



Communications Coordinator (Children & Families Network)

Lickety Spit Theatre Company

£26,000 - £28,500 (0.5 FTE)

Job Description

Background: Lickety Spit is a specialist early years theatre and drama-led play company based in Glasgow, working across Scotland. Our work is rooted in children's rights and child consultation. This has led to the development of our pioneering Storyplay approach which is facilitated by specialist actor-pedagogues. Lickety Spit's work is anchored in a big community of families, most of whom face socio-economic challenge, Lickety Spit's Children & Families Network (CFN). These 3-12 year olds and their families actively participate in and help shape our projects

The Role: Lickety Spit seeks a dynamic, pro-active, passionate and outgoing candidate to fill the new role of Communications Coordinator (CFN). This is a communications and project coordination role, reporting to the Children & Families Network Creative Producer, with a focus on Lickety Spit's New Scots Integration project, **Porridge & Play Hubs**. This is a 12-month partnership project with Storyplay Champion families and local partner organisations in Castlemilk and East End. The project (and role) is part funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union

Flexibility between at-home, in office and in local communities working. Offered on a part time basis working out at £26,000 - £28,500 (0.5 FTE).

The coordinator role is part-time **2.5 days per week**.

The role will involve the following communications tasks for the Lickety Spit website (WordPress), newsletters and emails (Mailchimp) and social media (Facebook and Twitter):

- drafting copy (blogposts, social media posts, emails)
- graphic design and composition (flyers, posters)
- content creation (GIFs, videos, branded cards etc)
- marketing planning and posting
- logging and monitoring Children & Families Network membership
- sharing content with professional networks (e.g. newsletter managers)
- research and monitoring to ensure networks and communications output is up to date



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The role will also involve the following coordination tasks:

- diary scheduling (partner communications, doodle polls, organising meetings)
- participant / CFN membership monitoring
- internal communications
- communicating with partners and Storyplay Champion volunteers/parents & carers
- general administration

Other duties as appropriate to support the work of Licketyspit may include:

- Contribute to the production of company projects and activities in order to develop the Children & Families Network
- Contribute to Licketyspit events, advocacy, presentations and workshops
- Contribute to general fundraising for projects and Children & Families Network
- Ensure that all activities comply with Licketyspit policy and procedures including Child Protection and Equal Opportunities and Diversity
- Contribute to overall outcomes of organisation

Skills and Attributes

Essential skills/experience	Desirable skills/experience
<p>Communication skills and experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent communication, interpersonal and presentation skills - verbal and written • Experience of engaging with communities experiencing socio-economic challenges • Confidence communicating with diverse partners and team members • Excellent written English <p>Organisational skills and experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work as part of Licketyspit team and to manage working relationships with associates (<i>Openness, reliability, honesty, trust, self-care, sensitivity, confidence, responsibility</i>) • Realistic time management and proactive organisational skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills and experience in project management • Advanced Graphic Design skills. • Video-editing skills • Knowledge of children's rights and children's play • Knowledge of children's theatre and arts for children and families in Scotland and elsewhere • Experience working with refugee communities • Experience of inclusive approaches to working with children and families • Experience working in nurseries, schools, early years and community settings



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- Administrative skills (*filing, GDPR compliance, organising task list, TOIL management*)

Technical competency

- Skills in social media and developing and editing content for website & newsletters
- Graphic design skills (e.g. Adobe, Publisher)
- Good computer skills across main programmes and applications
- Knowledge of Word Press or similar web platforms
- Knowledge of Mailchimp or similar email platforms
- Knowledge of WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter

Children and the arts

- Experience of working in arts organisations/projects
- Experience of working with children under 12 and their families
- Demonstrable knowledge and understanding of children & families sector and services in Scotland
- Experience of working in a community context

- Experience in developing educational or community resources and information
- Experience of working in partnership projects
- Experience working with groups/workshop facilitation
- Knowledge of languages other than English
- Clean Driving Licence.
- PVG or disclosure checked

About Licketyspit

Licketyspit is a specialist Scottish early years theatre and play charity which has established a distinctive ethos and methodology for sustained engagement with diverse groups of children and families through intergenerational child-centred play - Storyplay. This work has been developed using specialist actor-pedagogues, adept creative social facilitators, who foster integration & children's human rights through imaginary play with children and with families. Licketyspit Play is delivered in a range of contexts, in schools, communities, cultural venues and now also online.

Licketyspit has a core team of Artistic Director & CEO, Virginia Radcliffe; Executive Producer, Shona Rattray and Children & Families Network Producer/Lead Actor Pedagogue, Ruby Zajac. Our office is at Community Central Hall in Maryhill, Glasgow. We are currently working digitally from home, outdoors (and occasionally indoors in a large ventilated space.)



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All Licketyspit's work is rooted in the connection between actors and children as Play Experts and the way that inclusive imaginary play with actors can empower children and parents/carers. Licketyspit works with large numbers of asylum seekers, refugees, recent migrants, families living in poverty and children with additional support needs. More information below.

Licketyspit has extensive experience of working in areas of high poverty and with participants who experience socio-economic challenges and may have additional support needs. This includes children and adults who have experienced trauma, have low self-esteem, extreme shyness, may have behavioural challenges and experience anxiety. This is asset-based relationship-strengthening, inclusive work. It is consistently successful at achieving sustained active engagement among families who might be considered 'hard to reach' including families with English as an additional language, refugees, asylum seekers and recent migrants. Families are invited to join Licketyspit's Children & Families Network – an online and face-to-face community of like-minded families, for continuing support, resources and friendship. [More here.](#)

Licketyspit's Storyplay Approach

External evaluation of children who have participated in Licketyspit Storyplay sessions, show 90-100% of children demonstrate increased confidence, social skills, emotional literacy and resilience, language and literacy.

Licketyspit's Storyplay approach has been carefully developed and tested with children, parents/carers and teachers over the last 20 years. It offers a nuanced approach and methodology rooted in the connection between actors and children as play experts. Our experience is that children's needs are universal needs. Intergenerational play led by the imaginations of children can also liberate adults to connect with their fullest selves. This play provides a hugely positive experience, rooted in the belief that everyone is creative, all we really need to play is each other, games are best when there are no winners or losers, there are no wrong answers, and everyone is included in the game. This group play nurtures reciprocity and our human capacity for kindness, mutual support and sensitivity. The play facilitators create and safeguard a safe, non-judgmental space, where everyone is able to develop at their own rate but where expectation and implicit encouragement and support is strong. Licketyspit play is full of easy laughter. Once the ice is broken by a group session of 'The Funky Chicken' there is no turning back! The children give their adults a reason to enter into the play and lose their inhibitions, encouraged by the adult facilitators - in this case the actor-pedagogues and Family Workers.

This adult participation and support, nurtures and validates the children's contributions. This play is a group experience where all have agency. Everyone can develop at their own pace in a shared experience that builds and strengthens relationships. The [Lickety Playcards](#) support the play to continue among the family at home. [More here.](#)



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Current Projects

Licketyspit delivers drama-led play sessions with children under 12 and their parents/carers, based on the Licketyspit Play card repertoire of games, rhymes, songs, imaginary play, street-play, blanket play, story-play-making and performance. We also share the Storyplay practice and methodology. Our projects include:

- Big Porridge & Play Online and Storyplay City – blocks of weekly sessions delivered on Zoom
- Storyplay Schools – sessions with children from nursery-P7 in nurseries and schools
- Porridge & Play – inter-generational family sessions in schools & community settings with meal
- Playground Play – teaching/supporting P3-7 to lead Licketyspit play in the playground.
- Picnic & Play – Porridge & Play on the move – in parks, libraries, museums, galleries, theatres
- Bookplay – Storyplay where a book is used as a ‘play world’ for improvisation and performance
- Family Art Voyage – workshops delivered by different artists in between Porridge & Play sessions
- Have your Say Through Play child consultations (new developing strand)
- CPD in Storyplay facilitation and children’s rights-based engagement for professionals
- Licketyspit will shortly be undertaking a major Storyplay training programme with Scottish Women’s Aid.

Porridge & Play Online brings families together to enjoy child-centred imaginary social play and conversation in sessions we call ‘Porridge & Play’ (which when delivered in situ includes a healthy group meal). In response to the Covid-19 Lockdown, Licketyspit has been successfully delivering 90min family play sessions online using Zoom. These have been heavily subscribed, (attracting 90% refugee and asylum seeker/EAL family participation.) Families describe the way this group play “lets him become himself” (Mum), enables many children and parents to overcome barriers to participation and feel connected. Geography and travel costs are no barrier to online participation which supports a Scotland-wide project of this nature. The drama-led play described can be delivered live online as well as in person inside or outside. [More here.](#)

Where we are now

This is a very exciting moment for Licketyspit with increasing recognition of the Storyplay approach particularly in relation to the impending incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law.



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We are looking to increase our core team and seek to find someone who has a genuine interest in engaging with us in our continuing exploration of the possibilities for transformation through the Arts. We seek someone who will be thoughtful and fastidious about communication and relationships with the Licketyspit families and our team of skilled freelancers, for what will be a hugely rewarding and interesting job.

To apply

Please complete the Application form, referring to the Job Description, and send it to [Shona Rattray](mailto:ShonaRattray@licketyspit.com) (Executive Producer). M: 0781 574 2050 E: shona@licketyspit.com

Interviews: Tuesday 5th October (& Thurs 7th October)
(To start early November 2021 or ASAP)

Deadline for applications: 9am 30th September 2021

Participant Feedback

"It was really cool as I'm a shy person and wouldn't do this anywhere else. Adam was excited before we came and he has loved every bit, me too" Mum Ruchill

"Don't know where we'd be without this. No-one's Judging. There's a lot of acceptance, feels like we're being brought into the community" Mum, Maryhill

"It made me feel very happy!" 7-year-old

"I want to go up in the magic balloon again!" Child, 3, Whiteinch

"Porridge & Play makes me feel fabulous." Child, 6, Gorbals

"I like the games that we play, and I also like spending time with the other people online and when we're in the same room, and I also like how everyone has their turn to say what they want to." 8-year-old, Porridge & Play Online



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