



Playologist

Job Description

Job Title	Playologist
Employer Name	Playology Limited
Contact Name	Name: Hannah Atkinson Position: Managing Director Email Address: hello@playologylearning.com Contact by Email
Role description	<p>A Playologist is an educator who works both with and in nature, facilitating hands on, feet in, play based learning.</p> <p>As a Playologist, you will work with support from the Managing Director and Lead Playologist as part of a team of outdoor educators to care for and develop a stimulating, enabling natural environment, and curate resources within both the indoor learning spaces and at the beach/forest.</p> <p>You will work together with passionate colleagues to deliver enquiry-led, curricular programs following children's own interests.</p> <p>You spend your days immersed in nature, scaffolding children's play, guiding and documenting children's learning, engaging in intellectual interactions, and regularly reporting progress and experiences to parents.</p> <p>You will play a part in the life of Playology by actively participating in team meetings, unique trainings and seasonal events.</p>



<p>Duties and Responsibilities:</p>	<p>To support your colleagues with successful delivery of beach/forest school sessions</p> <p>To be a 'key person' with responsibilities for the wellbeing and development of a group of children, helping those children feel safe and cared for</p> <p>To ensure that the environment, resources as well as the opportunities and experiences presented to children are tailored to meet their individual needs</p> <p>To help maintain safety and security of all children, staff and visitors to Playology</p> <p>To inform, engage and support parents and carers in guiding their child's development at home</p> <p>To contribute to children's care routines, planning, documenting learning and assessment and progress records for children</p> <p>To work within the policies and procedures of Playology Limited</p> <p>To undertake any other duties in line with the needs of the business and commensurate with the grade of the post</p>
<p>Salary Details</p>	<p>£15,446 - £17,047 Per Annum</p>
<p>Working Week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working hours 8am - 5pm • Working days Monday to Friday • 4 Days per week (34 hour working week) • Term-time (38 weeks per year) • Obligation to cover some School Holiday Clubs and classes as required (paid as extra)



Person Specification			
Skills required		E	D
	Genuine care and affection towards young children; you need to light up when you see them and they need to feel it	✓	
E: Essential Criteria	The ability to interact appropriately with children; you need to be open, approachable, friendly, positive and kind	✓	
	Be able to effectively and politely communicate with children and adults; parents, teachers, and most importantly children	✓	
D: Desirable criteria	Be willing to learn; and learn, and learn!	✓	
	Be able to understand and learn appropriate theory regarding child development and put this into practise	✓	
	Be able to contribute to the smooth running of preschool, classes and workshops both indoors and outdoors	✓	
	Be an outdoor person; be a nature lover and be an active person	✓	
	Be purposefully engaged in high quality interactions with children and involved in children's play	✓	
	Be able to fully meet children's care needs	✓	
	Be able to follow instruction well and seek advice appropriately	✓	
	Be able to work on own initiative as well as part of a team	✓	
	Be resilient; learn how to handle various situations, some difficult	✓	
	Be enthusiastic - even when it's raining!	✓	
	Be able to complete paperwork to a high standard; learning reflections, observations and be adept at the administrative side of the business	✓	
	Have an excellent standard of hygiene and be well presented in an appropriate manner	✓	



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SPECIAL KNOWLED GE REQUIRED	<p>Have key worker experience for groups of children</p> <p>Have experience of capturing children’s learning in ways that can be shared with children, parents and families</p> <p>At least three years’ relevant experience in at least one school or setting</p> <p>Have experience of supporting children specifically outdoors (using outdoor educational approaches e.g. forest school/beach school methods)</p> <p>Working with children with special educational needs</p> <p>Experience of contributing to curriculum planning, delivery and assessment</p>	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓
	<p>Knowledge of the Statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Framework</p> <p>Understanding of child development and the needs and characteristics of young children, including those with additional needs</p> <p>Understanding of Child Protection and safeguarding procedures</p> <p>An interest in early childhood and education in other countries, particularly European</p>	✓ ✓ ✓	✓



Additional Detail

Other Important Information

We work across Seaham Marina, Castle Eden Dene and Souter Lighthouse, mainly outdoors on beaches and in forests and natural spaces

We are an outdoor early years setting, providing daily early years education to children aged 2-5

We provide educational support activities such as beach school/forest school workshops for schools and settings and school holiday clubs

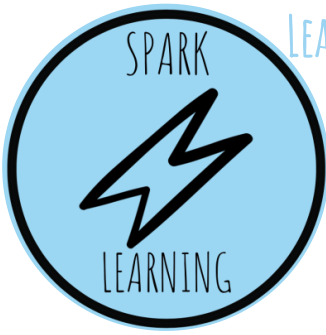
We provide teacher training, parent talks and make strong links with local businesses

We deliver educational STEAM & process art workshops for children up to age 10

We deliver Parent Programmes such as 'Discovery Play for Babies', and 'Playful Explorers' and 'The Fresh Air Club'



Benefits	The benefits of coming aboard our team include: Innovative and ambitious education - be part of the ever-expanding UK's first OFSTED registered beach school Broad range of professional development opportunities including career progression in various areas Being immersed in nature - spend your days working in the fresh air! Passionate and forward thinking, professional team - we will be 'making waves' together Playology kit & clothing for your comfort Discounts for team member's children Discounts with Outdoor clothing companies, as well as at stores and cafés on our settings' sites
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LEARNING IS ROOTED IN CURIOSITY...

in order for deep and meaningful learning to take place, the experiences we offer children need to be captivating. Playology values the importance of irresistible learning experiences, and the way in which they are presented to children. We provide children with opportunities to engage with rich, enquiry led learning focusing on their interests. We do not believe in ceilings; either in classrooms or children's learning potential!



CREATIVITY NEEDS TO BE NURTURED;

it is a set of muscles that need to be flexed. In order to support children's creative thinking, at Playology, we inspire children, and encourage them to be open minded. Playology creates an enabling environment where children can be free to think of things that no-one else has considered, and run with their ideas.



IMAGINATION INFLUENCES ALL WE DO, THINK ABOUT & CREATE

All of the open-ended experiences and learning resources at Playology are designed to develop collaboration for children; supporting them to explore the world through the perspective of others, learning to cooperate in their shared imaginary worlds. We encourage imaginative play which develops empathy and emotional understanding, whilst developing communication and language skills. Playology aims to engage all the senses to set the perfect ambient mood for imaginative thinking to flow.



THE NATURAL WORLD IS FULL OF LESSONS AND TREASURES.

Playology aims to help connect children with nature in a million meaningful ways; for their mind, their body and their soul. Childhood memories will be filled with outdoor explorations, peaceful moments, social times of eating and playing together at the beach, discovering wildlife and habitats and ultimately building a bond to the wider natural world that helps them feel good. This will, in turn, create a future army of advocates for our beaches and potentially lead to children who help to save the natural world that so many of us fight to protect.



IN ORDER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING TO BE HIGH...

it is absolutely vital that they are immersed in a high quality atmosphere in which to learn and develop through free play. At Playology, children thrive in our beautiful surroundings; both at the beach and within the learning studio and workspace. In order to nurture their positive view of themselves and respect their identity, we show children that we value their choices and autonomy by encouraging children to have a say in how they use their time here. At Playology, we work tirelessly to provide children with an abundance of the elements contributing to 'growing hearts'; outdoor play, space and time enjoying what they do with their days. We encourage warm, responsive relationships and a strong sense of community. We support healthy, high energy, active lifestyles balanced with mindful moments resulting in enhanced wellbeing and wellness.

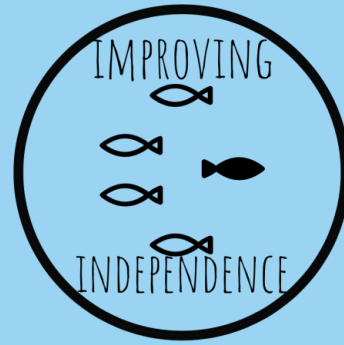
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'PLAYOLOGISTS' AIM TO...

IMPROVE CHILDREN'S INDEPENDENCE BY:

Identifying opportunities for children to do things for themselves. This means forgetting perfection and providing appropriate time and space in which children's independent skills can flourish.



RAISE CHILDREN'S RESILIENCE BY:

Building supportive relationships with children, which then allow us to be responsive to children during new situations and experiences, when being encouraged to think for themselves without direct instruction. Playologists build children's 'problem solving toolbox' alongside them; without solving problems for them. We remain quiet, allowing children to talk things through, ensuring the time for the creative process of problem solving is respected.



PROMOTING CHILDREN'S POSITIVITY BY:

Being positive ourselves; seeing the best in each other, and speaking about our own and others' work and selves positively. Playologists put our positive attitudes on display, making a positive space, where we smile, we encourage and we praise specifically when we see positivity in children. It may be time or effort spent on their work, showing a can do attitude or trying to turn a negative into a positive; whatever it is, it's praised, encouraged and held in much higher regard than a product or outcome. Naturally, we acknowledge when bad things happen; because they do. Towers fall, paintings smudge, sticky tape goes array! Playologists sit with children in their disappointment and sadness, we feel it with them, and then we help them to navigate through their difficult times, forging a pathway back to positivity.



ULTIMATELY, OUR APPROACH EMBRACES, NURTURES AND ELEVATES CHILDREN'S
NATURAL CREATIVE POWERS THROUGH HANDS ON, FEET IN LEARNING.
WE HAVE AN ORIGINAL, UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE FULL OF ADVENTURES;
GIVING CHILDREN THE STRENGTH & SUPPORT TO REMAIN

JOYFUL BRAVE CURIOUS CREATIVE THINKERS.