**ISA Service-Learning**  
**Valparaiso & Viña del Mar, Chile**  
**CONIN Center for Malnourished Infants**  
**Placement Description**

**Student Profile:** This placement is best for students majoring in Pre-Med, Pre-Nursing and Social Work. This is a compatible placement for students interested in working with children with disabilities.

**Placement:** CONIN  
**Program type:** Health Care, Social Work  
**Language Level:** Intermediate – Advanced  
**Organization Web Address:** http://www.conin.cl/conin/

**About the organization:** In 1975, Chile had the highest rate of infant mortality in Latin America, and it continues to be a serious issue in the country today. For this reason, the Corporation for Infant Nutrition (CONIN) was created to comprehensively address not only malnutrition, but also related diseases, such as secondary malnutrition, malformations, metabolic disorders, heart disease and more. The center currently serves about 40 children from 0 to 3 years old, and the majority of the children are suffering from secondary malnutrition. Resulting from malnutrition during pregnancy, secondary malnutrition is a disorder that prevents the child from properly absorbing the nutrients in their food.

**Potential Participant Responsibilities:** The majority of the tasks will involve working with children, as many of the children who are being treated in the CONIN center are not visited by their families. The children often have psychomotor retardation, breathing problems (due to undeveloped lungs), congenital malformations, gastroesophageal reflux, cerebral palsy, etc. Participants’ duties may include playing with the children during therapy, helping to stimulate the senses (hearing, smell, taste, sight and touch) and motor areas, collaborating with the pediatrician and the physiotherapist for the children’s psychomotor development through physical therapy, and assisting the center’s staff.

**Example Responsibilities of Past Participants:**

**DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:**
1. Play with kids in between meals, medical meetings and naps  
2. Stimulate with age appropriate games  
3. Teach the kids not to pull hair or other things  
4. Keep kids playing together nicely
DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Create activities for the kids to help with stimulation
2. Work with the problems of sharing between the kids
3. Help the "Tias" with anything they need

DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Practice a game similar to "Simon Says"
2. Work with stimulation exercises
3. Give attention to the kids that need it most

DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Bathe and dress children
2. Prepare at least one learning activity for the children to do/work on throughout the day
3. Assist nurses with feeding the children
4. Putting the babies down for their naps
5. Working on motor and occupational skills

Tentative hours/schedule: Service-learning participants will be able to work at the organization between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Participants will take public transportation to the location site and can expect an approximate 30 minute commute.

Dress Code/Additional Information: All participants are expected to comport themselves professionally at their placement at all times. Although common in the U.S., wearing casual clothing such as gym shorts or flip flops may not be appropriate to wear in public abroad, and is especially discouraged in a professional setting. We recommend dressing conservatively at your placement introduction and throughout your first week until you get a better sense of the organization's standard dress code. Please keep in mind you'll be working with children so dress professionally, yet comfortably. Remember to take cues from your colleagues and dress accordingly. You are strongly encouraged to seek the opinion of the on-site staff on matters related to clothing during your on-site orientation.

Important Information: Each service-learning experience is unique and requires personal initiative and self-motivation. Each participant’s assigned duties may change at the discretion of their on-site supervisor. By participating in this program you owe a commitment to your host organization. Non-committal behavior such as tardiness or acting irresponsibly may impact the organization’s decision to host future ISA Service-Learning participants, and participants may be dismissed if they fail to adhere to the details outlined in the ISA Service-Learning Commitment Agreement. Key characteristics of a successful participant are flexibility and an open mind, as well as a willingness to take the initiative and learn from mistakes.