**2020-21 Psychology Summer Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | Understanding the relationship between early childhood educator’s language use, children’s theory of mind, and oral language development in the kindergarten setting |
| **Positions available:** | **2** |
| **Project duration:** | * Approx. 25hours per week * 6-8 weeks (negotiable) |
| **Description:** | Theory of mind is the ability to understand mental states such as desires, beliefs and emotions. This project investigates the effect of early childhood educator language use on child theory of mind development. An understanding of how social knowledge is effectively transferred from educators to children is important for educator training, the design of evidenced informed interventions, and policy development in the early childhood sector.  **Research Questions**   1. Does the mental state language input of early childhood educators predict children’s theory of mind? 2. Is the relationship between early childhood educators’ mental state language use and children’s theory of mind mediated by child language capacity? 3. Do children learn new words better in an individual or peer learning context?   It is anticipated that scholars will support with literature searches, data collation, and transcription and behavioural coding from videos. Where possible, scholars will gain some testing experience. Opportunity for face-to-face testing will be determined according to COVID-19 related restrictions at the time of the Scholarship. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Scholars will gain knowledge and experience in research design, analytic techniques in developmental psychology, and strategic literature search techniques. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from current 2nd – 3rd year students. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr Aisling Mulvihill |
| **Further info:** | Should potential applicants have questions about the scholarship, they are welcome to contact Aisling Mulvihill via email ([a.mulvihill@uq.edu.au](mailto:a.mulvihill@uq.edu.au)) prior to submitting an application. |