March 20, 2019

Berkeley Early Learning Lab
UC Berkeley
2121 Berkeley Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Berkeley Early Learning Lab team,

I am writing in reference to the summer internship program with your lab, as I feel my interests and experiences make me a good candidate. In June 2019, I will obtain my B.S. in Child Development from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a minor in Psychology. I have spent my senior year working in Dr. Jennifer Jipson's research lab and am seeking postgraduate positions in which I can gain additional experience in research settings before applying to Ph.D. programs in Developmental Psychology. I am highly interested in the work that your lab is doing in the area of young children's cognitive and language development, and would be enthusiastic about joining your projects as a summer research intern.

As a research assistant in Dr. Jipson's lab, I have helped to plan and conduct data collection at local children's museums, transcribed video data using Datavyu software, and designed and adapted a coding scheme which detects utterances indicative of children's science learning. We are currently in the process of achieving inter-coder reliability on this coding approach. With just four research assistants, the relatively small size of our lab has allowed me to gain practical experience in a range of lab activities, as well as to be intrinsically motivated to take on many responsibilities, such as the submission of independent work to undergraduate research conferences.

I have a total of five years of experience working with children and families, and am currently a Student Teacher at the Cal Poly Preschool Learning Lab. My resulting communication and interpersonal skills prepare me to engage in data collection with children of multiple ages and families of diverse backgrounds. As part of my senior project, I have been working with parents of a local Head Start preschool in an educational workshop setting. Additionally, my coursework as a Child Development major and Psychology minor has provided me with an understanding of and interest in developmental psychology, an appreciation for diversity in educational and research settings, practice writing IRB protocol submissions, foundational computer skills, and skills using empirical research methodologies and statistical software packages, such as Minitab and SPSS.

I am a good fit for BELL for two primary reasons: because of my previous experience working with children in various settings, including experimental research, as well as my high degree of interest in diversifying my research experience thus far. Through this internship, I hope to engage in discussion and learn collaboratively from likeminded peers and experienced mentors, and challenge myself to further solidify areas of study that I am interested in pursuing in graduate school. I am additionally interested in BELL particularly because I am fascinated with experimental methodology including eye tracking, looking time, and other behavioral methods used in this lab; I would be very excited to gain experience conducting data collection and analysis using these methods, particularly with very young children and infants.

Within about two to three years, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology. My research interests lie primarily in social and cognitive development, investigating the processes by which children construct an understanding of the world through various social influences. The work in your lab aligns with these interests, and I would therefore be delighted to assist you in your efforts to better understand young children's cognitive and language development across contexts.

Thank you for your consideration of my application for your research intern position. I would be thrilled to be a part of your team, and I am eager to speak with you further regarding your lab and this internship.

Sincerely,

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