

Name of Employer: Forest Kindergarten Sevenoaks
Job title: Forest Kindergarten lead practitioner
Closing date for applications: 10th November
Salary: Competitive salary - see below
Location: Ide Hill, Sevenoaks
To apply: send cv and cover letter to Liz at forestkindergartenoffice@gmail.com

At Forest Kindergarten, we are passionate about outdoor learning and play and the positive effect it has on children. We love being in the woods with the children. To join our team, you will need to share this passion and be committed to working hard to ensure that the children have the best experience possible every day they are with us and that we make the most of our amazing woodland setting.

The Job:

Our forest kindergarten practitioners are the most important part of our provision. They run the sessions and are responsible for a group of children within the nursery throughout the session.

Role and duties:

- Ensure safeguarding and health and safety policies and procedures are adhered to and applied at all times
- Ensure the children in our care receive appropriate care, kindness, and supervision at all times
- Through sensitive and careful interactions (talking, listening, teaching, observing) support the children in setting and achieving their own aims, and extend and challenge their understanding and knowledge in all areas of learning.
- Demonstrate high expectations of the children in all aspects of their development, from self-care to communication and language
- Undertake all the practical aspects of looking after 2-5-year-olds and ensure their wellbeing – e.g, helping them change, changing nappies, ensuring hands are washed, helping them at lunchtime, making sure they are warm enough, wiping noses...
- Form close, caring and appropriate relationships with the children in your care
- Form positive and constructive relationships with the parents of our children
- Carry out observations on key children and complete their assessment sheets twice per year
- Ensure that all children are offered equal opportunities • Regularly communicate with parents and carers, giving them daily feedback about their child's day and development and any other relevant information
- Attend weekly 30min reflection & planning meetings
- Contribute as part of the team to the reflection and planning process
- Communicate with and contribute to the team in a positive and professional manner at all times.

The person:

At Forest Kindergarten, we look first for the right kind of committed, passionate person, who believes in our ethos and the nursery concept.

The successful candidate:

- Is truly passionate about outdoor learning and play
- Loves working out in the woods in all weathers and genuinely wants to be outdoors all day, all year round
- Loves working with young children and cares first and foremost about their emotional and physical wellbeing
- Understands the importance of keeping children safe and of helping create a safe environment through good safeguarding practices
- Is good at talking with young children in a way that engages and values them, and promotes and extends their learning
- Will promote the values and ethos through their interactions with everyone - children, parents, other staff, people we meet in the woods – etc.

- Can be positive, enthusiastic and professional every day they come to work
- Is organised and able to work effectively as part of a team, and who will follow policies and carry out duties to a high standard
- Is proactive and assumes responsibility without needing to be asked, and, if necessary, has the ability to lead and motivate others in a particular aspect of the provision.

Skills and experience:

You must have:

- Worked with young children in a learning environment
- Ongoing working knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and current good practice
- An understanding of the benefits of outdoor play and education for early years children
- An interest in building on knowledge of plants and animals of the woodland.

Qualifications:

Ideally, you will have either a Level 3 childcare, teaching, or Level 3 Forest School qualification. However, if you have no formal qualifications, we will consider employing you if you have some experience and can demonstrate to us that you can interact in the right way with the children (kind, caring, understanding, sensitive, enriching), embody our ethos, learn and develop into an exemplary practitioner, and be a good fit with our team.

Working Hours:

- Part time position, 3-5 days per week
- Hours: 8.45am-2.15pm each day, plus 1 hour per day for preparation and diary writing.
- The nursery operates during term time only; no staff holidays allowed during this time.
- Holidays: Kent school holidays, as we operate in term times only.

Salary:

The part-time salary will be pro-rated based on a 5 day per week salary of £22k to £24k, depending on experience and qualifications.