

**Concrete Garden**

**1x Outdoor Play & Learning Youth Worker**

**Hours: 21 hours per week, worked to fit the play session delivery times**

**Pay Rate £20020 pro rata (£12,012)**

**Application Closing Date: 17.7.22**

**We are looking for a dynamic ‘Outdoor Play and Learning –Youth Worker’ who is ready to take on an exciting new challenge. Our Children want you to be fun, to support them to lead and initiate the play and to share and nurture their passion for nature, the outdoors, play, food, cookery, woodcraft, and building.**

To apply please email [play@concretegarden.org.uk](mailto:play@concretegarden.org.uk) with a **copy of your CV**, and **a covering letter** as an attachment (1 side A4 maximum) detailing:

* Your available start date and workdays
* How your motivations, experiences, skills meet those outlined in the job description

If you would prefer to submit a voice note application, or video application using the same format– please let us know – we would be happy work with you to make applying for this post as accessible as possible.

**Rate:** £11 per hour

**Hours of Work :**  21 hours per week Currently Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6hr days afternoon to evening, with daytime delivery during school holidays. Please note the days of play are subject to change according to local needs.

**ABOUT US**

**Concrete Garden** is an award winning, community development and wellbeing charity based in Possilpark, North Glasgow. We exist to support and promote a happy, healthy, and thriving community.

We believe that when people spend time outdoors and with nature, working, playing, learning, and growing together, they become happier, healthier, and more resilient.

We transform and regenerate unlove and unused land to create community spaces where people come together to learn new skills, meet socially, have fun, and find a new purpose.

Our work covers 3 main themes:

1. Social/Therapeutic Gardening/wellbeing and Community Food
2. Outdoor Play and Learning
3. Volunteer Support and Training

**ABOUT THE POSTS**

In 2016 Community members and volunteers worked together to design and build Possilparks first outdoor natural playground. The playground has been a huge success, and we continue to expand our team to meet the growing need for safe outdoor play spaces in our community.

This next exciting phase will see us move towards community land ownership and the expansion of our outdoor play and learning services. Our ambitions include a child led, child designed adventure playground and outdoor play and learning hub.

Your role in this exciting new future will primarily be to co-ordinate and facilitate outdoor play and fun for children aged 0-12, (primarily 7-12). Sessions often involve loose parts, sand, water, ropes, tires, manipulatives, props and naturally found objects. There are places to climb, swing, run, hide, and explore your role will be to support infinite play possibilities.

You will form part of a multi-skilled play team. Collectively, you will ensure sessions are child led. Incorporating physical play (run, jump, climb, swing) constructive play (build, dig, experiment) expressive play (art, role-play, music) educational play (STEM, Cookery, Gardening, Bushcraft)

Cookery and food sharing are a huge part of the play project – You will support Children to prepare, cook over the campfire then share a meal together at most sessions.

If you think you have what it takes to become a powerful advocate for the voice of children in our community, if you know you can work with us to ensure their voices are always heard, and their needs met. And if you see yourself as a wildly fun, positive, adult role model, then we want to hear from you!

**MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Duties:**

* Be a trusted, caring, playful and positive adult role model
* Be part of a team that creates and sustains a nurturing environment where all children can play freely, deeply and without sustained fear for their own safety
* Be a welcoming, friendly, and reassuring presence for all visitors to site
* Provide outdoor and online/virtual play opportunities all year round (on and off site)
* Facilitate freely chosen and self-directed play opportunities
* Encourage children to help plan and choose the kinds of activities that they would like to do enabling them to experiment and learn about themselves and the world around them while allowing them to experiment and take risks within the safety of the project
* Encourage good behavior and hep support resolution to any challenging behavior in accordance with the projects policies and procedures
* Encourage participation taking into account abilities, communication skills, and individual nature of children and young people
* Ensure non-discriminatory practices at all times – in line with the Equal Opportunities policy
* Planning, preparation and clearing up of activities/areas
* Contribute to joint working and partnership working ensuring positive relationships with all concerned
* To liaise with parents, carers, professionals and partnership agencies
* Be able to deliver first aid as and when required, or deal with other exceptional circumstances
* To keep an on-going oversight for the well-being of all children visiting the site, and online during activities, upholding and reflecting the child protection policies, working and reporting any concerns, however small, to the child protection officer and filling out the appropriate forms
* Ensure that everything that happens on site is in the best interests of the community of children on the playground. Be an advocate and champion for their needs, taking consistent and active steps to make sure the organisation is structured around them. Always be on the children’s side and represent their interests at a board level
* Ensure no child is exposed or exposes themselves to an unacceptable level of risk, using dynamic risk assessment. Keep risk assessments up to date, be primarily responsible for upholding the organizations Risk and Safety policy. Work with whoever is leading on-site maintenance and development.

**Administration/Procedures/ Support:**

* Ensure familiarity and adherence to organisation’s procedures/policies
* Support evaluation of the service by maintaining register of attendance, consent and contribute to weekly monitoring and evaluation records and evidence gathering (statistics, observations, images, questionnaires, videos etc as appropriate)
* Keeping up to date with and acting in accordance with supporting special health or dietary needs of children on register
* Attendance and contribution to staff meetings and training sessions as required
* Keeping a log of, and reporting any issues on sessions to your line manager
* Committing to regular supervision to promote personal development, and reflect on accountability for work

**Food/Cookery:**

* Plan menu options with the children, source food and plan the cooking sessions (including relevant risk assessments), cook the meal on site with the children when possible
* Plan, prepare and record online cooking sessions, source, and ensure delivery of ingredients

**Building/Woodworking**

* Support the children to build or create things using various tools, create new fun structures on site with the children, complete the relevant risk assessment for these activities
* Support the children to learn about and contribute to maintenance of tools and equipment

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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|  | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Qualifications** | Your attitude and experience are more important to us than your qualifications. If you do not have a qualification, but have referenceable experience of working with children and young people, we will consider your application. | * Youth or Playwork qualification (gained or working towards) – e.g. SVQ2 in Playwork (or equivalent) * Basic first aid * food hygiene   [training can be arranged] |
| **Knowledge or Experience** | * Extensive experience of working with a wide range of children and young people (including areas similar to Possilpark) * An understanding of the principles of play and the role of adults * Ability to teach and play lots of active and fun games * Awareness of Child Protection guidelines and relevant legislation * Excellent communication skills with children and adults * Good team worker and able to use own initiative * Ability to work in partnership * Awareness of dynamic risk benefit assessments * Computing/IT skills and social media * **Food/Cookery:** passionate interest in food and cooking and experience cooking outdoors and on campfires, whether for work or for fun. Interested in health, nutrition and wellbeing * **Building/Woodworking:** passionate interest in woodwork and building. And experience in working on building/design projects and the safe use of tools with children. | * Experience (paid or voluntary) in an organisation which works with vulnerable children. * Understanding of monitoring and evaluation techniques * Experience of working with children with additional needs, disabilities and challenging behavior * Knowledge of local area * Experience of consultation techniques with children * Ability to advocate for children’s rights, and promote participation in decision-making. * Experience and working knowledge of gardening and growing |
| **Personal Skills** | * Adaptable to varied workload * Flexible approach to working hours * Comfortable working outdoors in all weathers * Good physical health * Be patient, tolerant and able to work in a team * Be organised and efficient as well as flexible in his/her approach * Be able to work within the ethos of the employing organisation * Be full of fun and sparkle |  |
| **Other** | * Willingness to undertake training and screening relevant to the role, including PGV check. |  |