



Islington Play Association

Job Description

Post:	Playworker (Sessional)
Hours:	As and when
Salary:	£11.43 per hour, including holiday pay
Located:	Various venues and adventure playgrounds throughout Islington
Responsible To:	Playground Coordinator

OVERVIEW

As a member of IPA's pool of sessional workers you will be offered a range of job opportunities in the borough of Islington. The position is sessional and you will be recorded on our pool list and will be contacted when work is available. This work will primarily be available during school holidays.

PRIMARY JOB FUNCTION

The playworker is part of a team of permanent and casual staff employed to:

- Provide opportunities for and enable quality play experiences
- Encourage and enable children of differing abilities to play
- Intervene appropriately and sensitively to the needs and abilities of children
- Operate and maintain the playground and play equipment in a safe and satisfactory condition in accordance with IPA's aims and policies
- Be a reflective playworker and to see new experiences as opportunities to develop new skills for working with children

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific duties are as follows:

1. To encourage an inviting and stimulating inclusive play environment which meets the needs of all the children who use it, and to enable those children to obtain the full benefit of the facilities available, both within the playground and within the wider community.
2. To work towards establishing positive relationships with children, recognising your role in supporting children and young people, and maintaining professional boundaries.
3. To plan and implement a play programme with the children and team which includes diverse opportunities for playful experiences. This will include daytime, after school, evenings, weekends and holiday plans.
4. To keep the site and building in a safe, clean and tidy condition.
5. To work with volunteers, trainees, visitors to the playground and staff, as required.
6. To attend meetings and training sessions as appropriate.
7. To be alert to and act on concerns regarding any children's safety, health and well-being, acting in accordance with safeguarding procedures and child protection legislation.
8. To conduct yourself in a manner compatible with an organisation that works with children, promoting equalities and equal opportunities in all aspects.
9. To undertake other reasonable tasks as directed by your manager(s).

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

The person specification is a picture of skills, knowledge and experience required to carry out the job. It has been used to draw up the advert and will also be used in the short-listing and interview process for this post.

You should demonstrate clearly on your application form how you meet each of the following essential criteria giving examples of relevant experience, knowledge, skills and abilities.

There are five core competencies required for any role within IPA. You will be:

- **Resourceful**
- **Innovative**
- **Committed to our values**
- **Reflective**
- **An advocate for play**

There are a further two required for this role: You will be:

- **Responsive**
- **Dynamic**

The following qualities and experience are essential:

1. Numeracy, literacy and communication skills, including the ability to use IT systems.
2. Understanding of children and young people's differing needs and abilities.
3. Ability to work with children face to face in a playful environment.
4. Ability to work in a small team; adaptable and self-disciplined in an informal working environment.
5. Be welcoming and approachable to children, young people, parents and other visitors, and to work in partnership with local community.
6. Commitment to IPA's policies, especially Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety and Safeguarding. Safeguarding in particular is a very high priority in our organisation.
7. Willingness to work weekends and during school holidays.
8. An acceptable Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

The following would be desirable:

1. A recognised playwork or relevant qualification
2. A first aid qualification
3. Some knowledge of BSL, Makaton or PECs
4. A basic understanding of Ofsted requirements and the Early Years Foundation Stage