



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Playworker (before and after School club)
Location	On school site
Directorate/Section	TEAM Multi-Academy Trust
Effective date of JD	

JOB PURPOSE INCLUDING MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

To assist the Playleader in providing a caring, secure environment, through individual attention and group activities, and to organise an appropriate range of leisure activities for children between the ages of 2 and 11.

Activity Planning

- To provide a safe, creative and appropriate play opportunities for a range of age groups
- Preparing activities, organising programmes/ themes and arranging equipment;
- To ensure that all activities are inclusive for all children to take part in.

Liaison

- To help to develop and maintain good relationships and communications with parents/carers to facilitate day-to-day caring needs;
- To encourage parental involvement and support through the development of effective working relationships;
- To consult with the children and involve them in the planning of activities.

Supervision and care of children

- Ensure that activities are carried out in a safe and responsible manner in accordance with statutory responsibilities;
- Ensure that risk assessments are completed prior to commencing activities with children;
- Ensure that food preparation and handling within the Setting is carried out within the guidelines of the Food Safety Act 1990;
- Where food is provided, to ensure that it is balanced and healthy in accordance with recommended dietary requirements.

**Direct Playwork**

- Support the Playleader in planning a wide range of creative, stimulating, appropriate and fun activities;
- Consult with the children in order to plan activities they are interested in;
- Ensure that play meets the full range of children's individual and group needs;
- To fully support inclusive practice, and ensure that all children can be involved in the activities offered if they wish.

Other

- To undertake continuous professional development, including short courses and qualifications relevant to playwork;
- To promote the aims and objectives of the Setting;
- To understand and adhere to Setting policies, procedures and standards at all times;
- To ensure the Setting offers the highest standards of physical and emotional care, health and safety, and food hygiene at all times;
- To assist with the preparation and maintenance of materials and equipment;
- Recording accidents in the accident book;
- Ensure children are collected in strict accordance with the Setting's Child Collection Policy;
- To ensure the Setting offers a high quality, inclusive environment which meets the needs of all children, regardless of culture, religion, and physical or emotional development;
- To ensure confidentiality within the Setting at all times;
- To participate in activities which fall outside normal working hours as required, e.g. Training, Staff Meetings, fundraising events, etc.
- To undertake such other duties and responsibilities of an equivalent nature as may be determined from time to time by the Playleader



PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Attribute	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of the National Standards for the regulation of Out of School provision Ability to deputise in Manager's absence 	Interview
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An understanding of the basic principles of playwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and understanding of the Play Values and Principals Previous experience of playwork with children aged 2 - 11 in a voluntary or paid capacity Knowledge and understanding of Safeguarding of Children 	Interview Application form
Practical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creativity to devise new ideas and engage the children in activities Ability to engage with children, and promote confidence and participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good organisational and planning skills 	Interview
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to communicate effectively with children, parents, carers, advisory workers and colleagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to deputise in Playleader's absence, communicating with Management 	Interview
Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commitment to the provision of high quality childcare Enthusiasm for consulting with children Excellent communication skills, with children, colleagues, advisors and parents/carers. Patience, punctuality, reliability and trustworthiness Enthusiasm for working with children and young people A positive approach to gaining further qualifications, and continuous professional development A positive approach to learning and gaining new skills through teamwork and training opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest in the care, learning and development of children and young people Flexibility/ adaptability Able to work in small teams Vigilance to ensure safety and security of children and staff at all times 	Application form Interview
Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of a recognised, relevant Level 2 qualification, e.g. NVQ 2 in Playwork – or be working towards completion Some understanding of the importance of Health & Safety and Food Hygiene in the workplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of a recognised Level 3 Playwork qualification, or be working towards completion Health & Safety certificate First Aid certificate Completion of other relevant courses 	Application form Interview
Equal Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A positive approach to inclusive practice, with children, parents/carers and colleagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion or equal opportunities & diversity training completed 	Application form Interview



SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT:

This role has no supervisory or management duties, unless they are required to deputise in the absence of the Leader.

CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION:

Working as part of a team, the post holder will have opportunities to exercise considerable creativity, eg. developing new activities for children to take part in. This might be a new art project, devising outdoor games, or a leading a cookery session. All team members would be expected to contribute in this way to maintain a varied and interesting menu of activities for the children to experience and learn new skills from.

LINKS WITH OTHER OFFICERS, SERVICE USERS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

- Daily contact with the service users – children attending the out of school provision
- Daily contact with parents, carers and community members

LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Under the supervision of the Playleader, this post assumes daily responsibility for:

- the practicalities of keeping the children safe and secure, in line with the club's policies, as agreed by the Trust.
- ensuring that, on a basic level, the Ofsted minimum standards are being met during the course of activities being delivered in the setting (club), as instructed by the Playleader.

EFFECTS OF DECISIONS:

This role reports to the Playleader and as such, all decisions would be made in agreement with the Line Manager.

RESOURCES:

This post does not manage or control any resources.

WORK DEMANDS:

The post holder must adhere to and uphold the Ofsted minimum standards at all times, as instructed by the Playleader, and in line with the club's policies. Periods during which an inspection is due usually result in all staff being under increased pressure and potentially having to work to deadlines.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:



The role involves working directly with children aged broadly between 2 - 11 years old. The nature of the work can be physically challenging, as a range of activities including outdoor play should be available for children to access where possible. Lifting and carrying of play equipment and bending and clearing away after messy play are all part of this role.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

Where possible, outdoor play should be offered to children, and would result in the Playworker supervising such activities when they occur.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Essential	Desirable
Skills, aptitude, knowledge and experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the principles of playwork • A commitment to the provision of high quality childcare • A positive approach to learning and gaining new skills through teamwork and training opportunities • Enthusiasm for consulting with children • Creativity to devise new ideas and engage the children in activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience of playwork with children aged 2 - 11 in a voluntary or paid capacity • Knowledge of the National Standards for the regulation of Out of School provision • Interest in the care, learning and development of children and young people
Personal qualities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent communication skills, with children, colleagues, advisors and parents/carers. • Patience, punctuality, reliability and trustworthiness • A positive approach to inclusive practice, with children, parents/carers and colleagues • Enthusiasm for working with children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good organisational and planning skills • Flexibility/ adaptability • Able to work in small teams
Qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a recognised, relevant Level 2 qualification, e.g. NVQ 2 in Playwork – or be working towards completion • A positive approach to gaining further qualifications, and continuous professional development • Some understanding of the importance of Health & Safety and Food Hygiene in the workplace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of a recognised Level 3 Playwork qualification, or be working towards completion • Health & Safety certificate • First Aid certificate • Completion of other relevant courses