designated day, you are responsible for contacting other members of the team and finding a replacement.**

Opportunities: In return for providing us with valuable services, you receive up to 3 credit hours for independent study a semester. In addition, you will have the opportunity to both observe and be actively involved in the research process. You will learn skills that are marketable both in graduate school and the workplace (e.g., critical thinking and writing, data management and entry, current video and computer technology, etc). This experience will also allow you to work more closely with graduate students and faculty in a collaborative manner.

Your signature below indicates that you have read, understand, and agree with the conditions described above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature                      date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty signature                      date