

Title Early Childhood Education Extern

(Only available to Morton College students currently enrolled in ECE 260.)

Learning Objectives

In partnership with Morton College (www.morton.edu), the Chicago Zoological Society offers an externship in Early Childhood Education at Hamill Family Play Zoo and CZS's off-site libraries and or organization partners that provides students with an interactive learning experience. The purpose of play experience in this area of the Zoo is for children, aged birth-10, and their families to provide fun and meaningful ways of developing caring relationships with animals, nature and to provide adults with the approaches and encouragement to help children develop caring attitudes toward the natural world.

Responsibilities

Students selected for this externship receive orientation on Play Zoo guidelines and philosophy and work closely with Play Program facilitators as they learn the Play Zoo's approach to interacting with young children and their families. Their involvement will include facilitating play experiences with guests/participants in various settings at the Play Zoo, and CZS's partner off-site libraries and or organizations partners. Students in this externship can expect to spend 140 hours on and or off-site. Externs do not receive any training in animal handling.

Requirements

- * Current enrollment in ECE 260 through Morton College, Cicero, IL.
- At least one year college experience prior to start of externship
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Referral from Morton College Staff
- Must interact positively with Zoo guests/participants, and represent the Society in a professional manner at all times
- Spanish fluency a plus but not required

Additional Notes

Please note that we look for candidates who have skills to offer our programs but who can also identify areas for growth that may be developed through an externship at the Play Zoo or CZS's off-site libraries and or organization partners. In some cases, if an appropriate candidate is not available and /or insufficient staff are available to mentor a candidate appropriately, this externship may not be available.

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