

Job Description: Play/Youth Worker

General Description

To play with and care for children and young people at Challengers schemes. To be part of a team and conduct yourself in accordance with Challengers' Policies and Procedures.

Responsibility

You are directly responsible to the scheme Leader and Deputy.

Commitment

AT LEAST the following:

During Term Time – Every Saturday and/or Sunday and/or 2 evenings per week (if your scheme runs Sundays or evenings)

During Holidays – days per week during the Easter and Summer holidays (Monday-Friday)

Some schemes may also run half terms

Different commitment required from Holiday only workers – 5 days a week (Monday-Friday)

Duties and Functions

What the job involves

1. Being a part of the play and youth team to provide a high quality, fun and friendly service for children aged 2 – 12 and young people aged 13 – 18, some of which may be extremely vulnerable and may have been excluded elsewhere.
2. Assisting the scheme Leader and Deputy in all aspects of caring and supervision of children and young people who attend Challengers– encouraging and supporting children to fully realise their abilities and providing a safe and happy play environment.
3. Providing all aspects of one-to-one care, personal, medical and intimate care, manual handling tasks and positive behaviour support to the children and young people who attend. This includes toileting, feeding and ensuring all care needs are met.
4. Delivering fun and inspiring 'play', by setting up structured activities and encouraging 'free play' amongst the groups.
5. Preparing yourself for the day by reading the children's information sheets and care plans as well as completing some administrative tasks such as writing reports, statements and keeping clear records such as time sheets.

6. Ensuring that the children and young people on schemes are supported physically and emotionally as required. The children and young people we work with are often in difficult and stressful situations and you will need to support them, showing appropriate physical and emotional affection at all times.
7. Communicating with confidence and willingness to build relationships with different stakeholders – your team and children and young people are essential but you will also need to build rapport with and share information with Parents at handover times.
8. Co-operating closely with and supporting all colleagues – this includes communication, sharing information and passing on your skills to the team as well as physical team work such as setting up the site, cleaning at the end of the day, running activities and supporting colleagues with physical tasks.
9. Supporting the team to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act (information and training available from Challengers). Assisting the team at all Challengers venues and sites to maintain a clean, tidy, secure site – treating and using buildings, structures, toys and equipment with respect and care. Reporting any damaged equipment to the scheme leader or deputy.
10. Attending staff training as required as well as taking part and contributing to staff meetings.
11. Reporting any concern about a child's welfare or safety in accordance with Challengers Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.
12. Conducting yourself and representing the Charity in a manner which reflects all the values and principles of *The Challengers Approach* and being an advocate for disabled children and young people at all times, including on social media.
13. Performing other duties as they become necessary, as required by your line manager.
14. And most importantly, having fun with the children and young people on the schemes!

Personal Specification

Qualities, character, attitude and experience of Challengers staff

1. This is a physically and emotionally demanding post; the post holder must be resilient, adaptable and have the ability to carry out the physical aspects of the role. These include (but are not exclusive to) physically supporting children, for example on and off equipment, during personal or intimate care, and lifting and chasing in an emergency.
2. The environment is often busy and noisy; you must be able to confidently cope in this challenging environment.
3. Ability to demonstrate capacity for the enthusiasm and energy that children require of their playmates – be prepared to “let go” and have fun.

4. Ability to work well within a team in an informal working environment, whilst being adaptable and disciplined to ensure the needs of the young people are met. Willingness to travel to other schemes as required.
5. Understanding and commitment to the development of high quality, interesting, fun and creative play opportunities for disabled children, even those with behaviour which requires extra support. Being passionate about providing activities that include all children on scheme.
6. Being motivated to ensure all young people have the opportunity to play. Be prepared to use the skills you have – these may include the arts, music, sport, drama, gardening, computing and many more.
7. Prepared to attend training and to learn new skills with which to develop an understanding of good practice in play and leisure for disabled young people. Being willing to travel to attend training.

Desirable

1. Experience of working with children or young people, particularly with disabled children or young people and/or in the field of play.
2. Good organisational and planning skills.
3. An understanding of the principles of Playwork and EYFS.
4. Playworker Qualifications or similar.
5. First Aid certificate.
6. Completion of other relevant courses.