

Day in the Life of a Kid RA

When you come in for your weekly shift, you will choose your workstation and check your assigned daily task (for the list of daily tasks, you can see the Kid RA Expectation Document on our website). Depending on your task, you might need to complete it at the beginning of your shift (e.g. calling parents to remind them of their appointment the next day) or at the end (e.g. taking out the trash).

Afterwards, you will check our inbox to see if any parents have replied to our emails with interest in visiting us and participating in our research. If so, you will reply and book them in and let all the researchers know. You will be trained on this process extensively by the Research Coordinator when you first join the Kid RA team.

If there are no emails in the inbox, you will log in to the EDRG database and find eligible children for your assigned study/project. Based on the contact information the parents have provided, you will reach out (call/ leave a message and email/ email) with details on our research and a list of times that they can choose to come in for an in-person visit. You will be able to generate the list of times based on our calendar and the Kid RA team's availability.

If you are running a study during your shift, you will prepare all the materials needed for the visit (laptop, iPad, scripts) 20-25 minutes beforehand. When the family comes in, you will welcome them in our waiting room and start by explaining the studies. You will spend time playing with the child(ren) so they warm up to you and feel comfortable going to the study room with you afterwards. You will walk the parents through the consent forms that are on the iPads and answer any questions they have to the best of your ability. Once all the paperwork is done, you will check in with the parents and the child(ren) if they would like to get started and play 'some fun games'.

Majority of our studies include showing real-world images, dots, and shapes on a monitor and asking the child(ren) questions such as 'How many dots are there?' 'Which blob is bigger?' 'How many blickets are there?' They can take from 5 to 30 minutes depending on the study. During the studies, your main responsibilities are following your script, keeping the child engaged, and monitoring their comfort level at all times.

After running the studies, you will debrief the parents about the study (what the study is looking at, what kinds of questions you asked their child(ren) etc.) and give prizes to the participant(s). Once they leave, you will clean the waiting area, upload the data to our server, update the subject logs, and make any notes about the visit.

As a Kid RA, you will also have weekly meetings with the grad student that you'll be paired with. This is an opportunity to do some training, have a check-in about your progress, discuss the next steps for the study, and ask questions. When you are on a grad student's team and involved in their research project, in addition to running the study, you may also get to help with

writing a literature review, designing stimuli, coding, and analysing the data. These additional tasks and responsibilities depend on the study that you're running and what stage it is in.