

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study Summer Lab

Explore, Create, and Discover at one of our JICS Labs!

Program Manager – Mini and Junior Lab Kids Programming

Position: Program Manager – Mini and Junior Lab Kids Programming

Location: Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study, 45 Walmer Road, Toronto

Duration: Program Managers must be available on weekdays beginning July 2nd – July 30th, 2025

About Us:

The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study Summer Camp combines the renowned educational philosophy of JICS with an exciting summer camp experience on the University of Toronto campus. Our programs focus on inquiry-based and experiential learning, sparking curiosity, fostering creativity, and building life-long skills in young learners. Campers engage in three unique program categories: Natural Curiosity Lab, Imagination Labs and Creative Labs.

We're seeking a passionate and dynamic **Program Manager** to oversee the **Labs** for campers aged 4 (Mini Lab Kids), and ages 5 – 6 (Junior Lab Kids).

Labs include:

Natural Curiosity Labs (Mini and Junior Lab Kids)

Natural Curiosity is an innovative environmental education program developed by the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. The Natural Curiosity Lab is one of environmental inquiry. It is deeply informed by Indigenous perspectives and land-based learning, fostering a deep connection to the natural world, inspiring students to become active participants in their own education and stewards of the environment.

Maker Space Lab (Junior Lab Kids)

Get ready to imagine, explore, and create in our one-of-a-kind Maker Space camp! Using found objects and everyday materials, young inventors will team up to design and build something truly unique. No two Maker Spaces are the same, so every day is a new adventure filled with curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. Through hands-on, inquiry-based play, children will discover the magic of turning their ideas into reality—all while making friends and having fun! Let's see where our imaginations take us this week—because in our Maker Space, anything is possible!

If you love working with children and being outside, value sustainability and stewardship, and have a strong foundation in inquiry-based learning, we'd love to hear from you.

Responsibilities:

- Oversee daily and emergency procedures, ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and camper safety.
- Collaborate with colleagues to ensure a cohesive camp experience.
- Maintain up-to-date records and required paperwork.
- Inspire and support camp staff in fostering a fun, engaging, and enriching environment for all participants.
- Encourage campers to think outside the box, build confidence, and foster an appreciation for creative processes.
- Engage in camp programming and supervision of campers
- Speak with parents as needed.

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Qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree, preferably in Indigenous Studies, Education, Outdoor Recreation, Recreation and Leisure Studies, or a comparable field of study.
- Previous experience in leadership roles within educational or camp settings.
- Passion for working with children and supporting their development.
- Deep understanding of inquiry-based learning principles.
- Experience with the JICS Natural Curiosity program.
- Current first aid and CPR certifications (or willingness to obtain).
- Current vulnerable sector screening (or willingness to obtain).
- Team-oriented, collaborative and flexible problem-solver with a commitment to sustainability and stewardship.

How to Apply:

Applications are now open and will be accepted on a rolling basis, until all positions are filled.

Send your application, including your resume and cover letter, along with the names and contact information for 3 references to Megan Pearson, Director: megan.pearson@utoronto.ca

In your cover letter, please indicate:

- The position to which you are applying (Lead Program Staff or Program Staff)
- The Lab(s) and age group(s) to which you are applying
- Your interest in working in the After Care program, between 3:30PM and 6PM

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Program Manager –Senior Lab Kids Programming

Position: Program Manager –Senior Lab Kids Programming

Location: Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study, 45 Walmer Road, Toronto

Duration: Program Managers must be available on weekdays beginning July 2nd – July 30th, 2025

About Us:

The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study Summer Camp combines the renowned educational philosophy of JICS with an exciting summer camp experience on the University of Toronto campus. Our programs focus on inquiry-based and experiential learning, sparking curiosity, fostering creativity, and building life-long skills in young learners. Campers engage in three unique program categories: Natural Curiosity Lab, Imagination Labs and Creative Labs.

We're seeking a passionate and dynamic **Program Manager** to oversee the **Labs** for campers ages 7 – 9 (Senior Lab Kids).

Labs include:

Leadership Lab

Our **Leadership Lab** offers an exciting and dynamic experience where young campers develop essential leadership skills through a variety of fun and engaging activities. This program fosters teamwork, communication, and confidence as campers take part in imaginative group challenges that inspire cooperation and strategic thinking. Whether they're learning to work together in team-based games, exploring exciting and inclusive sports such as Tchoukball, Sledge Hockey, and Jingle Ball, or engaging in creative problem-solving adventures, every activity is designed to encourage collaboration and adaptability.

Arts & Innovation Lab

Dive into the world of creative expression where every project begins with a question: *What can I create?* Through inquiry-based exploration, campers will experiment with pottery, painting, jewelry-making, puppetry, and unexpected artistic challenges. They'll investigate materials, test techniques, and discover new ways to bring their ideas to life. With a focus on hands-on discovery and collaboration, this camp encourages curiosity and innovation. Perfect for budding makers and artists who love to explore, every day offers new opportunities to create, learn, and share. Campers will leave with unique creations—and a spark of inspiration that lasts long after the week is over.

This role is ideal for someone with a strong background in sports programming, leadership skills, and/or arts-based programming, as well as with experience with promoting teamwork, physical activity, creativity, and fun.

Responsibilities:

- Oversee daily and emergency procedures, ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and camper safety.
- Collaborate with colleagues to ensure a cohesive camp experience.
- Maintain up-to-date records and required paperwork.
- Inspire and support camp staff in fostering a fun, engaging, and enriching environment for all participants.
- Encourage campers to think outside the box, build confidence, and foster an appreciation for creative processes.
- Coordinate with the team to organize end-of-camp exhibitions or performances to showcase camper work.
- Engage in camp programming and supervision of campers
- Speak with parents as needed.

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Qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree, preferably in Education, Outdoor Recreation, Kinesiology, Fine Arts, or a comparable field of study.
- Previous experience in leadership roles within educational or camp settings.
- Passion for working with children and supporting their development.
- Deep understanding of inquiry-based learning principles.
- Current first aid and CPR certifications (or willingness to obtain).
- Current vulnerable sector screening (or willingness to obtain).
- Team-oriented, collaborative and flexible problem-solver with a commitment to the well-being of the child.

How to Apply:

Applications are now open and will be accepted on a rolling basis, until all positions are filled.

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Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study Summer Lab

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Lead Program Staff; Program Staff– Natural Curiosity Labs, Imagination Labs, or Creative Labs

Position: Lead Program Staff; Program Staff –

Natural Curiosity Labs, Imagination Labs, or Creative Labs

Location: Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study, 45 Walmer Road, Toronto

Duration: Program Staff must be available on weekdays beginning July 2nd – July 30th, 2025

About Us:

The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study Summer Lab combines inquiry-based and experiential learning with exciting, creative activities. Campers engage in three unique program categories: Natural Curiosity Labs, Imagination Labs, and Creative Labs. Each lab is designed to foster creativity, self-expression, and innovation, and is split into several engaging opportunities based on campers' age groups.

We're seeking enthusiastic and dedicated **Program Staff** members to lead and facilitate dynamic programming for campers in these program areas. These roles require a strong background in leadership and collaboration, paired with skills specific to the lab program, and a passion for guiding young campers and collaborating with other staff.

Availability and Duration:

Each camp runs for 5 days* from 9AM – 4PM, with different labs running during each week. Staff start their day at 8AM for set up, and are ready to welcome campers each day between 8:30AM and 9:00AM before Labs begin.

There are further opportunities to work after camp hours, from 3:30PM – 6:00PM, during our after-care hours. Candidates must be available beginning the week of July 2.

- July 7 – July 11
- July 14 – July 18
- July 21 – July 25
- July 28 – July 31
- Staff Training: July 2 – July 4

**Please refer to the end of the document for full program descriptions and dates.

Responsibilities:

- **Plan and Lead Creative Activities:** Design, plan, and lead daily activities for campers, based on their age group and program area. Encourage campers to engage in creative thinking, problem-solving and teamwork.
- **Collaborate with your Program Manager and other team members:** Report to the Program Manager and work alongside other Senior and Junior Program Staff to ensure activities are well-coordinated, safe, and enriching for all campers. Ensure a smooth flow of activities across the various program areas.
- **Engage with Campers:** Work directly with a group of 16 campers in your designated camp. Provide guidance and mentorship, fostering a positive and supportive environment that encourages participation, collaboration, and growth.
- **Ensure Camper Safety:** Oversee the safety and well-being of campers throughout the day. Ensure that all activities are conducted with safety in mind, and that campers feel supported and comfortable.
- **Foster Teamwork and Collaboration:** Lead by example in promoting teamwork, communication, and respect among campers and staff. Encourage collaboration during group projects and activities.
- **Provide Guidance and Feedback:** Ensure activities are engaging, safe, and in line with camp goals. Help provide constructive feedback to campers as they develop their skills.

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- **Assist with Camp Operations:** Support daily camp operations, including sign-in/sign-out procedures (Senior Program Staff), maintaining camper records, and contributing to the smooth running of camp activities.

Qualifications:

- An undergraduate degree in a related field (Lead Program Staff)
- Previous experience working with children in a camp or educational setting, with a strong background in one or more of the program areas and specific camp offerings
- Strong planning, organizational, and leadership skills.
- Excellent communication skills, with the ability to engage with both campers and staff.
- Team-oriented, collaborative, and adaptable in a dynamic setting.
- Current first aid and CPR certifications (or willingness to obtain).
- Current vulnerable sector screening (or willingness to obtain).
- Energetic, creative, and enthusiastic, with a genuine interest in helping children explore their potential.

How to Apply:

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- The Lab(s) and age group(s) to which you are applying
- Your interest in working in the After Care program, between 3:30PM and 6PM

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study Summer Lab

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Office Manager – JICS Summer Lab

Position: Office Manager

Location: Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study, 45 Walmer Road, Toronto

Duration: July 2nd – July 30th, 2025 (weekdays)

About Us:

The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study (JICS) Summer Camp blends the institute's renowned educational philosophy with an engaging summer experience on the University of Toronto campus. Our programs emphasize inquiry-based and experiential learning, encouraging curiosity, creativity, and skill-building in young learners.

We are seeking a dedicated and organized Office Manager to ensure the smooth operation of our summer camp programs. The ideal candidate will possess strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and the ability to provide administrative support to our dynamic team.

Key Responsibilities:

- Oversee daily camp office operations, ensuring efficient administrative processes.
- Manage camper registration, including processing forms, payments, and maintaining accurate records.
- Respond to parent inquiries via phone and email, providing prompt and professional communication.
- Maintain confidential camper and staff records in compliance with camp policies.
- Assist with staff scheduling and coordination of camp activities.
- Prepare and distribute camp materials, including schedules, newsletters, and reports.
- Support the camp leadership team in handling daily operational challenges.
- Ensure adherence to health, safety, and emergency procedures within the office environment.
- Order and manage office supplies and camp materials as needed.

Qualifications:

- Previous experience in an administrative or office management role, preferably within an educational or camp setting.
- Strong organizational and multitasking abilities in a fast-paced environment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook) and database management.
- Ability to work collaboratively with camp staff and leadership.
- Current first aid and CPR certification (or willingness to obtain).
- Current vulnerable sector screening (or willingness to obtain).
- A passion for working in a child-focused, team-oriented environment.

How to Apply:

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**JICS Summer Lab, Program Information:

- Mini Lab Kids: Aged 4
 - Junior Lab Kids: Ages 5 – 6
 - Senior Lab Kids: Ages 7 – 9
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Natural Curiosity Labs

Mini Lab Kids

Step into the vibrant outdoor classroom at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study (JICS) and experience a day of hands-on discovery in the thoughtfully designed courtyard. No two weeks are the same, as students explore the natural world through inquiry-based learning inspired by the principles of the Natural Curiosity program. Participants will engage with the vegetable garden, observe seasonal changes, and uncover the stories of the land through interactive, curiosity-driven activities. Each session encourages exploration, reflection, and a deep connection to nature, aligning with Indigenous perspectives and fostering a sense of environmental stewardship.

Through this dynamic program, students will not only learn about the environment but also build a lifelong appreciation for the earth and its cycles. Whether planting seeds, investigating insects, or observing the sky, every moment in the courtyard sparks wonder and inspires growth.

Junior Lab Kids

In this unique program, the courtyard becomes a classroom, mentor, and source of inspiration. By blending Indigenous principles, Natural Curiosity, and active stewardship, participants develop a deeper respect for the land and their role within it. The Junior Natural Curiosity Lab invites participants to explore their connection to the natural world through hands-on activities, creative exploration, creation, and reflection in our thoughtfully designed courtyard, and beyond—all while enjoying a day of learning, creativity, and connection.

Imagination Labs

Mini Lab Kids

Ready to try it all? Give your little one a summer filled with wonder, exploration, and creativity at our Imagination Lab, a multi-interest program designed exclusively for 4-year-olds! Based on the inquiry-based approach of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study, our program encourages children to ask questions, explore ideas, and make meaningful discoveries through hands-on experiences.

Through inquiry-based exploration, children engage in topics that spark their natural curiosity, using open-ended questions and guided discovery to learn about the world around them—from nature and science to art and movement. This Imagination Lab promotes active play and sports, offering age-appropriate physical activities such as games, movement exploration, and outdoor play that support motor skill development and teamwork in a fun, supportive environment.

Creativity flourishes in our arts and crafts sessions, where little hands work with a variety of materials and techniques to foster self-expression, fine motor skills, and imaginative thinking. Visits to local parks provide

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exciting opportunities for sensory exploration, nature-based play, and group activities in the fresh air, while our focus on imaginative and social play allows children to engage in building, role-playing, and storytelling, developing important social skills through meaningful, play-based interactions.

Junior Lab Kids

This summer, let your child's curiosity and creativity shine at our Imagination Lab, a multi-interest program designed specifically for children ages 5–6! Inspired by the inquiry-based learning approach of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study, our program encourages young minds to explore their interests, ask questions, and discover the world through engaging hands-on activities.

This Imagination Lab fosters a love of learning through exploration and discovery, where children investigate exciting themes in nature, science, and art by asking questions and finding creative solutions. Each day includes a mix of creative arts and crafts, active play and sports, outdoor exploration in local parks, and imaginative social play. Whether experimenting with art materials, engaging in team-based activities, or exploring nature, children will develop coordination skills, teamwork, and confidence through fun games, movement challenges, and outdoor activities.

Leadership Lab

Senior Lab Kids

Our Leadership Lab program offers an exciting and dynamic experience where young campers develop essential leadership skills through a variety of fun and engaging activities. This program fosters teamwork, communication, and confidence as campers take part in imaginative group challenges that inspire cooperation and strategic thinking. Whether they're learning to work together in team-based games, exploring exciting and inclusive sports such as Tchoukball, Sledge Hockey, and Jingle Ball, or engaging in creative problem-solving adventures, every activity is designed to encourage collaboration and adaptability.

From treasure hunts and obstacle course design to escape room-style puzzles and role-playing adventures, campers will discover new ways to think critically, take initiative, and make decisions in an environment that blends active play with creativity. Carefully designed challenges promote resilience and problem-solving while ensuring every child feels empowered to contribute and lead within their group.

With a strong focus on inclusivity and personal growth, our program provides a welcoming space where young leaders can build friendships, boost their confidence, and develop lifelong skills—all while having an unforgettable week filled with adventure and discovery!

On the final afternoon of camp, caregivers, friends, and family are invited to the ***Leadership Lab Showcase***, to observe and engage with the incredible teamwork and leadership skills the campers have developed. After a week filled with exciting challenges—treasure hunts, obstacle course design, and escape room-style puzzles—young leaders will showcase their creativity and problem-solving abilities. Whether it's through team-based games, innovative projects, or collaborative adventures, every camper's journey is a testament to the growth, confidence, and cooperation they've experienced in our Leadership Lab program

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Creative Labs

Maker Space Lab

Junior Lab Kids

Get ready to imagine, explore, and create in our one-of-a-kind Maker Space camp! Using found objects and everyday materials, young inventors will team up to design and build something truly unique. No two Maker Spaces are the same, so every day is a new adventure filled with curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. Through hands-on, inquiry-based play, children will discover the magic of turning their ideas into reality—all while making friends and having fun! Let's see where our imaginations take us this week—because in our Maker Space, anything is possible!

Arts & Innovation Lab

Senior Lab Kids

Dive into the world of creative expression where every project begins with a question: *What can I create?* Through inquiry-based exploration, campers will experiment with pottery, painting, jewelry-making, puppetry, and unexpected artistic challenges. They'll investigate materials, test techniques, and discover new ways to bring their ideas to life. With a focus on hands-on discovery and collaboration, this camp encourages curiosity and innovation. Perfect for budding makers and artists who love to explore, every day offers new opportunities to create, learn, and share. Campers will leave with unique creations—and a spark of inspiration that lasts long after the week is over.

On the last afternoon of camp, caregivers, friends, and family are invited to ***The Big Reveal: A Creative Lab Showcase***, to tour the campers' creations, the result of a week of exploring, curiosity and collaboration.