



Practitioner Vacancy, July 2022

Role overview and general information

Wee Wild Sparks Outdoor Nursery delivers fully outdoor early years childcare and education in Perthshire for 3-7 year olds in a beautiful woodland environment. We are currently seeking a practitioner to join our small team in the coming academic year (ideally from August 2022).

This post will involve working **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the woods during term time, with some additional commitments to write up observations, engage with parents, attend meetings and in-service training days.

We are seeking a self-motivated, hard-working and confident practitioner who is passionate about early years, learning through play and nature-based pedagogy. An ability to remain calm under pressure and the stamina to work long hours and remain upbeat in all weathers are essential. Wild Sparks will provide CLPL and mentoring to support your ongoing professional development. A full job description and person specification are included below.

Wee Wild Sparks Outdoor Nursery is located just outside Coupar Angus Perthshire, as the site is not accessible by public transport you must have access to transport.

Qualification requirements: You must have or be willing to work towards SVQ level 3 or HNC in social services (children and young people) / Playwork, or equivalent.

Enquiries: Contact Alice@Wildsparks.co.uk with any pre-application enquiries.

Application Process: Submit a CV and covering letter to Alice

Warren alice@wildsparks.co.uk outlining your relevant experience and interest in working in this unique setting.

Closing date: 5pm, Thursday 4th August 2022



Job Description: Wee Wild Sparks Nursery Practitioner

Purpose of role: To work within a small team to deliver high quality, fully outdoor early learning and childcare for 3-7 year olds.

Hours: Core hours are 8.30am – 4.30pm. You will be contracted to work regular weekdays during term time, plus meetings and in-service training days outwith core hours (approx 24 hours per year).

Pay scale: £10.25 per hour

Location: Nursery Woods, Keithick Estate

Reports to: Wee Wild Sparks Nursery Manager, Wild Sparks directors.

Website: www.wildsparks.co.uk/nursery

Key Responsibilities

To work under the guidance of the nursery manager and coworkers to:

- Facilitate children's holistic development through child-led play and exploration.
- Observe, respond to and plan for learning experiences across all aspects of Curriculum for Excellence.
- Create a nurturing environment that supports children to build positive relationships with both peers and staff
- Ensure the play spaces are safe and fit for purpose, sharing any concerns immediately
- Support children to problem solve, build practical skills and learn about their world.
- Model best practice in environmental stewardship and sustainable behaviours
- Ensure hygiene, health and safety of children and adults is maintained by adhering to clear protocols
- Facilitate risky play and support a dynamic risk-benefit approach that enables children to explore their limits and make sound judgements
- Communicate with parents and support partnerships with families
- Observe, track and record individual and group learning experiences
- Ensure Child Protection procedures are upheld at all times
- Uphold confidentiality and sensitive communication with children and families
- Undertake regular training/CLPL in accordance with the demands of the job and take an active role in determining own training needs.

Key Duties

Play, Learning and Nurture

- Providing children with space and time to play, but also implementing in-the-moment-planning to offer appropriate extension and challenge.
- Observing, assessing and recording key children's progress; reporting to parents using online software linked to Curriculum for Excellence
- Support children's holistic development, including physical coordination, speech and communication, self-care and social skills
- Support children with transitions and settling in
- Being alert to children's emotional needs and changing behaviours, working closely with colleagues to support vulnerable children with complex needs.
- Developing children's emotional literacy and confidence, supporting them to resolve conflict independently, understand and articulate their feelings.
- Organise learning materials and resources and make imaginative use of natural resources within the woodland;
- Read / tell stories and lead short circle time activities with a group

Practical and pastoral duties

- Lighting fires* and occasional campfire cookery*
- Rig up tarps* for shelter or prepare our cabin for use, cleaning afterwards
- Support children with their care, including nappy changing, toileting, eating and changing.
- Assisting with site checks*, cleaning duties and general maintenance on a regular basis.
**training will be provided*

Team work & professional development

- Participate in regular staff meetings and occasional parent meetings.
- Participate in team training days and attend other training courses.
- Engage in critical reflection and dialogue, giving and receiving feedback from peers in a sensitive manner.
- Contribute to centre improvement plans and evaluations.
- Share knowledge gained with other practitioners and parents.

Family partnerships

- Liaise with families to give feedback and share information at the start and end of each nursery day.
- Gather feedback from parents and partners and share with the team.
- Assist with family open days and events.
- Promote our open doors policy to encourage parents, carers and grandparents to visit and be involved in the nursery.
- Engage with families through online platforms to support parental learning and a partnership approach to each child's care and development.

Person Specification

Qualifications and experience:

Essential:	Desirable:
Previous experience in childcare, preferably with early years and an outdoor environment.	Forest Schools, Forest Kindergarten or other Outdoor Learning training
Confident telling / reading stories and managing group times	Paediatric/outdoor First Aid
You must already have or be willing to work towards:	Food Hygiene
HNC in Childcare and Education, <u>or</u> SVQ level 3 in either Early Years Care and Education or Playwork, or equivalent	Bushcraft or survival skills
	Experience in a similar role

Professional interests and attributes

You must have a great love of the outdoors, be comfortable spending all day outdoors in all weathers, plus:

- A demonstrable interest in child development from three to seven years
- An understanding of how play supports children's learning and development and commitment to play based pedagogy
- An active interest in outdoor learning and nature pedagogy
- An understanding of the Curriculum for Excellence for Early Years
- A commitment to undertaking further training to meet the requirements of the job

Personal attributes

You must have a nurturing and playful manner and a love of working with children. You will be self-motivated, well organised, reliable and punctual. Additionally you must have the ability to:

- Remain calm, patient and good humoured under pressure
- Communicate effectively (both orally and in writing) to parents and children
- Deal with conflict in an appropriate manner
- Be reflective and learn from past experiences
- Value difference and diversity and uphold non-discriminatory practices
- Uphold and respect confidentiality.

Practical skills

An ability to use tools, tarps and fire lighting skills are highly desirable, however training for this can be provided on the job.

Please note that this is a remote location so you will need to provide your own transport to and from the site.