

Job Title: Assistant Forest Preschool Teacher

Job Description:

The Assistant Forest Preschool Teacher plays a vital role in creating a nurturing and engaging learning environment for young children within a forest-based or outdoor educational setting. Working closely with the lead teacher and other staff members, the Assistant Forest Preschool Teacher contributes to the holistic development of children by facilitating hands-on experiences, fostering a love for nature, and supporting their social, emotional, and cognitive growth. This role combines the responsibilities of a traditional preschool teacher with the unique challenges and opportunities presented by an outdoor learning environment.

Key Responsibilities:

1. **Assist in Lesson Planning:** Collaborate with the lead teacher to plan and implement age-appropriate, nature-focused lessons and activities that align with the preschool curriculum. Incorporate sensory experiences, exploration, and creative play to engage children in outdoor learning.
2. **Supervision and Safety:** Ensure the safety and well-being of children at all times during outdoor activities. Monitor the children closely, implement safety protocols, and respond promptly to any concerns or emergencies that may arise.
3. **Outdoor Exploration:** Lead nature walks, hikes, and exploratory activities, encouraging children to observe, interact with, and appreciate the natural world. Foster a sense of wonder and curiosity about the Creator God and the Natural world He Created.
4. **Social and Emotional Development:** Assist in creating a supportive and inclusive classroom community where children can develop positive social skills, emotional resilience, and empathy. Offer guidance in conflict resolution and help children navigate their emotions.
5. **Hands-on Learning:** Engage children in hands-on activities such as gardening, building, crafting, and storytelling that promote sensory experiences, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
6. **Environmental Stewardship:** Instill a sense of responsibility and respect for the environment by teaching children about conservation, sustainability, and the importance of taking care of nature.
7. **Parent Communication:** Maintain open and regular communication with parents and caregivers, sharing insights into children's progress, achievements, and challenges. Address any questions or concerns promptly.
8. **Assist with Record Keeping:** Maintain accurate records of attendance, incident reports, and observations of children's development. Contribute to the documentation of the learning process through photos, notes, and other media.
9. **Health and Wellness:** Ensure that children are dressed appropriately for outdoor weather conditions and have access to necessary snacks, water, and rest breaks. Promote healthy habits and hygiene practices.
10. **Professional Development:** Stay updated on best practices in early childhood education, outdoor learning, and nature-based pedagogy. Participate in workshops, training sessions, and ongoing professional development opportunities.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- High school diploma or equivalent; associate's or bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a related field is a plus.
- Previous experience working with young children in an educational or childcare setting.
- Passion for nature and outdoor education, with a deep appreciation for the benefits of nature-based learning.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues and engage positively with children and parents.
- Patience, flexibility, and adaptability in varying weather conditions and dynamic outdoor environments.
- Basic first aid and CPR certification (or willingness to obtain upon hiring).
- Physical fitness and the ability to participate in outdoor activities and hikes with children.
- Familiarity with developmentally appropriate practices for early childhood education.

Job Category:

Part-Time 20-25 hours per week

Pay: \$15.75-\$17.00 DOE