



Job Description

Title:	Play Ranger
Responsible to:	ELPA Projects Manager and Senior Play Ranger
Hours:	14 hours per week, out of school hours (including some evening and weekend work)
Salary:	£12 per hour
Please Note:	This post is funded until end of April 2020

Project Purpose

The Play Ranger Project will facilitate and support playful spaces in local communities where children and adults feel safe, comfortable and welcome to play. Play Rangers will facilitate free, outdoor, local play sessions, engaging children and young people to bring play to the heart of the community.

Project Outcomes

The Play Ranger Project will work towards achieving the following outcomes:

1. Children have more opportunities to play outside, leading to improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
2. Children and families become more aware of the benefits of outdoor play.
3. Communities value and support play opportunities for children and young people.
4. Children and young people will be listened to and their views on playing and free time taken into account.

Project Delivery

Planning and engagement

- 1) Support the collection of baseline information on community spaces and how children and young people use them to inform the development of the Play Ranger Project.
- 2) Utilise a range of methods to engage with children and young people to gather their thoughts and ideas in relation to play in their communities.

- 3) Identify and obtain resources to support the effective delivery of the Play Ranger Project.
- 4) Engage with key community organisations to support and strengthen the development of partnership working (for example, local schools, community police and other community groups).

Implementation

- 1) Deliver 4 play sessions per week, covering the pre-identified project areas (Tranent, Elphinstone and Prestonpans).
- 2) Work with schools and local community organisations to effectively communicate with children, young people, parents, carers and other community members on the development of the Play Ranger Project.
- 3) Provide opportunities for children and young people to feed into the project to ensure the project continuously develops to meet their needs.

Evaluation and forward planning:

- 1) Gather evidence and documentation to assess success of the project using project outcomes and indicators.
- 2) Assist in identifying key learning from the project to support further development and to aid future funding applications.
- 3) Assist in producing final reports for funders, ELPA Trustees and partners.

Play Ranger - Key Responsibilities

- Plan and facilitate community-based outdoor play sessions for children and young people in all weathers. These may include different activities, such as loose parts play, adventurous play, natural /outdoor arts & crafts, games and messy play.
- Support the Senior Play Ranger in ensuring records are kept up-to-date (for example, numbers attending, session evaluations etc).
- Be guided by an ethos which values and respects children and young people's ideas and suggestions – both in relation to the activities provided during the play sessions and on the Play Ranger Project itself.
- Utilise a risk benefit assessment (RBA) and dynamic risk assessment approach when planning for and supporting children and young people's play.

- Ensure that all ELPA policies and procedures are adhered to (for example, child protection, health and safety).
- Assess and monitor the community spaces used when operating play sessions and, if appropriate, report and/or remove any items of concern.
- Role model positive behaviour and support children and young people to do the same: deal with any challenging behaviour in a sensitive and fair manner and in accordance with ELPA's policies and procedures.
- Liaise with parents, carers, professionals and partnerships agencies to develop positive working relationships.
- Monitor and evaluate the project, utilising methods which are fun, engaging and suited to the children and young people taking part.
- Attend regular support and supervision sessions with the Senior Play Ranger.

Additional Responsibilities

- Attend ELPA play team meetings (roughly every 4-6 weeks).
- Undertake training, either required (for example, first aid) or which might be relevant to the Play Ranger job role.
- Deliver occasional play activities or sessions at local pop up play days (these may be in relation to intergenerational work and family activities) or within school or community settings.
- Make occasional presentations on the Play Ranger Project to other organisations and supporters.
- Follow any other instructions and perform duties that have been reasonably requested by the Senior Play Ranger or ELPA's Projects Manager.

The Play Ranger will work alongside 2 other staff members as part of the Play Ranger Project (one other Play Ranger and a Senior Play Ranger). The Play Ranger Project will run alongside the two Loose Parts Play Projects that ELPA currently operates. As such, there will be regular play team meetings which will create a space for all play staff to come together to discuss and plan their work. The Play Ranger will also receive additional support and supervision from the Senior Play Ranger and, if required, ELPA's Projects Manager. ELPA Trustees and members will also be available to provide advice and support, if and when required.