



FOREST SCHOOL ASSISTANT / PLAY LEADER

Location:	Old Gate Woods, Woodland to the West of Follifoot Cricket Club.
Reports to:	Vikki and Chris Silverwood (Owners)
Key relationships:	Owners, Forest School Leaders, Volunteers, children and families, school/nursery staff and pupils, Follifoot Cricket Club, Rudding Estates (Landlord)
Hours per week:	Variable depending on organisational needs
Rate of pay:	£10- £12 dependent upon experience
Working Pattern:	School holidays, after school and weekends (rota'd)
Date of advertisement:	12 th January 2022
Closing date:	Open until the right candidate(s) have been found

1) Context

Børn of the Forest is a classroom without walls where children learn from nature, within nature. Our ethos is based upon both the Reggio Emilia and Forest School approaches, and we pride ourselves on offering inclusive, child centred and open-ended provision. Presently, the business offers woodland play sessions for pre-school aged children midweek as well as sessions on weekends for families and children up to the end of primary school age. We also offer birthday parties and school holiday care, events and private bookings for Nurseries and School trips. We operate from our secure 3.5 acre site in Follifoot which is part of Rudding Estates. We opened in April 2019 and we are now looking to build on the success of the past 3 years by increasing visitor numbers and offering a wider variety of sessions and opportunities.

2) Areas of Responsibility and Key Tasks

- To support the Forest School Leaders during Forest School sessions. Once confident and fully trained, you will be expected to lead some play sessions / parties independently.
- To supervise and support clients with varying needs while delivering / supporting sessions.
- To create and maintain an engaging, safe, 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 planned and prepared.
- To be aware of and adhere to all Børn of the Forest's Policies and Procedures.
- To participate in training and other learning activities/meetings as required.
- To administer basic first aid as the need arises.
- Maintaining and cleaning equipment, reporting any faults to the Owners in good time.
- Demonstrate an open interpersonal style
- Work independently, as well as part of a team
- To undertake any other duties reasonably requested by the Owners.





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3) Hours of work:

Hours of work will be negotiable and variable, depending on the requirements of the business

School holiday clubs and family play sessions during school holidays, between the hours of 9am and 5pm

After school clubs between the hours of 3pm and 5.30pm

Birthday parties and family play sessions over weekends between the hours of 9am and 6pm

4) Work and previous experience:

You will need to have:

- Experience of working with Early Years and/or Primary aged children
- Experience of working with families and liaising with parents
- An understanding of formal and informal learning in an outdoor context

5) Team working

- Contribute as an effective member of the Børn of the Forest team, assisting others where necessary in a willing and positive manner

6) Professional development

- Keep up to date with relevant policy and good practice relating to Forest Schools, outdoor education and issues affecting Børn of the Forest
- Acquire and maintain a good knowledge of the Børn of the Forest site including fauna and flora and environmental issues
- Attend training courses, workshops, meetings and undertake one-to-one training as and when required.

The Post holder may be required to undertake other duties which may be reasonably requested by the Owners and which are compatible with the overall scope and authority of the role.



7) Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and Attainments Minimum 5 GCSE grades A-C inc Maths and English or Equivalent Current Paediatric / outdoor First Aid qualification Basic Safeguarding qualification/training Basic Food Hygiene qualification Further Education qualification Level 3 Forest School Leader	* *	* * * *
Work Experience Experience of working with children and families Experience of working with pre-schoolers / primary school aged children Experience of supporting Forest School, outdoor learning, or other relevant groups Knowledge of EYFS / National Curriculum	* *	* *
Knowledge and Understanding Practical understanding of health and safety for outdoor activities Knowledge and understanding of safeguarding Knowledge of current issues and good practice in Early Years and primary education Knowledge of Makaton and visual communication Understanding of Reggio Emilia and/or Forest School approaches	* *	* * *
Behaviours and Characteristics Willingness to undertake training when necessary Ability to work independently, being self-reliant and using own initiative Be a team player Clear communicator with an open interpersonal style Be vigilant and proactive Ability to carry out practical outdoor activities including light manual work and lifting Able to work outdoors in all weathers and provide suitable clothing Honest, reliable, and fully committed to the organisation Hold Full driving licence and have your own transport	* * * * * * * *	*

8) Salary

£10-12, dependent upon experience.

9) Working hours

Hours will be variable depending on bookings and seasons. You will be required to work weekends, after school and during school holidays on a rota and hours will vary with more/longer sessions running during warmer months. The role will be on a casual basis, with irregular working patterns to cater for periods of high demand. Commitment to the organisation and reliability is essential.

10) Equality

Børn of the Forest believes in the employment and advancement of people solely on their ability to do the job required. We are an equal opportunities employer and strive to be a diverse and inclusive place to work where we can all be ourselves.





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11) Probation and trial period

All appointments are subject to satisfactory DBS enhanced disclosure and references. There is a probationary period of 6 months for this post.

12) Data Protection Act

Information provided by you as part of your application will be used in the recruitment process. Any data about you will be held securely with access restricted to those involved in dealing with your application in the recruitment process. Once this process is completed the data relating to unsuccessful applicants will be stored for a maximum of 6 months and then destroyed. If you are the successful candidate, your application form will be retained and form the basis of your personnel record. Information provided by you on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be used to monitor our equal opportunities policy and practices. By signing and submitting your completed application form you are giving your consent to your data being stored and processed (if you submit your application by e-mail and the application form is unsigned we will assume that consent by you is given) for the purpose of the recruitment process, equal opportunities monitoring and your personnel record if you are the successful candidate.

