

STRONG Kids Undergraduate Research Assistant Job Description

This ongoing transdisciplinary project provides unique insights into how individual biology interacts with the family environment to promote healthy eating habits in young children. It is one of the first studies to take a longitudinal look at the interaction between biological and environmental factors in predicting eating habits, from birth until 12 years of age. The National Institutes of Health support the project.

The STRONG Kids cohort includes over 400 children and their families in Champaign-Urbana and surrounding communities in Central Illinois. Biological samples, physical activity levels, height, weight, and body composition measurements from children and their mothers are collected during home visits. Mothers also complete online questionnaires.

Job Description:

As a research assistant with the STRONG Kids 2 study, you will play an integral role in participant data collection and data entry.

This part-time position can be worked up to 10 hours a week and offers an hourly rate of \$16. We are interested in students who can commit for more than one semester.

The job responsibilities for this position include but are not limited to:

- Conducting home visits with a fellow research assistant
 - Travelling to participant's homes (up to a 90 min drive) to collect data. Mileage reimbursement is provided.
 - Data collection: using a bio-electric impedance scale, measuring height and weight for mom and child, running a veggie meter analysis, conducting a pantry inventory, and picking up a stool sample.
- Data management
 - Entering and organizing participant survey responses and anthropometric data
- Participant communication
 - Calling and emailing participants regarding their home visits, surveys, or other questions related to the study
- Stool kit and freezer kit distribution and sample collection
 - Creating stool kits/ freezer kits for distribution
 - Collecting stool samples from participant homes and dropping them off at Bevier Hall
- Working with other labs on collecting cognitive and behavioral data.
- Other office tasks and projects as assigned.
- Active participation in monthly research meetings with faculty members from the STRONG Kids Project.

Anticipated Start Dates:

- Spring 2026 Position: Monday, February 16, 2026
- Summer 2026 Position: Monday, May 25, 2026

Requirements:

- Applicants must have a valid driver's license and an insured car to drive to and from home visits.
- Applicants must be available to be scheduled for at least 3 of the 4 following shifts:
 - Mondays 4-7 pm or 5-8 pm
 - Tuesdays 4-7 pm or 5-8 pm
 - Wednesdays 4-7pm or 5-8 pm
 - Thursdays 4-7 pm or 5-8pm

Skills:

- Self-motivation and responsibility in managing tasks effectively.
- Attention to detail
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Comfortable working with 8–12 year old children

To apply:

- Complete application and submit resume at the following link:
<https://forms.gle/XmEQJ71hotbipBkR9>