

## JOB TITLE – NATURAL PLAY YOUTH WORKER

### OVERALL PURPOSE

To lead natural play sessions in open greenspace at community gardens in Wester Hailes. To integrate children into the community garden, encouraging positive interaction. To bring play to the heart of the community, encouraging, supporting and motivating children and young people to participate in free play activities and enjoy the outdoors. To provide an inclusive service so that children will have fun, stay safe, be inspired, make friends, learn, contribute to and provide them with life skills socially and individually.

### HOURS

This is a self-employed sessional post. Workshops will be held from 1pm to 4pm every Saturday from start of July to the end of October, and a weekday afternoon (day to be confirmed with applicant).

In addition to workshop hours, there are 15 mins for set-up and 15 mins for close down of workshops.

### PAY

The hourly rate for 2015/16 is £16/hour. Sessional fees are paid monthly on receipt of invoice.

### PERSON SPECIFICATION

#### Essential Criteria

- Experience of supporting outdoor play, working with children and young people with different backgrounds, ages and abilities.
- An understanding of the principles of play and the role of adults.
- Ability to think creatively about delivering 'Free Play' sessions and obtaining resources.
- Awareness of Child Protection Guidelines and relevant legislation.
- Good communication skills with children and adults.
- Good team worker and ability to use own initiative.
- A heightened awareness of Health and Safety issues and Risk Assessment (dynamic).
- Commitment to the success and sustainability of the project.

- Personal skills to include: willingness to work in all weathers, good physical health, patient and tolerant, organised and efficient, be able to adopt the ethos of Edible Estates, be full of fun.
- Basic first aid (training can be given).

### Highly Advantageous Criteria

- SVQ 3 Play Work / Youth Work or relevant qualification /equivalent or working towards.
- Computer literate and social media awareness (Facebook etc).
- Administration skills – keeping records, logs, policy implementation.
- Experience of working and supporting volunteers.
- A full UK driving licence.
- Knowledge of local area.
- Experience of reporting and evaluation.
- Experience of consultation techniques with children.
- Ability to advocate for children's rights and promote participation in decision making.
- Experience of working with children with additional support needs.

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Youth Worker will facilitate outdoor play workshops and ensure that children have a safe, enjoyable and positive experience. The role will include:-

- Provide outdoor play opportunities, and facilitate freely chosen and self-directed play opportunities.
- Encourage children to help plan and choose the kinds of activities that they would like to do.
- Supervise children at all times making sure that safety procedures are followed conforming to our Child Protection, Health & Safety and any other relevant policies completing any appropriate reports such as accident / incident forms.
- Encourage good behaviour and deal with any challenging behaviour in accordance with the our policies and procedures.
- Maintain a register of attendees at sessions for evaluation and child protection use.
- Ensure non-discriminatory practices at all times – in line with the Equal Opportunities policy.
- Preparation and clearing up of activities / areas.
- Contribute to joint working and partnership working ensuring positive relationships with all concerned.
- To liaise and work with parents, carers, professionals and partnership agencies, (as appropriate).

- Attendance at staff meeting and training sessions as required (paid).

## **REPORTING TO**

Community Gardener

## **MONITORING PERFORMANCE**

1. Delivering safe workshops.
2. Delivering workshops which children enjoy, value and want to participate in.