*PERSON SPECIFICATION*

JOB TITLE: Play Development and Support Worker

BASED: Dry Arch Children’s Centres – Dungiven and Limavady

RESPONSIBLE TO: Dry Arch Family Support Manager

PAY SCALE: NICVA Scale 3, Signal Point 16 (pro – rata)

##### ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

* Relevant level 3 qualification in Early Years/ Play work/ Health/Social Care or third level qualification.
* Experience in delivering group sessions with children and parents.
* Practical knowledge and good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
* Knowledge and good understanding of child development.
* An understanding and commitment to The Dry Arch Children’s Centres aims and strategic objectives.
* Knowledge and understanding of the Minimum Standards and Childminding & Daycare Regulations.
* Excellent Communication skills; with the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively in person, by phone, email, and in writing with families and professionals.
* The ability to work effectively, calmly and with accuracy under pressure.
* Ability to work both independently and as part of a team, and to use initiative.
* A commitment to continuing professional development.
* Flexibility, including willingness to adjust working hours to meet the needs of the centre and to work some weekends as required in meeting the needs of the local community.
* Enthusiastic, a team player and self-motivated with good organisational and time management skills.
* Problem solving skills
* Experience of reporting against set objectives.
* Must possess a current driving licence and have access to a reliable vehicle.
* Knowledge and understanding of confidentiality, professional boundaries and safeguarding children.
* The ability to deal with challenging situations, to manage conflict in an appropriate professional manner.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

* Level 5 qualification in Children’s Care Learning and Development or equivalent.
* Previous experience of developing/ delivering training to meet the diverse needs of families e.g. Ante Natal Communication, Developmental Baby Massage, Baby Reflexology, Baby/Toddler Yoga, Stay and Play Sessions, Sensory Play, Story and Rhyme Time and to support the delivery of parenting programmes including Family Links Nurturing, Solihull Approach, Weaning.
* Experience of working within a Sure Start or Children’s Centre.
* Experience of working with preschool or primary school children and their parents.
* Experience of working in the community with parents and a wide range of professionals, e.g. Health Visitors, Midwives, Social Services, Family Hubs, Education.
* Experience of conducting home visits to families.
* Planning skills to plan courses and activities for both young children and parents.
* Interpersonal and communication skills required to exchange information with other professionals on child protection matters including staff, family support workers, early years advisors, midwives, health visitors and social services..
* Computer literate- required to write reports, download and research information, to send and receive emails, access internet and produce resources and training materials.

**OTHER:**

* The Play Development and Support Worker will deliver services across the Dry Arch Children’s Centres Ltd and the nature of the job may require a certain amount of travelling within the area including Ballykelly and Greysteel and light lifting of furniture and resources.

This post is classed as having a high degree of contact with children or vulnerable adults and is therefore exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Employment to this post will be subject to an enhanced criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service before the appointment is confirmed. This will include details of cautions, reprimands or final warnings as well as convictions. You are also required to confirm whether anyone in your household is disqualified from working with children and vulnerable adults.