



# TIPS FOR KIDS

Training in Interdisciplinary Partnerships and Services for Kids

TIPS for Kids is the **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND)** training program in Missouri. The program is funded by a grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau in the Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the program is to enhance outcomes for children with autism and other developmental disabilities by training future healthcare professionals in evidence-based, interdisciplinary, family-centered, and culturally competent practices.

TIPS for Kids is seeking applicants for trainees and fellows for the 2026-2027 academic year. **Stipends and tuition waivers for the TIPS course credit are available.** Applicants must be United States citizens, graduate students, post graduate students, or practicing professionals who qualify for graduate studies in the areas of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech/language pathology, psychology, social work, or developmental behavioral pediatric medicine. All applicants must be in good academic standing in their department. In addition, there are trainee categories for parent/family members to an individual with a disability (family advocacy) and individuals with disabilities (self-advocacy). Accepted applicants must pass a background check per University of Missouri Healthcare policies.

The TIPS for Kids program focuses on advancing the knowledge and skills of future leaders to improve outcomes for children with developmental disabilities. Through interdisciplinary education, trainees learn to work closely with professionals from many other disciplines. Training is provided in leadership, policy, and advocacy skills as well as family-centered, culturally-competent, and evidenced-based clinical care.

The TIPS for Kids curriculum offers up to 3 hours of course credit. Trainees must be available **all day each Friday** during the academic school year (fall and spring semesters).

Applicants will interview with at least two core faculty. Application materials consist of the following:

1. Transcripts – undergraduate and graduate (unofficial copies are acceptable)
2. Letter of Intent, including short- and long-term goals related to autism and other developmental disabilities
3. Two letters of reference (at least one from your discipline) these should be emailed directly to:  
TIPS Email account (tips4kids@health.missouri.edu)
4. Application form
5. A headshot photograph (separated from applicant materials until applicants are selected for the program)

## Applications are due on April 10, 2026.

For questions about the TIPS or the application, contact:

Jaclyn Benigno, MEd  
Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment  
205 Portland Drive  
Columbia, MO 65211  
PHONE: 573-882-2077  
Tips4kids@health.missouri.edu  
[www.tips4kids.org](http://www.tips4kids.org)

## TIPS Informational Meetings:

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 6:30PM

OR

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

<https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/93018947106>

Meeting ID: 930 1894 7106

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