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Employment Opportunity – Wild Child Outdoor Playgroup Facilitator

Do you love the outdoors? Does the idea of families exploring the forest and children climbing trees make you smile? Are you a natural at connecting with parents? Do you think risky play is the cat's meow?

Yes! Then we have an exciting opportunity for you.

Since 1975, Childreach has provided support, programs, services, and learning opportunities to parents and Early Years Professionals so that all children reach their full potential. The Wild Child Outdoor Playgroup is an innovative, unstructured, interactive parent-child program located in a variety of local forests and natural areas. The goal of the program is to educate parents on the value and benefits of outdoor free play in a natural setting and increase their confidence and competency in providing child-led, inquiry-based opportunities for their children. A key component of the program is to create warm, welcoming environment with a strong facilitator-to-parent relationship and significant parent-to-parent support. The program strives to demystify the risks and barriers of outdoor free play, so parents have the ability to strengthen their children's emotional, physical and social well-being through connection to nature. Wild Child facilitators are responsible for planning and facilitating the program, program documentation, blog writing, and promotions using social media.

Reports To: Program Manager

Rate of Pay: \$20.00 per hour plus mandatory benefits

Hours Weekly: 9 hours minimum (Wednesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays – 9:30am to 12:30pm)

Responsibilities

- Guide families through a child-led, outdoor play adventure.
- Provide a warm, welcoming and family-friendly atmosphere.
- Demonstrate the role of the adults in child-led curriculum.
- Educate parents on the value and benefits of risky play.
- Develop and maintain supportive relationships and strong connections with parents, making appropriate referrals when needed.
- Work closely with parents, caregivers and children on a one-to-one basis.
- Provide role modeling of effective child-lead and inquiry-based experiences.
- Document Wild Child experiences through photographs, social media posts and pedagogical documentation.

Qualifications

- Minimum two years' experience in a setting that supports parents and families preferred.
- Bilingual in English and French preferred, ability to speak other languages an asset.
- Standard First Aid and CPR
- Police Vulnerable Sector Check

Skills

- High level of comfort interacting with families
- Knowledge of emergent curriculum and child-led learning
- Comfort in and understanding of the natural, forested environment year-round
- Knowledge of native trees, vegetation, animals and insects
- An understanding and appreciation of challenges parents face while raising a family
- Knowledgeable of referral services, community supports in London
- Ability to work with a diversity of people and family structures
- Ability to work independently and self-manage work tasks

This position enjoys a supportive environment with the program running Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

We are an equal opportunity employer committed to hiring staff that reflect the diversity of the clients and community that we serve. Should you require accommodation in the application and interview process, please contact Childreach. We thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected to proceed in the competition will be contacted.

Please submit your resume and letter of interest to:

Nadine Reeves, Program Manager
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