

**The Role:** Early Years Artist – Freelance role

**Accountable to:** Early Years Trainer

**Contract type:** Fixed-term freelance role for 12 months

**Number of roles:** Four artists to be recruited

**Fees:** £2400 - based on £150 per day for approximately 16 days (pro-rata for part days)

**Location:** Remote working using Zoom or Microsoft Teams

**Project dates:** May 2021 – May 2022 (approximately – full schedule of expected delivery timeframes can be discussed at interview)

**Early Years Artist (All disciplines considered)**

We are recruiting four experienced, socially motivated artists to work in partnership with Early Years Advisers and families in a variety of communities across Scotland. The aim of these specialist roles is the development of a multi-disciplinary suite of high quality creative resources which will encourage children and families to engage with stories, songs and rhymes. The resources may be digital or physical and should extend, enrich and promote stories, songs and rhymes that are at the heart of the Bookbug programme.

**Introduction to the Bookbug programme**

The Bookbug programme is developed and managed by the Early Years team at Scottish Book Trust (SBT), a national charity changing lives through reading and writing. The Bookbug programme is delivered in partnership with organisations and Early Years professionals across every local authority in Scotland.

Funded by the Scottish Government and Creative Scotland, we deliver universal and targeted programmes to help families and carers with children under five to share books, songs and rhymes with their babies and young children.

You can read more about Bookbug on our website:

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/learning-resources/watch-now-an-introduction-to-bookbug>

**The Project**

Scottish Book Trust’s Early Years team have been awarded funds from [Creative Scotland’s ‘Targeted Youth Arts Fund’](https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/youth-arts-fund/targeted). This fund not only gives young people across Scotland access to high quality music and arts opportunities, it also supports and provides job opportunities to freelance musicians and youth arts practitioners during this incredibly difficult time.

This particular strand of the project will involve the four established artists and one emerging artist working alongside Early Years advisers and families to develop a suite of specialist resources. These will extend books, songs and rhymes into other art forms and particularly support the specific needs of the target groups of children identified. This includes, but is not limited to, those affected by Autism, Additional Support Needs, English as an Additional Language and Travelling Communities.

Artists will be recruited from a broad range of disciplines and may create resources in a variety of mediums (for example, but not limited to, drama, dance, visual arts, stories, rhymes, crafts, play activities etc.) to extend from the stories and rhymes that are the backbone of Bookbug activity – encouraging families to play with ideas and be introduced to something new through the familiarity of Bookbug.

**Early Years Artist (All disciplines considered)**

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for four experienced artists to work within a diverse multi-disciplinary team, drawing upon a range of creative practices. These roles will be integral to the development of innovative resources for Early Years education and family settings. Artists will be recruited from a broad range of disciplines and may draw upon a variety of creative practices (for example, but not limited to, drama, dance, visual arts, crafts, creative play, storytelling, music making, etc.). The individuals recruited will be integral to inspiring play and exploration, bringing new ideas to children and their families through the familiarity of Bookbug activities.

A significant focus of the roles will be ensuring that the creative resource meet the specific of target groups of children identified (including, but not limited to, those affected by Autism, Additional Support Needs, English as an Additional Language and Travelling Communities).

**Key Activities of the Role**

* Working in partnership with Early Years Advisers from within our Bookbug network to plan, develop and deliver a high quality creative resource which will inspire children and families to engage with stories, songs and rhymes
* Collaborating and consulting with Early Years Advisers, as well as children and families within their setting, on the design and development of a creative resource
* Using the knowledge and experience of children, families and Early Years professionals to inform the planning, design and development of a high quality creative resource
* In conjunction with Early Years Advisers, developing positive relationships with relevant partners so that they understand the resource and benefits to families with whom they are working
* Being creative about engaging with families online, using multi-sensory activities to engage where possible
* Supporting and mentoring the trainee artist on the project
* Attending relevant induction training as and when necessary
* Liaising with the Training and Outreach Manager to ensure that artist fees, materials and other project expenditure is within budget
* Complying with SBT’s project data collection/evaluation methods

**Who Are You?**

* You have a proven track record of delivering high quality arts experiences
* You have a proven track record of partnership working within early years, education and/or community contexts to deliver creative projects or activities
* You possess a degree, or equivalent professional experience, within the arts (all disciplines considered)
* You have a participatory and inclusive approach to engaging with audiences
* You have experience, or an interest in learning more about, engaging with and supporting individuals with additional support needs through your creative practice
* You have a passion for the benefits that music and stories can bring to families
* You possess existing knowledge of child development in the early years, or a willingness to develop this
* You understand the kind of difficulties families with young children face due to Covid-19 social distancing measures and restrictions.
* You have a strong grasp of how to use online platforms to communicate, collaborate and reach audiences, including children and families
* You are committed to working with empathy, compassion and acceptance
* Willingness to travel within Scotland (activities may take place in socially distanced indoor or outdoor settings where appropriate within current restrictions)
* You are required to be a member of the Protecting Vulnerable Persons (PVG) scheme. Membership costs will be covered by Scottish Book Trust if the Artist is not already a member.

**Location**

We expect the majority of this work to be carried out remotely using Zoom or Microsoft Teams with the possibility of some face to face meetings to be conducted at Scottish Book Trust Offices in Edinburgh and within different Local Authorities across Scotland (depending on the location of the Artist and the Early Years Advisers), if COVID-19 restrictions allow.

**Timeline & Budget**

This is a 12 month fixed term project. Total fee of £2400.

It involves 16 days of paid work across a 12 month period (pro rata for hours worked at a rate of £150 per day).

Your time will include: induction, training, meetings, 10 days’ worth of work with EY Advisers on researching, creating and testing resources with target families, and evaluation activities.

**Equipment and travel**

Artists will be required to have their own PC, laptop or tablet computer and a reliable WiFi connection to conduct project meetings using Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

If travel is required to meet with project team members from Scottish Book Trust, reasonable costs will be covered.

**Application process**

Please apply by submitting:

**Current CV and cover letter** explaining how you would be the right person for the role

**Short video (3-5 minutes) in MP4 format** which includes an introduction, a description of one of the difficulties a family might face due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how you could use songs, rhymes or stories to help address this.

Please send via WeTransfer. Go to [wetransfer.com](https://wetransfer.com/), add your video file, click ‘get link’ and include this link in your application email.

**Application Deadline:** Friday 4th June 2021 (12pm - noon). Please note, this advert may close early if we receive a large number of applications so we would encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

**Applications should be sent to**: recruitment@scottishbooktrust.com

If you wish to discuss any aspects of the role in advance of submitting an application, please email recruitment@scottishbooktrust.com marked for the attention of Marie Gallagher, Early Years Trainer.