

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

**Accountable to:** Early Years Trainer

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

**Number of roles:** One emerging artist to be recruited

**Fees:** £2400 - based on £150 per day for approximately 16 days work across a 12 month period (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 will be discussed at interview however there will be flexibility around the scheduling of the majority of the working days across the project).

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

We are recruiting an early career artist to work as part of an innovative cross-genre team of artists and Early Years Advisers, positively contributing to the creative experiences of children and families across Scotland. The successful candidate will support 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. These resources may be digital or physical and will 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 specific strand of the project will involve the emerging artist - in partnership with 4 established artists - 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 Emerging Artist (All disciplines considered)**

This role would suit someone who is at an early stage of their career as an artist and is committed to gaining experience of working creatively within community settings. It is a flexible role which will include mentoring and training opportunities, allowing the individual to explore and develop their creative practice. The Emerging Artist will be expected to work across the project, gaining experience of collaborating across art forms with a range of creative and community professionals. The role will be integral to the development of innovative resources for Early Years education and family settings.

The Emerging Artist will work within a diverse multi-disciplinary team, drawing upon a range of creative practices (for example, but not limited to, drama, dance, visual arts, crafts, creative play, storytelling, music making, etc.).

**Key Activities of the Role**

* Working in partnership with Early Years Artists and Early Years experts from within our Bookbug network, contributing to the development of high quality creative resources for Early Years settings and families.
* Developing positive relationships across the project
* Co-delivering creative activities for children and families which are nurturing and engaging, alongside experienced artists/early years experts
* Engaging with mentoring and training specific to own art form, as well as across a range of creative disciplines
* Recording and documenting the development of their artistic practice within this role as part of the mentoring programme
* Attending relevant induction training as and when necessary

**Who Are You?**

* You have some experience (either paid or voluntary) of working within the creative industries within your primary artistic discipline
* You are willing to fully engage with mentoring and training within your art form, as well as across a multi-disciplinary team
* You have the ability to deliver creative activities to diverse groups and participants in accordance with their particular needs
* You possess excellent interpersonal and organisational skills
* You have an interest in working with children and families, including those with Additional Support needs
* You have an interest in child development in the Early Years and have a willingness to develop knowledge and understanding of 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
* You are willing 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. Mentoring programme participation, research and reflective practice.

**Equipment and travel**

The Emerging Artist 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 to yourself and your own views/ideas on how creative experiences might support the wellbeing of children and families as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**: recruiment@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.