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**JOB DESCRIPTION – Forest School Leader**

Areas of Responsibility and Key Tasks

* To plan, develop and establish a Forest School, with guidance and support from the Director of Education and support from assistants as appropriate
* To plan, prepare and deliver a range of Forest School sessions, with support from the Director of Education and support from assistants as appropriate.
* To liaise with participants prior to sessions to ensure plans are appropriate and all needs and expectations are met.
* Ensure Health & Safety requirements are met, including Risk Assessments which are continually checked and updated
* To supervise and support participants with varying needs while delivering sessions.
* To create and maintain an engaging, fun and supportive environment, demonstrating flexibility in planning and running sessions in response to varying/changing needs of children.
* To ensure that all sessions are well prepared and risk assessed.
* To be aware of and comply with all Channels and Choices Policies and Procedures.
* To participate in training and other learning activities/meetings as required.
* To administer basic first aid as the need arises.
* To observe confidentiality at all times.
* To undertake all duties reasonably requested by the Directors

Whilst every effort has been made to explain the main duties and responsibilities of the post, each individual task undertaken may not be identified.

**Person Specification**

**Forest School Leader**

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|  | **ESSENTIAL** | **DESIRABLE** |
| **QUALIFICATIONS** | Forest School Level 3 qualification including up to date Outdoor First Aid qualification | Experience of working in a school  Additional relevant qualifications |
| **EXPERIENCE** | Experience of working with relevant client groups who present with high levels of complexity and difficulty.  Recent and significant experience in leading Forest School/outdoor education sessions with children of a range of ages.  Proven ability to plan and deliver environmental education based activities to a wide age range of children. | Previous line management experience |
| **SKILLS & ABILITIES** | Excellent verbal , communication and interpersonal skills in order to communicate effectively with carers, children, families and colleagues  Ability to work effectively on own initiative as well as within a team  Ability to build relationships and promote change  Computer literate for report writing and recording  Excellent inter-personal skills and the ability to work with different groups of staff, teachers, carers.  A flexible and proactive work ethic and a positive attitude  Skilled and knowledgeable in a range of age-appropriate outdoor activities including games and crafts, and able to share skills in line with good practice, policies and procedures | Ability to facilitate or develop training courses |
| **KNOWLEDGE** | Good understanding of child development  Full working knowledge of current statutory and regulatory guidelines related to outdoor learning and education.  Understanding of Child Protection & Safeguarding | Working knowledge of Attachment Theory based practice  Knowledge of the mental health needs of children and adolescents |
| **PERSONAL QUALITIES** | Enjoy working with children (primary and secondary age) from a range of backgrounds and commitment to supporting their physical, social and emotional development through forest school activities  Commitment to continued professional and personal development  Professional credibility & Commitment to equal opportunities and valuing diversity  Demonstrate a commitment to supervision and reflective practice  Punctual and organized (can organize own work load and that of support staff/volunteers) |  |
| **ADDITIONAL** | Full UK driving licence and own transport |  |