



Job Ref: HQ/2017/003

Title: Playworker (x 2 posts)

Employer: Action Deaf Youth

Project: Let's Play and Grow! (Supporting Families of Deaf Children through Active Play)

This play-based project is aimed at supporting families with deaf children aged 0 to 8 by offering high quality weekly group play opportunities, support and training for parents around play, and specialised play therapy provision.

Based at: 385 Hollywood Road, Belfast, BT4 2LS

Hours: 19 hours per week (excluding lunch breaks)

Note: *We are open to combining both part time posts into one full time post for the right candidate.*

Employment Status: Fixed term until 31st May 2021

Annual Salary: £18,746 full time (pro rata for part time)

Responsible to: Active Play Coordinator

In accordance with Action Deaf Youth's Employment Equality Action Plan, we positively welcome applications from Deaf people who may not meet the essential criteria for qualifications and experience.

These posts are funded by the BIG Lottery Fund

Playworker (Post 1)

This post involves significant work with deaf children in group play sessions

Job purpose: To provide rich, stimulating and enjoyable play experiences for small groups of deaf children up to the age of 8 years, ensuring that each individual child receives optimal physical and emotional care at all times. At certain times, this may involve working in partnership with parents/carers in play sessions to promote and enhance parent-child play.

Key responsibilities

Direct Play

1. Facilitate high quality play experiences that are innovative, creative and challenging for deaf children aged 3 to 8 years mainly in Belfast and possibly in up to two other locations (please note that this will include facilitating play sessions regularly on Fridays and Saturdays)
2. Provide excellent standards of care at all times by supervising the children appropriately within a risks-benefits play framework and actively supporting their social and emotional wellbeing
3. Create a welcoming, stimulating and safe play space that maintains children's interest
4. Observe children's play and consult with them to ensure that a wide range of creative and enjoyable play opportunities are offered that meet each child's individual needs and group needs
5. Work alongside other play colleagues to provide high quality weekly group play experiences for younger deaf children aged 0 to 3 years and their parents/carers

Planning for Play

6. Plan appropriate high quality play experiences based upon individual children's interests, with guidance and support from the Active Play Coordinator, giving children freedom to choose how they spend their play times
7. Prepare play resources, set up the play space and resources appropriately for different groups, and clear away at the conclusion of each session
8. Ensure good standards of hygiene and cleanliness at all times in the children's play spaces (ensuring that all play resources are clean, safe, stored securely and rooms are left to a high standard at the end of sessions)
9. Ensure that all activities are carried out within an equal opportunities framework
10. Where appropriate, support the Active Play Coordinator in the delivery of play-based training programmes for families to strengthen and enhance parent-child play

Liaison

11. Develop and maintain good relationships with the children's parents/carers
12. Encourage parental interest in the power of play to support children's development

13. Work in partnership with colleagues to support deaf children's holistic development

Other

14. Complete all required training to meet the project development needs

15. Complete administrative duties related to play session provision with support from the project administrator (paperwork is minimal and most of the time will be spent in direct play and planning for play)

16. Promote and safeguard the welfare of the children who attend our programmes and ensure all safeguarding and child protection procedures are adhered to

This job description reflects the duties of the post as they exist at this time and may be subject to change based on the needs of deaf children and their families.

The post-holder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the salary and competence requirements of this post from time to time.

Person Specification

Post	Playworker (Post 1)	
Location	Belfast (and to be prepared to travel to up to two other locations to deliver sessions)	
	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognised qualification in Playwork at Level 3 (or above) or qualification in Children’s Care, Learning and Development at Level 3 or above and a willingness to undertake a recognised qualification in Playwork 2. Willingness to undertake training and qualifications in British Sign Language where necessary 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Certificate in British Sign Language Level 2 or above (or be a native user of the language)
Experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience of planning creative play activities at an appropriate level for individual children (in a paid, voluntary or personal capacity) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience of working within a play-based setting (either paid or voluntary) 2. Experience of working with deaf children
Skills & Abilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sound judgement and common sense 2. Ability to facilitate safe and stimulating play experiences for children 3. Good communication skills with young children 4. Able to work independently 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creative skills to enhance physical play space and play resources 2. Good basic IT skills 3. Good interpersonal skills with parents/carers
Competencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team working – able to maintain good relationships with colleagues to foster team spirit, commitment to the team and achievement of project outcomes 2. Child-centred – committed to putting children first 3. Flexibility – acknowledge wide range of children and families that Action Deaf Youth works with, respond to changing working practices, work regularly on Fridays and Saturdays 4. Professional knowledge – continually update and expand skill base, awareness of safeguarding children 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional knowledge – understand children’s needs in a play environment, understand the varied needs of deaf children and their families
Other		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean driving licence and access to a car for work purposes would be useful

Playworker (Post 2)

This post involves working more closely with young deaf children and their parents/carers

Job purpose: To constructively support families of young deaf children who attend our programmes by sensitively facilitating a range of high quality play-based experiences through individual attention and small group activities. This will include planning and delivering stimulating play opportunities, informally supporting parents/carers and being an inspiring role model for the children and their families. There may also be an opportunity to work alongside the Active Play Coordinator to deliver Baby Bonding, Toddler Bonding and Heart-to-Heart (primary aged children) programmes.

Key responsibilities

Direct Play

1. Work closely with playwork colleagues to facilitate the active involvement of parents/carers in our group play programmes for younger deaf children aged 0 to 3 years in Belfast and two other locations
2. Create a warm and welcoming space so that parents/carers feel constructively supported in their journey with their deaf child
3. Act as a positive role model for young deaf children and their parents/carers
4. Provide excellent standards of care at all times by supervising the children appropriately within a risks-benefits play framework and actively supporting their social and emotional wellbeing
5. Support playwork colleagues in the delivery of high quality group play experiences for children aged 0 to 8 years
6. Support the Active Play Coordinator in the delivery of play-based training programmes for families to strengthen and enhance parent-child attachment through play
7. There may be an opportunity to deliver play-based bonding programmes for deaf children and their parents/carers either on a 1:1 basis or in small groups (subject to completing practitioner training)

Planning

8. Liaise with colleagues to plan high quality play experiences that are appropriate to the age and needs of individual children and their parents/carers
9. Set up the play space creatively, prepare the play resources needed, and clear away at the conclusion of each session
10. Ensure good standards of hygiene and cleanliness at all times in the children's play spaces (ensuring that all play resources are clean, safe, stored securely and rooms are left to a high standard at the end of sessions)
11. Ensure that all activities are carried out within an equal opportunities framework

Liaison

- 12. Develop and maintain excellent relationships with parents/carers of deaf children
- 13. Encourage parental interest in the power of play to support children's development
- 14. Work in partnership with colleagues to support deaf children's holistic development

Other

- 15. Complete all required training to meet the project development needs
- 16. Complete administrative duties related to direct play provision with support from the project administrator (paperwork is minimal and most of the time will be spent in direct play and planning for play)
- 17. Promote and safeguard the welfare of the children who attend our programmes and ensure all safeguarding and child protection procedures are adhered to

This job description reflects the duties of the post as they exist at this time and may be subject to change based on the needs of deaf children and their families.

The post-holder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the salary and competence requirements of this post from time to time.

Person Specification

Post	Playworker (Post 2)	
Location	Belfast (and to be prepared to travel throughout Northern Ireland to deliver programmes)	
	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No formal qualifications are necessary but a willingness to obtain recognised qualifications in Playwork and British Sign Language is essential 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognised qualification in Playwork 2. Certificate in British Sign Language Level 2 or above (or be a native user of the language)
Experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience of working with young children (in a paid, voluntary or personal capacity) 2. A thorough understanding of the practical and emotional challenges faced by parents/carers of deaf children 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience of working within a play-based setting (either paid or voluntary)
Skills & Abilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sound judgement and common sense 2. Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to sensitively facilitate parental involvement in our programmes 3. Good basic IT skills 4. Confidence to act as a positive role model for parents/carers and young deaf children 5. Able to work independently 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creative skills to enhance physical play space and play resources 2. Able to confidently lead small groups
Competencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team working – able to maintain good relationships with colleagues to foster team spirit, commitment to the team and achievement of project outcomes 2. Child-centred – committed to putting children first 3. Flexibility – acknowledge wide range of children and families that Action Deaf Youth works with, respond to changing working practices, prepared to work across Northern Ireland as required 4. Professional knowledge – continually update and expand skill base, awareness of safeguarding children 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional knowledge – understand children's needs in a play environment, understand the varied needs of deaf children and their families
Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to a car for work purposes or be able to travel to the required locations via public transport 	