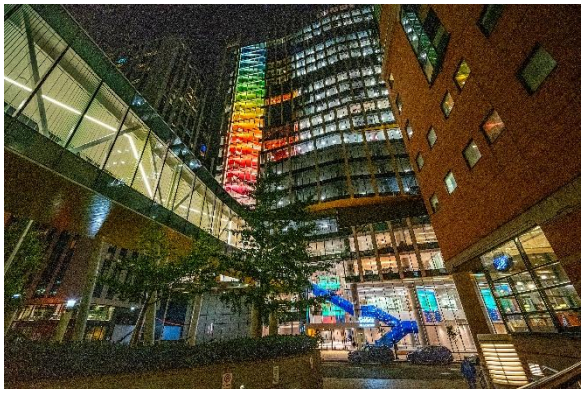
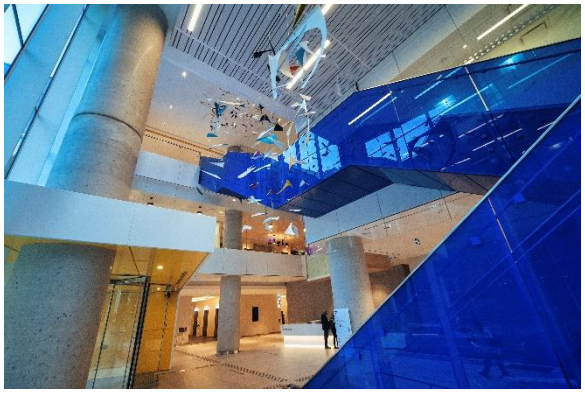
Psychology Practicum Placements

2027 – 2028





Department of Psychology

The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada

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Requirements and procedures

Criteria for application:

1. Applicant must be enrolled in a *CPA-accredited* graduate program in clinical psychology (MA or PhD level).
2. Students must have completed a graduate course in child or adult assessment and/or intervention.
3. Students must have completed graduate level courses in child psychopathology, child development, and learning disabilities.
4. Completion of a course in ethics is preferred.

Deadlines for application:

For fall or summer placements, applications must be submitted by February 1 (or the following Monday if Feb 1st falls on a weekend) of each calendar year.

Application process:

- Submit a PDF document containing a cover letter and CV to psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca.

- The cover letter should contain the following information:
  - At the top, list the specific placements to which you are applying (e.g., General Neurology).
  - Brief description of previous training and skills.
  - Reason for applying to SickKids.
  - Number of hours and days per week requested (2 days/week is expected).
  - Duration of placement: Fall (September to April) or Summer (May to August). Summer placements are limited and subject to individual supervisors' availability. Please connect directly with supervisors if you are strongly interested in a summer practicum.

- Submit a maximum of 3 reference letters:
  - Referees are to submit letters to psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca. PDFs are preferred.

- **Do not submit** university course transcripts.

Applications received after the stated deadlines will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed by staff available to offer placements and you will be contacted directly if an interview is going to be scheduled. Notification of placement offers will be made in mid-March per the GTA Practicum group agreement.

- Practicum students will usually work within one clinic.
- On occasion, a placement may be offered with shared supervision between two clinics.
- The number of placements varies each year based on supervisor availability.

In addition to direct clinical work, students will have the opportunity to attend interdisciplinary rounds, case conferences and professional development offered within a specific program and

within the larger Department of Psychology. This includes monthly Psychology Rounds, Psychology Education Day and didactic seminars offered in the Department of Psychology.

COVID-19 Ongoing Impact on Training

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the education program and faculty have navigated the uncertain landscape with flexibility prioritizing clinical care, training and safety. We continue to use a hybrid model of care (combination of in-hospital and virtual) in most clinics.

Should similar disruptions occur in the future, potential and current practicum students will be notified as soon as information becomes available.

Practicum students are expected to comply with all federal, provincial, and SickKids organization regulations including but not limited to wearing Personal Protective Equipment, maintaining appropriate physical distancing, abiding by travel restrictions, quarantining, and other Infection Prevention and Control procedures within the context of providing clinical services, or otherwise.

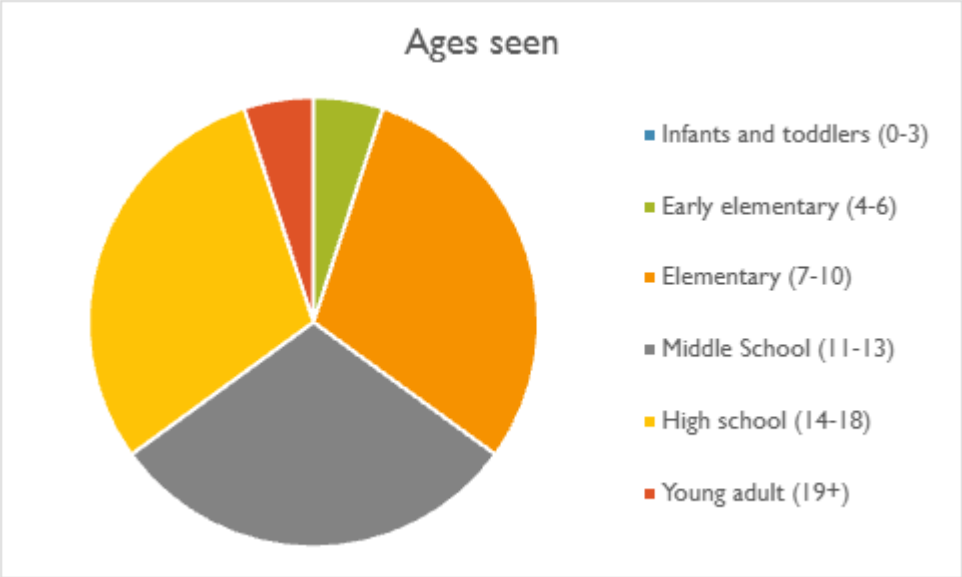
If you have questions about a specific clinic, please contact one of the supervisors directly.

If you have questions about the process or practica at SickKids in general, please contact the practicum coordinator:
psychology.practicum@sickkids.ca (January – March)
jennifer.stanga@sickkids.ca (the rest of the year)

Neuropsychological Assessment Practica

General Neurology Clinic
Supervisor: Dr. Katia Sinopoli (katia.sinopoli@sickkids.ca)

We see patients with diverse neurological conditions. One large referral population is youth with non-surgical epilepsy, with a significant proportion with seizures due to idiopathic etiologies, while others have an identifiable cause (e.g., tuberous sclerosis). Another large patient referral group is from the Neuroinflammatory Clinic, who sees youth with multiple sclerosis and other demyelinating conditions, encephalitis, and other inflammatory histories that affect development. Lastly, our clinic works with various youth with a history of movement disorders (e.g., ataxia-telangiectasia, Duchene's Muscular Dystrophy), chronic migraines, and rare conditions such as intracranial hypertension.



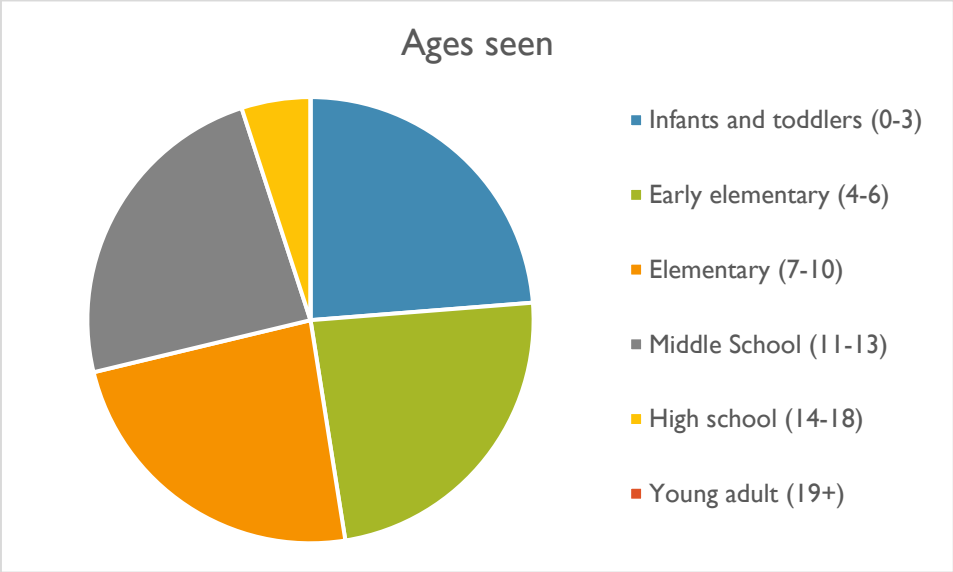
We work with a variety of ages, developmental levels, and medical conditions; thus students will gain a very broad understanding of how brain injuries and chronic brain diseases can affect outcomes.

Helpful skills: Basic to moderate neuropsychological assessment skills, knowledge of neurodevelopmental conditions, experience working with youth with a range of neurodiversity, a focus on cross-cultural issues, and being open to learning more about how to support children of all ages, backgrounds, and conditions.

General Neurology Clinic Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	advanced students preferred
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	no
Research opportunities	not at this time
Potential for summer practicum	yes
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	yes

Genetics and Epilepsy Surgery
Supervisor: Dr. Eva Mamak (eva.mamak@sickkids.ca)

Patients in this clinic are either being considered for epilepsy surgery or have received it as a treatment in the past; we also assess patients who have a genetic disorder impacting their development. As such, trainees have more opportunities to see patients with referral concerns relating to autism, intellectual disabilities, language disorders, and learning disorders. Many patients that we see have sensory and/or physical limitations.



This training experience is a unique opportunity to work with patients who are often not easily assessed with typical measures, providing the chance to build on critical thinking skills and thoughtful consideration of principles instead of specific procedures. Our patients are diverse in many ways, and there are many occasions to work with traditionally underserved populations.

Helpful skills: This would be an excellent practicum for a student who is comfortable with the use of the Wechsler scales as well as preschool assessment tools, and/or has experience with developmental disabilities.

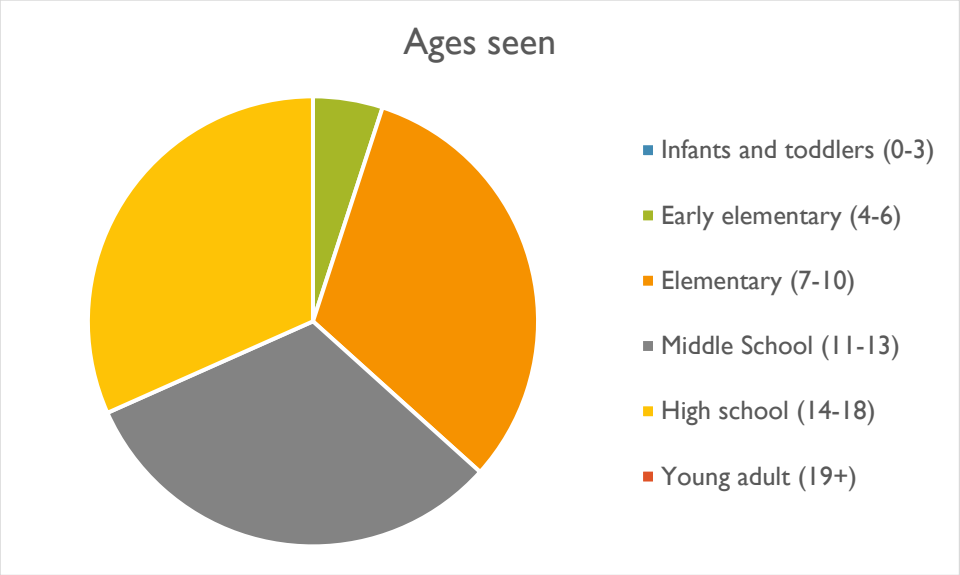
Genetics and Epilepsy Surgery Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	advanced students only
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	no
Research opportunities	not at this time
Potential for summer practicum	yes
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	yes

Hematology/Oncology
Supervisors: Dr. Laura Janzen (laura.janzen@sickkids.ca)
Dr. Andrea Coppens (andrea.coppens@sickkids.ca)

Our patients present with cognitive and other deficits related to brain tumours, leukemia, other cancers, sickle cell disease and related treatments.

A highlight of this practicum is that students have the opportunity to observe multi-disciplinary teams and school consultations.

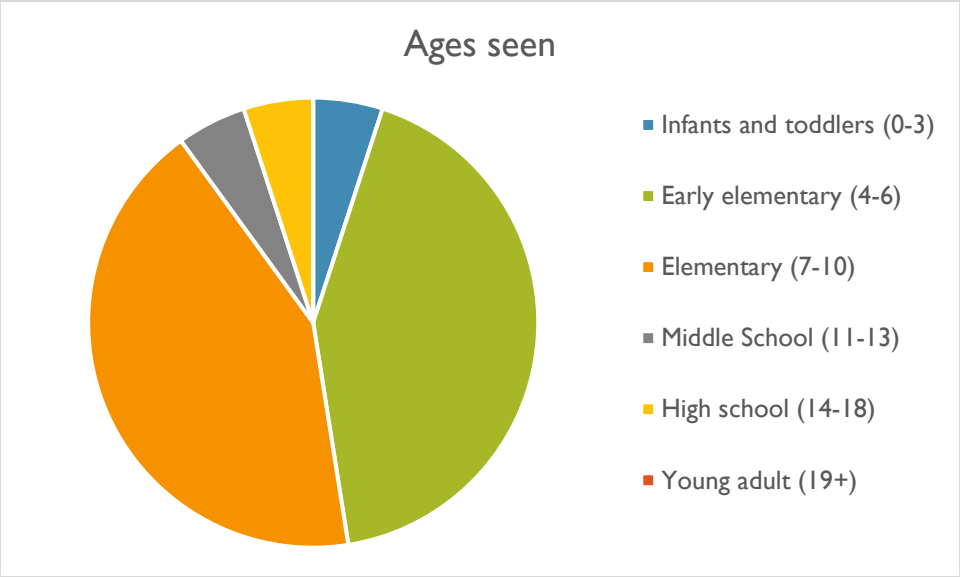
Helpful skills: Basic neuropsychological assessment skills.



Hematology/Oncology Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	advanced students preferred
Work from home opportunities	no
Inpatient clients	outpatient only
Research opportunities	no
Potential for summer practicum	yes
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	yes

Neonatal Neurology
Supervisors: Dr. Claire Champigny (claire.champigny@sickkids.ca), Dr. Tricia Williams (tricia.williams@sickkids.ca)

Our patients are children with neonatal brain injury or disruptions in neurodevelopment (e.g., extreme prematurity, neonatal stroke, hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy).



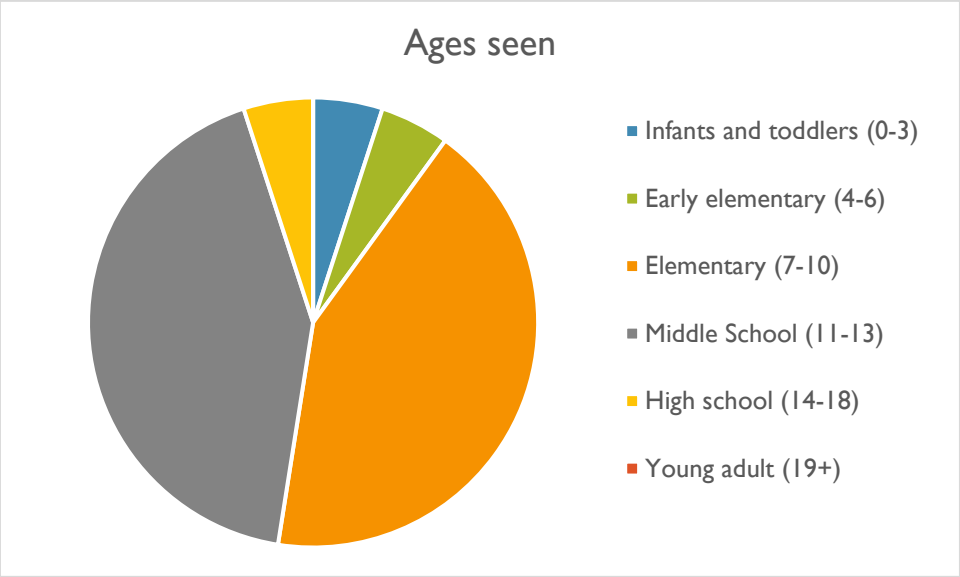
The team provides neuropsychology assessments following a tiered model of care. Trainees will develop neuropsychological assessment and consultation skills and will learn how to collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary teams. If trainees have some French proficiency, there are opportunities to receive training regarding socio-cultural and linguistic considerations for the provision of clinical care to francophone families.

Helpful skills: A basic understanding of neuroanatomy and early development.

Neonatal Neurology Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	advanced students preferred
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	outpatient only
Research opportunities	The practicum student would be actively integrated into a clinical research practice. Research opportunities include early neurocognitive and mental health outcomes, parent experiences and parenting intervention, tiered model of neuropsychological assessment and care, stepped-care models of mental health service delivery, and patient-oriented research methodologies.
Potential for summer practicum	yes
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	yes

Neurofibromatosis Clinic
Supervisor: Dr. Busi Zapparoli (busi.zapparoli@sickkids.ca)

Neurofibromatosis, type 1 (NF1) is a rare genetic condition (1 in 3,000) that is associated with increased risk for medical and neurological complications (e.g., stroke, seizure, brain tumour). Common concerns include ADHD, autism, learning disorders, executive functioning challenges, and visual spatial deficits. Mental health challenges are also common. Trainees will have opportunities to gain experience with a range of assessment measures, including the ADOS.



Health equity considerations are an important aspect of this clinic. 50% of children with NF1 inherit the condition from their parents. Parent NF1 status, as well as other factors, contribute to disparities in outcomes for NF1 patients. These factors are taken into account at various stages of the assessment, including feedback and report writing.

Helpful skills: Basic assessment skills.

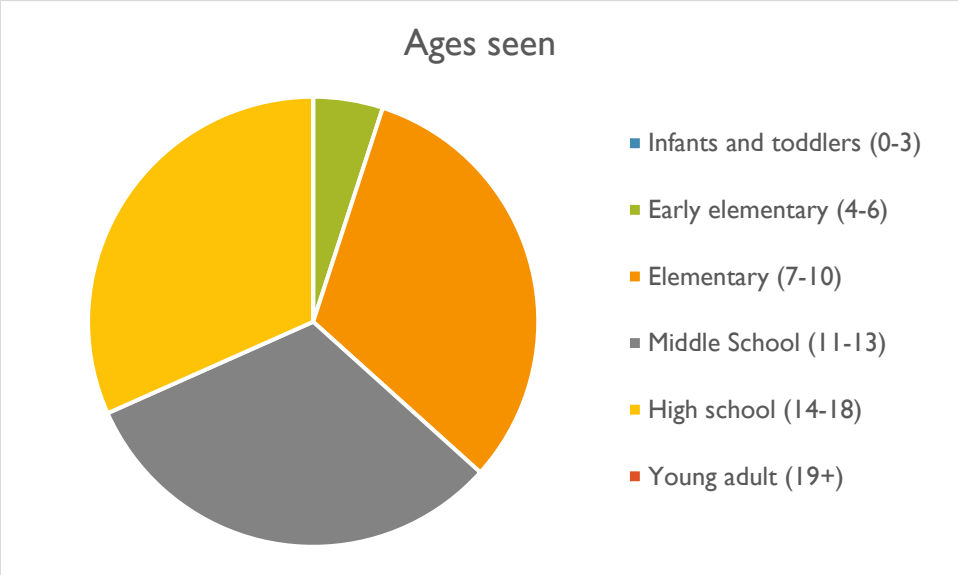
Neurofibromatosis Clinic Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	early or advanced students
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	outpatient only
Research opportunities	Research in the clinic is focused on understanding factors that contribute to poor neuropsychological outcomes in NF1 and how to intervene to promote better outcomes.
Potential for summer practicum	yes
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	yes

Stroke and Neurovascular Disorders
Supervisor: Dr. Robyn Westmacott (robyn.westmacott@sickkids.ca)

Patients in our clinic can present with brain injury, neurological deficits, learning disability, intellectual disability, ADHD, mental health issues, and adjustment issues.

We have a diverse patient population and present the unique opportunity to review brain imaging as part of the assessment. There is a strong focus on brain-behaviour relationships.

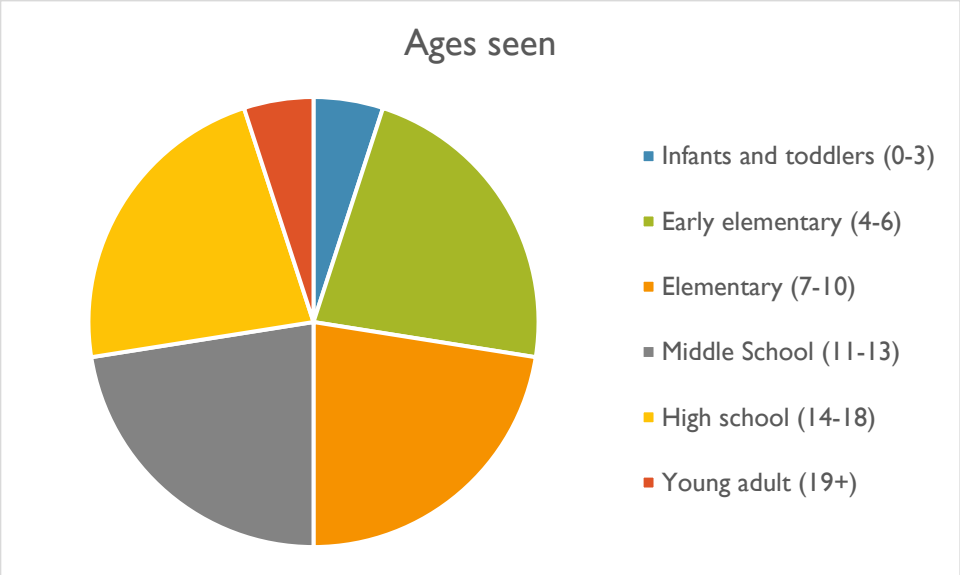
Helpful skills: Basic assessment skills.



Stroke and Neurovascular Disorders Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	early or advanced students
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	outpatient only
Research opportunities	case studies, involvement in ongoing projects with our clinical database
Potential for summer practicum	yes
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	yes

Transplant and Regenerative Medicine
Supervisors: Dr. Anna Gold (anna.gold@sickkids.ca)

We see a broad range of patients across Solid Organ Transplant (heart, lung, liver, kidney, small bowel), Intestinal failure, nephrology (dialysis and end stage kidney disease) and hepatology teams, at various stages of medical treatment. The range of medical diagnoses is very diverse and includes patients with congenital and genetic disorders, and acquired disorders (who were previously healthy).



We are the largest pediatric solid organ transplant program in Canada, and one of the largest in North America. You will gain unique experiences working with the MDT and community agencies, as well as families from diverse backgrounds.

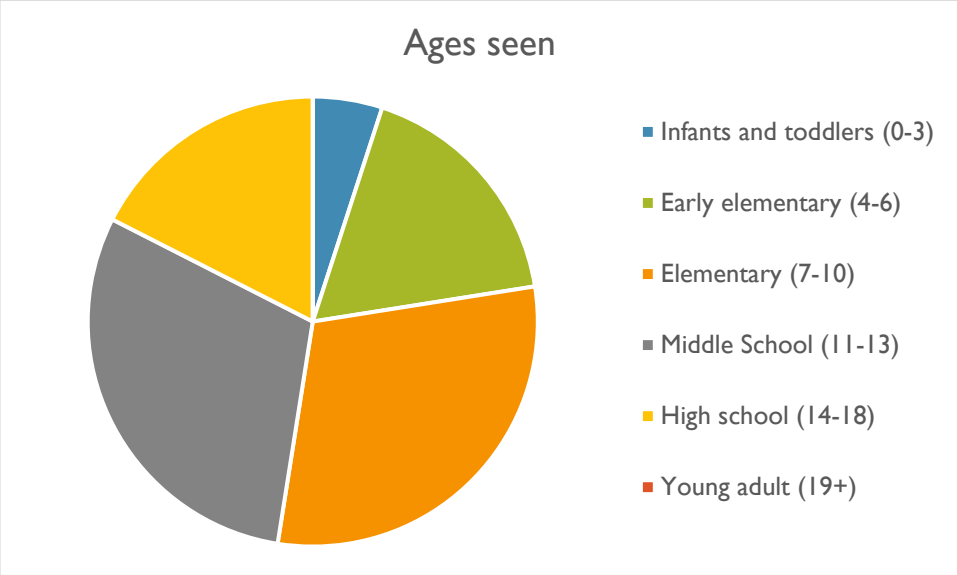
Helpful skills: A core understanding of psychological/psychoeducational assessment measures is helpful, with some experience completing clinical interviews and feedback.

Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	early or advanced students
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	yes
Research opportunities	Neuropsychological outcomes across a variety of medical diagnosis - examining specific risk and protective factors for longer term outcomes
Potential for summer practicum	yes
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	yes

Psychoeducational and Neuropsychological Assessment Practica

Cardiology (Cardiac Neurodevelopment Program)
Supervisors: Dr. Renee Sananes (renee.sananes@sickkids.ca)
Dr. Dragana Ostojic (dragana.ostojic-aitkens@sickkids.ca)

The Cardiac Neurodevelopment Program supports patients with a history of congenital heart disease or acquired heart conditions. Our service primarily sees children and youth aged 4-18 years old. In the service you will gain exposure to a range of patient concerns and presentations, including but not limited to Intellectual Disability, Learning Disability and ADHD. Exposure to patients with genetic conditions (e.g., 22q11 deletion syndrome, Turner syndrome, Trisomy 21) may also be possible.

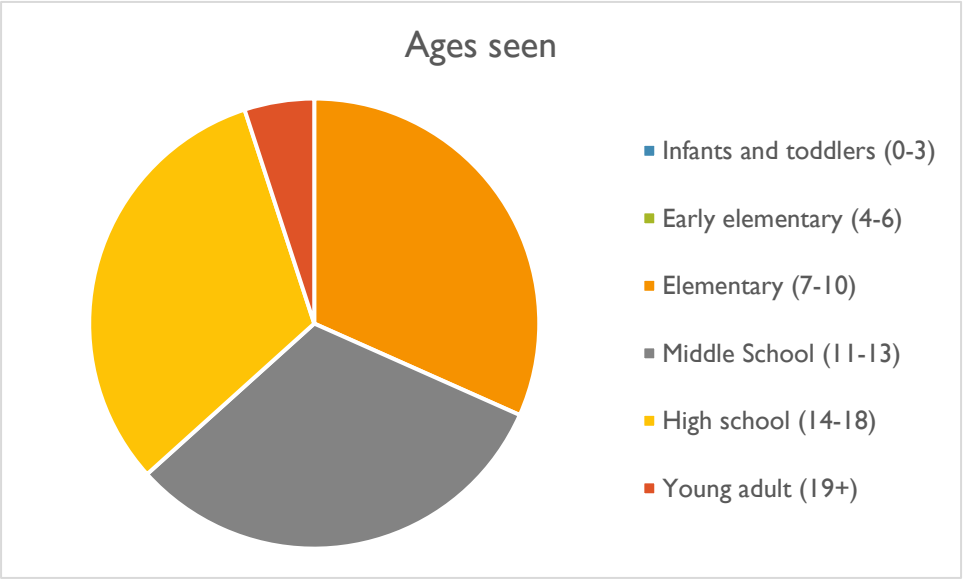


Our team is excited to welcome any trainees interested in learning more about this resilient group of children and youth. Previous experience in a hospital setting is not needed.

Helpful skills: Basic assessment skills

Cardiology (Cardiac Neurodevelopment Program) Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person only
Suitable for	early or advanced students
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	no
Research opportunities	We are building a database for research purposes. Happy to connect with trainees interested in pursuing research within the Cardiology program.
Potential for summer practicum	yes
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	no

Tics and Tourette Clinic/General Psychiatry
Supervisors: Dr. Jennifer Stanga (jennifer.stanga@sickkids.ca)



We offer neuropsychological assessments to individuals with tic disorders and Tourette syndrome (TS) as well as psychoeducational and neuropsychological assessment to complex cases referred within the Department of Psychiatry. Frequent comorbidities of TS include ADHD, anxiety disorders (particularly OCD and obsessive-compulsive behaviours), learning disabilities, autism, and executive functioning challenges. Common diagnoses in General Psychiatry patients are anxiety disorders, ADHD, autism, somatoform disorders, and mood disorders; they are typically referred for assessment of learning disabilities, executive functioning difficulties, and for educational and treatment planning.

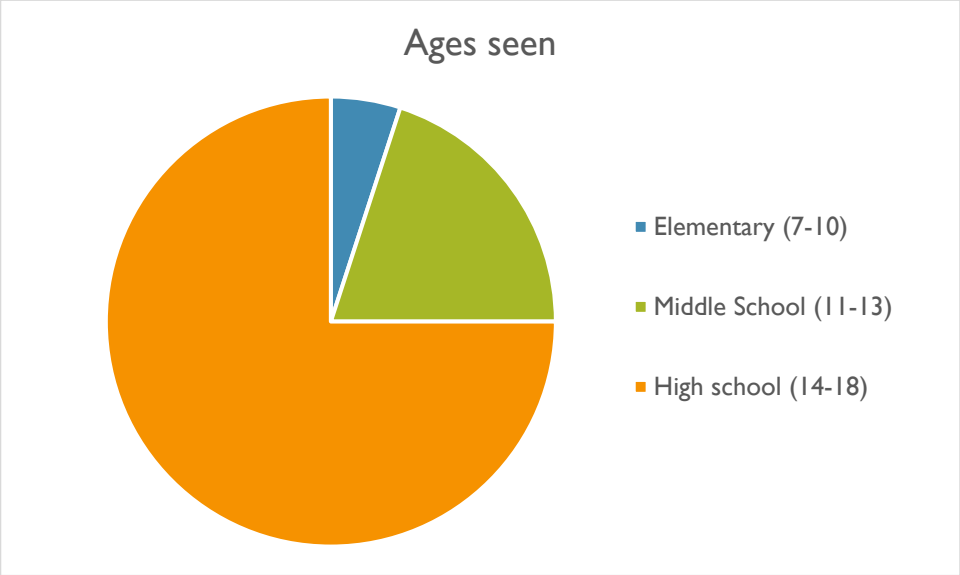
This practicum provides experience with children and teens with complex psychological presentations in addition to their learning difficulties. Given that TS occurs equally across populations, we often have patients from vulnerable and underserved groups (e.g., LGBTQIA+). There is usually also the opportunity to observe and write up at least one autism assessment.

Helpful skills: A core understanding of psychoeducational assessment measures, with some experience completing clinical interviews.

Tics and Tourette Clinic (Assessment) Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	early or advanced students
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	no
Research opportunities	no
Potential for summer practicum	no
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	no

Clinical and Health Psychology Practica

Eating Disorders Program
Supervisors: Dr. Annamaria McAndrew (annamaria.mcandrew@sickkids.ca), Dr. Sandra Doyle-Lisek (sandra.doylelisek@sickkids.ca), Dr. Joanna Collaton (joanna.collaton@sickkids.ca)



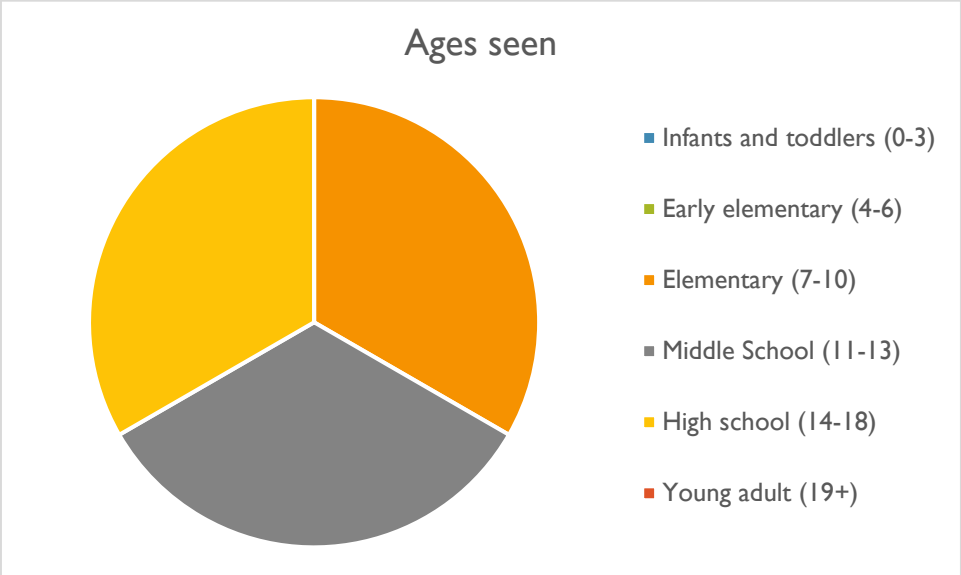
The Eating Disorders Program at SickKids treats children and adolescents ages 8-18 who present with various eating disorders diagnoses. Primary treatment approaches include Family Based Treatment (FBT), CBT-E and CBT-AR.

We have a comprehensive eating disorders program with inpatient, day hospital and outpatient services. The primary focus of the practicum will be in the outpatient clinic providing assessment and intervention. We serve a complex patient population presenting with eating disorders and frequently multiple comorbidities. Services are offered across outpatient, day hospital, and inpatient settings. The practicum is primarily outpatient-based, with opportunities for shadowing in other areas of the program. Students may gain exposure to individual, group, and family-based treatment modalities. Outside of learning our primary treatment approach, trainees may have the opportunity to take part in DBT skills group or EFFT caregiver groups. Previous experience in eating disorders is not required.

Helpful skills: Some treatment experience and an understanding of CBT

SickKids Eating Disorders Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	advanced students only
Work from home opportunities	no
Inpatient clients	no
Research opportunities	no
Potential for summer practicum	no
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	yes

SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (HLC)
Supervisors: Dr. Andrea Regina (andrea.regina@sickkids.ca), Dr. Jason Isaacs, Dr. Bronwyn Lamond, Dr. Elizabeth Dettmer



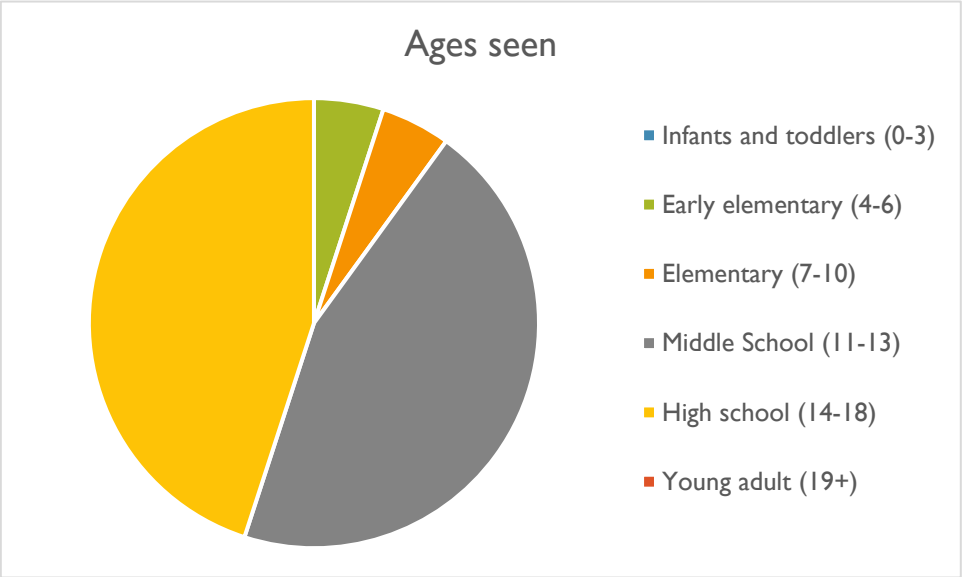
The SickKids HLC provides interdisciplinary assessment and treatment to children, youth, and their caregivers for concerns with weight, eating, activity, and related medical and psychological comorbidities. Mental health providers on the team are integral in the assessment and treatment of complex and often severe health psychology presentations that include emotional eating, hyperphagia (secondary to hypothalamic obesity), binge eating, and adherence issues, as well as related co-morbid psychological issues such as social and generalized anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, bullying and peer relationship issues, school refusal, and body image concerns.

Psychology trainees contribute to all parts of the program and will receive training and exposure in both clinical and health psychology. They conduct psychology assessments, provide group and individual therapy for children, adolescents, and caregivers, as well as engage in frequent consultations with the community and with the interdisciplinary team via joint allied health appointments and weekly rounds. We are also involved in program development and evaluation, quality improvement projects, and clinical research.

Helpful skills: A strong interest in CBT and/or DBT, and both Health and Clinical Psychology.

SickKids Healthy Living Clinic (HLC) Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	advanced students preferred
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	no
Research opportunities	Could include contributing to development/evaluation of novel treatment approaches (e.g., binge eating protocol, group treatment), examining psychological correlates of weight-related factors (e.g., trauma, familial stress, anxiety and depressive symptoms, etc.).
Potential for summer practicum	no
Split practicum with another clinic	no

Tics and Tourette Clinic
Supervisor: Dr. Jody Levenbach (jody.levenbach@sickkids.ca)



The Tics and Tourette Clinic offers a multidisciplinary approach to care, addressing medical, psychological, educational, and behavioral domains. Tic disorders, including Tourette Syndrome (TS), are neurodevelopmental conditions characterized by sudden, rapid, recurrent, non-rhythmic motor movements or vocalizations. Tics may be simple (e.g., blinking, throat clearing) or complex (e.g., coordinated movements, echolalia), and often fluctuate over time. While some tics can be voluntarily suppressed for short periods, this often leads to discomfort. Although coprolalia (involuntary swearing) is often highlighted in the media, it occurs in less than 10% of individuals with TS. Co-occurring conditions are common, with ADHD and OCD appearing in over half of cases, alongside anxiety and mood disorders, learning disabilities, sleep disturbances, disruptive behaviours and sensory processing challenges. These overlapping conditions can significantly affect academic performance, social relationships, and emotional well-being.

Intervention experiences include individual and group therapy, psychoeducation, and parent coaching. There is an opportunity to learn Comprehensive Behaviour Intervention for Tics (CBIT) and to participate in diagnostic assessment for TS.

Helpful skills: Interest in neurodevelopmental differences; familiarity with CBT-based approaches including ACT and DBT.

Tics and Tourette Clinic (Treatment) Practicum FAQ	
Service Delivery	in person and virtual
Suitable for	advanced students preferred
Work from home opportunities	yes
Inpatient clients	no
Research opportunities	no
Potential for summer practicum	no
Potential to split practicum with another clinic	no