PhD Scholarship: Electronic media use and physical activity in preschool children: are they associated with psychosocial and cognitive development?

Dr Dylan Cliff
Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award
Early Start Research Institute, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Wollongong
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Location
Early Start Research Institute, University of Wollongong, Australia.

Overview
The PATH ABC study - Preschool And Toddler Health, Activity, Behaviour, and Cognition study
*Funded by the Australian Research Council (DE140101588)

How do health behaviours put young children on the right developmental pathway and give them the best start in life?

Levels of physical inactivity and screen-based entertainment are alarmingly high among preschool children, yet little is known about the independent effects of these behaviours on cognitive and psychosocial development during early childhood. This prospective study will investigate the associations between physical activity and screen-based entertainment and cognitive and psychosocial development in preschool children. The findings will identify how much and which types of these behaviours influence developmental outcomes in young children. This knowledge will benefit parents, educators, health professionals and governments to develop and implement evidence-based strategies and policies to give young children the best start in life. Approximately 400 toddlers and preschoolers (2.5-4y) will be recruited to the study from 20 local childcare services and assessed at baseline and 12m later.

Responsibilities of the candidate
In conjunction with the research and data collection team, the PhD candidate will be responsible for developing and maintaining positive relationships with children, parents and Childcare Service staff, assisting with data collection, data analysis, report writing, and disseminating findings to the community.

Funding support
The PhD scholarship includes a stipend of $25,000 per year for 3 years.

Inquiries
Please contact Dr Dylan Cliff (dylanc@uow.edu.au) with any questions about the scholarship.

Closing and Starting Dates
We are currently seeking expressions of interest for the scholarship. The position has a starting date of early 2015, to be negotiated with the successful candidate.