Project Background:
We are a startup incubated at the TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health at the University of Chicago, and supported by Schmidt Futures. Our team’s mission is to give all children an equal opportunity to reach their fullest cognitive potential. Research shows that the most critical window for a child’s brain and language development is from birth to age 3. The most important predictor of a child’s educational success is the quality and quantity of adult-child interactions during these earliest years. Parents need tools that guide them through this formative time period. Our goal is to develop scalable, easy-to-use wearable devices that measure conversational interactions and empower parents.

Our product is like a “Fitbit” for early childhood language development -- it attaches to a child’s clothing and gathers information about the number of words children are exposed to. It’s connected to a smartphone app that provides feedback to parents and other caregivers on progress and how to improve. We’re looking for talented individuals who enjoy building and delivering high-quality products. If you’re excited to develop technology for social good, come join us!

Requirement:
We are seeking a student RA with experience or interest in machine learning and data science. Initial work will involve analysis of large scale audio datasets, opportunities to design and test novel ML models. Possibility of co-creating additional projects of interest.

Eligibility:
• Working towards a bachelor’s degree in computer science, applied mathematics, or statistics
• Coursework in machine learning and experience with Python or R is a must

Hours:
• 10-15 hours per week; schedule TBD

To apply:
Send a resume and a cover letter to Dana Suskind dsuskind@uchicago.edu with a cc to Snigdha Gupta at snigdhagupta@uchicago.edu. For email subject, use “Student RA for wearable technology project”