



Job Description

Title: Sessional Play Ranger and Sessional Playworker

Responsible to: ELPA Projects Manager

Hours: ELPA's organised play sessions generally run after school, at weekends and during holidays. However, sessions may also be held during the day, especially when working alongside schools and other community organisations, or if running family sessions with younger children. Sessional hours are not guaranteed and will vary according to project needs. We always do our best to plan ahead with members of the team. Sessional Play Rangers and Playworkers are paid for time taken to plan sessions, tidy up afterwards, recording and evaluation, as applicable, as well as face-to-face delivery.

Sessional Play Rangers and Playworkers are expected to keep the Projects Manager informed of their availability and their preferences about the number and timing of hours they would like to work.

Salary: £12 per hour

Location: The ELPA office is in Tranent but most project delivery happens in other settings and spaces across East Lothian. Currently, we have funding for various sessions in Tranent, Haddington, Musselburgh, Wallyford and Whitecraig however, we do cover the whole of East Lothian so additional locations may come up.

Growing ELPA's team

ELPA works to facilitate and support play in a range of different settings. This could be through using spaces in local communities, in school playgrounds, parks or indoors and outdoors in partnership with other East Lothian-based organisations.

ELPA recognises that individuals may bring a range of skills and experience suitable for Play Rangers projects, sessions using a Playwork approach such as family sessions, playdays etc, and also have skills that can contribute to ELPA's training, development and communications activities. We are keen to build out team and use the skills that people bring!

Sessional Play Rangers*

Sessional Play Rangers will join the Play Ranger Team to facilitate free, outdoor, local play sessions, engaging children and young people to bring play to the heart of the community. Children are free to come and go as they choose and Play Rangers facilitate play opportunities that respond to the children's ideas and interests. Play Rangers sessions usually take place for a set number of weeks on the same day, time and place so that children can rely on them. Play Rangers take a supply of loose parts to sessions as well as making use of the environment around them for play.

Sessional Playworkers*

Sessional Playworkers will work alongside other members of the ELPA team to facilitate local play sessions which will may be held indoors or outdoors. These could include sensory play sessions, family sessions, play at events, nature play, community play days, etc. They could take place in community centres, local greenspaces, schools, etc. The Playworkers will be able to bring their own ideas and creativity to planning and delivering sessions, with an emphasis on supporting children's own free play.

Additional opportunities*

ELPA is involved in delivering a variety of projects, partnerships and opportunities in which we can use a range of skills and experience. These may include working with us to delivering train and workshops, assisting with development activities such as planning projects or initiating ideas in response to children's and community needs, supporting monitoring and evaluation, helping with creating and delivering communications activities.

Please be sure to make to tell us what you can do on your application form!

****Applicants can be considered for any or all of the above sessional roles.***

Outcomes

Most of ELPA's projects works towards achieving the following outcomes:

1. Children have more opportunities to play, both indoors and out, leading to improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
2. Children and families become more aware of the benefits of 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.
5. Adults who work alongside children feel confident and knowledgeable in supporting and facilitating children's play in their setting.

Outline Project Delivery activities

Implementation

- 1) Plan and deliver free play sessions in pre-identified project areas.
- 2) Assist with sourcing and offering appropriate play resources (mainly loose parts, low cost and recycled play items) to respond to the children's play.
- 3) Work with schools and local community organisations to effectively communicate with children, young people, parents, carers and other community members on the development of ELPA projects that may be of interest to them.
- 4) 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 on an ongoing basis 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.

There may be opportunities for Sessional Play Rangers to be involved in planning and engagement activities when the project moves to a new space or area

- 1) Support the collection of baseline information on local/organisational/school spaces and how children and young people use them to inform the development of the ELPA's projects.
- 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 ELPA's projects.
- 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).

Sessional Play Rangers and Playworkers - Key Responsibilities

- Plan and facilitate community-based play sessions (indoor and outdoor)
- Bring a playwork ethos to all session ([playwork principles.pdf \(playwales.org.uk\)](#))
- Ensure records are kept up-to-date (for example, numbers, 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 project itself.
- Use a risk benefit assessment (RBA) and dynamic risk assessment approach when planning 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 spaces used when operating indoor or outdoor play sessions and, if appropriate, remove or report any items of concern.
- Model positive behaviour and support children and young people to do the same.
- Deal with children's behaviour in a sensitive and fair manner and in accordance with ELPA's policies and procedures.
- Liaise with parents, carers, professionals, funders and partnership agencies/organisations to develop positive working relationships, as required.
- Monitor and evaluate the project, using methods which are fun, engaging and suited to the children and young people taking part.
- Participate in support and supervision sessions as required with the ELPA Projects Manager and other members of the Play Team.

Additional Responsibilities and Opportunities

- If possible, 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 Sessional Play Ranger/Worker job role.
- Deliver occasional play activities or sessions at local pop-up play days, activities and events (these may be in relation to intergenerational work and family activities) or within school and community settings.
- Make occasional presentations on ELPA's direct delivery projects to other organisations and supporters.
- Follow any other instructions and perform duties that have been reasonably requested by ELPA's Projects Manager.

Opportunities to contribute to:

- delivering training and workshops
- development activities such as planning projects or initiating ideas in response to children's and community needs
- monitoring and evaluation
- communications activities.

All indoor and outdoor play sessions will be staffed by at least two ELPA team members (unless the worker is there supporting staff from another organisation or team). 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. All sessional staff will receive support and supervision from ELPA's Projects Manager. ELPA Trustees will also be available to provide advice and support, if and when required.

Deadlines and interview dates:

ELPA is accepting applications on an ongoing basis for the role of Sessional Play Ranger and Playworker. Please send a completed application form. CVs will not be accepted. Interviews will take place as follows.

Deadline - mid-day Monday 24th May 2021; short-listed candidates will be contacted to arrange interviews by Wednesday 26th June 2021.

For further details and a Job Application Form, please contact Stacey Marko at info@elpa.org.uk or visit www.elpa.org.uk.