**Forest School Level 3 Practitioner**

**2 posts**

**Job Description**

RESPONSIBLE TO: Beautiful New Beginnings CIC

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: Sessional 10hrs/week, (with potential additional and planning hours/ weekend work as required).

SALARY: £12 PER HOUR UNQUALIFIED RISING TO £14 PER HOUR WHEN QUALIFIED

Closing Date - 30/3/2024

LOCATION: Knowsley (specific sites to be confirmed )

POST FUNDED BY - National Lottery Heritage Fund

**PURPOSE OF JOB**

An exciting opportunity has arisen to become part of the Beautiful New Beginnings Team. We are looking to appoint another forest school leader who will help us to develop and deliver Forest School (FS) sessions across sites in Knowsley for Beautiful New Beginnings CIC. We are committed to supporting you through your level three forest school training and qualification providing in house support and mentoring alongside you gaining your formal qualifications to enable you to run effective, high quality outdoor sessions.

The forest school sessions will take a person centred approach to outdoor play and learning, helping with child development and attainment. The children’s activities would include outdoor skills, environmental awareness and nature crafts. The sessions allow families to connect with nature and their local green space and provide a chance for improvement of physical and mental health and wellbeing. The sessions will be delivered weekly throughout the school year, possibly including school holidays and some weekends. Sessions would reach 15 children per session dependent upon risk assessment of the site. The FS leader will be supported by a forest school level 1 trained volunteer who would be present and assist with each session.

**Training Dates and Requirements**

In order to apply for this role you MUST be able to attend training at

Norris Green Park

Broad Lane

Norris Green

L11

Training will take place from 10am - 4:00pm on the following dates

27/04/24

28/04/24

11/05/24

12/05/24

25/05/24

You MUST be available to attend all sessions of training and be prepared to volunteer at one of our sites across Liverpool to gain first hand knowledge and experience before the qualification commences.

You MUST be prepared to complete the necessary work needed in your own time to gain the qualification. This is a year long qualification with assignments, research and paperwork to complete, access to a laptop or computer would be recommended.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

* To be responsible for planning and overseeing the day to day delivery, organisation and smooth running of Forest Schools workshops.
* To promote learning in the outdoor environment and the ethos of Forest Schools and outdoor learning.
* To ensure effective communication with families, outside agencies and other community groups.
* To ensure the health and safety of all participants, including writing and checking risk assessments for the sites, tools and activities used.
* To evaluate programmes and keep thorough registers and data
* Maintain woodland/greenspace site/s to be safe and protect the environmental and educational resource.
* Ensure local heritage sites are maintained and managed operating a ‘leave no trace policy,’ at all times.

**Delivery of Forest School Sessions**

* Prepare site, (including dynamic risk assessments) and activities for sessions including sourcing ideas, and materials;
* Plan, prepare and source materials for sessions
* Deliver sessions effectively engaging with families and supporting child development and skills
* Encourage children to help plan and choose the kinds of activities;
* Clearing up of activities / areas.
* make sure that safety procedures are followed conforming to our Safeguarding Child Protection, Health & Safety and any other relevant policies completing any appropriate reports such as accident / incident forms.
* Willingness to work toward level 3 qualification forest school

**Person Specifications**

* Patience, enthusiasm and a willingness to engage with the local community is a must!
* Passionate about child development and engaging with families is vital
* Encourage good behaviour and deal with any challenging behaviour in accordance with the our policies and procedures.
* Ensure non-discriminatory practices at all times – in line with the Equal Opportunities policy.
* This post necessitates working outdoors in all weathers and a degree of fitness.
* Experienced in working with children in education or play work.
* Ability to motivate and inspire children across the range of age, ability and confidence.
* To be clear, confident, fair, with good behaviour management skills appropriate to the age of the child.
* Able to work independently and to manage own time efficiently.
* Love of nature and being outdoors
* Love of families and building community
* Love of learning and ability to manage workload

**Things to Note**

In order to run effective forest school sessions it is essential to have access to a range of materials. Many of these materials will become wet, muddy, and will require cleaning to upkeep their condition and ensure that they are safe for use. This will be your responsibility. Please ensure you are able to store and transport equipment e.g. - fire pit, tarps, rope ladders (all of which will be provided by BNB) safely and effectively. Forest school is a mucky job! Good storage facilities away from site will be essential. Please ask us about this if this is something you would struggle with.

The qualification is the equivalent of 2 A levels, mentoring will be provided throughout as required.

The funding secured runs for 4 years, should you complete this fully funded qualification with us, you would be committing to run 2 sessions per week minimum, for Beautiful New Beginnings CIC for 40 weeks per year for the duration of the funding term. You would also be required to submit a one page report to the funders about your experience throughout this time.

**Knowledge**

* Level 1 Forest Schools Programme Certificate, or similar qualification.
* Good understanding of nature, the natural environment and local heritage
* Knowledge and practical understanding of child development and pedagogy.
* Knowledge and experience of a school environment, family work or child development qualifications
* Experience in running sessions for families.
* Educational background is desirable but not essential

If you think you may be suitable for this role, please send in a CV and covering letter to [beautiful.new.beginnings@outlook.com](mailto:beautiful.new.beginnings@outlook.com)

This role will be subject to Enhanced DBS check