

# Job Description

**Job title:** Early Intervention Research Officer

**Salary Range:** £25,934 to £28,815

**Location:** London

## About the role

The successful candidate will be a key member of our programme assessment team which tests the rigour of evaluation evidence underpinning interventions designed to improve outcomes for children. They will also play a role in wider EIF research activity including rapid evidence reviews, systematic reviews and primary research.

## About the Early Intervention Foundation

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) is a young, dynamic and ambitious charity established in 2013 to champion and support the use of effective early intervention to improve the lives of children and young people at risk of experiencing negative outcomes.

As a member of the government's What Works Network, EIF has a pivotal role as the go-to source for evidence and advice on early intervention for children and young people. We have a responsibility to communicate 'what works' in a way that is robust and transparent in its use of evidence, and also relevant and accessible for national and local audiences, including policymakers, public service commissioners and managers, and frontline practitioners and service providers. Our work extends across a range of social policy and service areas, including health, education, families and policing.

## Research and analysis

The post is an opportunity to join an organisation close to the heart of policy-making across England. You will be an exceptional and committed individual looking for an opportunity to learn about policy and practice and support the improvement of outcomes for children, young people and families through the rigorous use of evidence.

The research officers will play a significant role in making this happen, through reviewing evidence on what works and developing resources to support the translation of this information to commissioners and practitioners. Research Officers are encouraged to gain experience of the wider policy and practice context of the Foundation, by attending seminars, briefings and other meetings in Government departments, local Places, research organisations and think tanks.

## Role

Research Officers contribute to a wide range of evidence generation and wider organisational activity, and therefore require a strong mix of research and broader professional skills.

One of a Research Officer's primary responsibilities is playing a key role in our programme

assessment activity. This involves conducting detailed analysis of the evaluation evidence underpinning programmes designed to improve outcomes for children, so that they can be included in the EIF Guidebook. This requires assessing technical papers against EIF's standards of evidence, forming preliminary judgements on programmes' effectiveness and presenting findings to our panel of external experts. This work requires an aptitude and interest in engaging with material with a highly technical content, including evaluations using a range of designs and employing complex statistical techniques. Research Officers also play a role in supporting more senior colleagues with project and process management of our Programme Assessment activity.

Research Officers will also work with colleagues across the organisation and external partners in wider research activity around early intervention and child development, using a variety of research methods, including literature reviews, surveys, interviews and focus groups.

They will also support our work to change policy and practice by helping to produce products such as policy briefings and commissioner guides, as well as helping to design and set up and run external events such as policy seminars, roundtables etc.

Research Officers are expected to contribute to the production of external outputs and so a strong drafting skill are important. Given the range of activities Research Officers participate in, the ability to work collaboratively and flexibly is crucial, and on occasions we may ask Research Officers to take on additional responsibilities such as project managing small outputs or leading the scoping of projects.

#### Essential characteristics

- Strong knowledge and experience of evaluation methodologies and techniques
- Confidence in, and knowledge of, assessing and critically appraising the quality of highly technical impact evaluations such as randomised control trials.
- An ability to produce documents with high technical content, including accurate reporting methodological and statistical information.
- Excellent project and time management skills and the ability to deliver high-quality work in a fast-paced environment
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, with experience and interest in communicating research to a variety of non-expert audiences and experience of writing research papers to a high standard
- Ability to gather, synthesise and critically appraise data and evidence from a variety of sources in a rigorous and robust way including familiarity with the design and delivery of systematic review methodologies
- Strong team working ethos, willing to support others and work collaboratively
- Self-motivated, flexible and able to work on own initiative
- Master's degree in social science, social policy, public health, health services or other field, with a significant quantitative component, or relevant experience equivalent to Masters qualification

#### Desirable characteristics

- Expertise in areas such as child development, parenting or children's mental health from fields such as psychology, neuroscience or education research
- Strong quantitative analysis skills including experience of using advanced analytical software such as R, Stata or SPSS
- Knowledge and understanding of intervention and prevention science
- Knowledge of services for children and their families

- At least 1-year experience of carrying out applied research methods, including qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- Experience of commissioning and managing research and analysis from external contractors.