



Job Ref: HQ/2017/004

**Title:** Playwork Assistant (Sessional)

**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:** 4 hours every Saturday (term time only)

**Employment Status:** Fixed term until 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 (with possibility of extension depending on project needs)

**Salary:** £8.00 per hour

**Responsible to:** Active Play Coordinator

**This post is funded by the BIG Lottery Fund**

# Playwork Assistant (Sessional)

**Job purpose:** To support the Playworkers to provide rich, stimulating and enjoyable play experiences for small groups of deaf children aged 4 to 8 years, acting as an inspiring role model for the children at all times thus helping them to develop a positive sense of self-worth.

## Key responsibilities

### *Direct Play*

1. Support the Playworkers to facilitate high quality play experiences that are innovative, creative and challenging for deaf children aged 4 to 8 years at our premises in Belfast every Saturday (term time only)
2. Develop good relationships with the children and be a positive role model at all times, communicating with them appropriately and demonstrating empathy and understanding
3. 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

### *Setting up the play space*

4. Support the Playworkers to set up the play space and resources appropriately before each session begins and clear away at the conclusion of each session
5. Support the play team in creatively preparing and setting up the role play area (theme changes monthly) and fantasy play area (theme changes termly)

### *Liaison*

6. Work in partnership with colleagues to support each individual child's holistic development

### *Other*

7. Promote and safeguard the welfare of the children who attend our play programme 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	Playwork Assistant (Sessional)	
Location	Belfast	
	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>	1. Certificate in British Sign Language Level 2 or above (or be a fluent BSL user)	1. No formal playwork qualification is necessary but an interest in obtaining this would be beneficial
<b>Experience</b>	1. Experience of working with deaf children (in a paid, voluntary or personal capacity)	
<b>Skills &amp; Abilities</b>	1. Sound judgement and common sense 2. Excellent communication skills with deaf children 3. Ability to empathise with deaf children's life experiences and help them to develop a positive sense of self-worth	1. Creative skills to enhance physical play space and play resources
<b>Competencies</b>	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 that Action Deaf Youth works with, work regularly every Saturday 11.30am – 3.30pm during term time 4. Professional knowledge – prepared to continually update and expand skill base, awareness of safeguarding children	
<b>Other</b>	1. An interest in play and how this is essential for children's development	