



Deputy Playground Manager

Salary: Band 6 - £29,170 - £33,119 p.a. (£23,651 - £26,853 pro rata for 30 hours per week)

Hours per week: 30 hours per week on annualised hours contract usually working a rota between 18 and 37 hours per week including weekends and evenings. Peak demand for service is during school holidays with no more than equivalent of 5 days leave to be taken in the summer holidays and no more than equivalent of 10 days leave to be taken in school holidays per leave year. The service is open Monday to Saturday. A limited amount of 6 day/week working is required to ensure rota cover.

Location: Across Adventure Playgrounds in Portsmouth

Contract type: Permanent

Portsmouth City Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Every post is subject to PCC and Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership safer recruitment procedures.

This role requires a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check at Standard/Enhanced level which will be required prior to any offer of employment and this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

About Adventure Playgrounds in Portsmouth:

There are six adventure playgrounds in Portsmouth, offering play opportunities to children aged 6-13 years old. Adventure playgrounds are unique spaces where children can play in ways that they often can't elsewhere, engaging in the full range of play types and exploring risk, physical and psychological experiences. Adventure playgrounds are staffed by skilled playworkers, who are there to support children's play, not direct it. Whilst all six playgrounds in Portsmouth fit the above description of adventure playgrounds, they are all quite different with unique personalities in response to their local communities.

Playworkers are committed to promoting the welfare of children through robust safeguarding with a contextual focus.

What is the role?

- Support the Playground Manager in the day-to-day running of the playground, including oversight of staff, resources, site, health and safety, and safeguarding.
- Deputise for the Playground Manager in their absence, being the site responsible person, managing staff, attending meetings and ensuring quality service delivery.
- Deliver and engage children, young people and families in rich and varied play opportunities.
- Respond with empathy and perception to the play needs of children and young people.
- Recognise the responsibility of being a positive role model for young people, and the integrity and professionalism required to do that.
- Work respectfully with children and their families, responding positively to diversity and promoting a positive peer culture.

- Recognise the choice that young people make to engage with us, the privileged and unique relationships between young people and playworkers and build on these relationships whilst maintaining professional boundaries.
- Use safeguarding knowledge and experience alongside professional curiosity to promote the welfare of children through robust safeguarding procedures with a contextual focus.
- Engage with children, families, and internal and external agencies to embed the playground within its community.
- Represent the adventure playground and the service whilst working collaboratively alongside external agencies and professionals, such as at safeguarding, community or partnership meetings.
- Engage with relevant training and Continuing Professional Development opportunities.
- Create and contribute to a culture and working practices that recognise, respect and value differences.
- Implement safeguarding and health and safety policies and procedures.
- Conduct site, structure and equipment inspections to check that they are fit for purpose, and support in maintaining a clean, safe environment, carrying out remedial repairs, ongoing maintenance and cleaning duties.
- Observe and reflect on children's play and social interactions, using these reflections alongside relational and restorative practice skills to know when and how best to intervene.
- Undertake administrative tasks - including email, registers, rotas, incident/accident reporting, risk assessments - to a high standard, maintaining accurate records, and using IT systems effectively in line with organisational policies and data protection requirements.
- Be an integral part of a small team that relies on a real commitment to support children, families, your team and the wider service.
- Advocate for children and their right to play.
- Work within the team to engage children in the process of developing stimulating play spaces, including consultation with the children, and planning, completing and evaluating self-build projects.
- Plan and deliver off-site activities such as trips and residentials.
- Work as part of the wider service to ensure that children across the city have access to rich play experiences, supporting other teams with relevant skills where needed.

Who is the person?

You need:

- Strong communication skills with the ability to adapt communication consistent with different levels of understanding, culture, background and preferences.
- Have safeguarding knowledge and experience to promote the welfare of children through robust safeguarding procedures with a contextual focus.
- A willingness to bring your own interests, skills, experiences and personality to enrich the play opportunities for children and young people.

- An empathic, inquisitive, and creative approach to engaging and working with children and young people as part of a small team.
- The ability to build positive, respectful relationships with children, young people and their families whilst maintaining professional boundaries.
- The skills to use relational and restorative practice, recognising that children communicate with a range of different behaviours and having an awareness of your own limitations.
- Knowledge and understanding of play and playwork, reflective practice and the importance of risk in play.
- The ability to meet the physical and mental demands of the role, acknowledging that the role can be as challenging as it is rewarding.
- The ability to deliver and engage children, young people and families in rich and varied play opportunities.
- To be approachable and interested in the children and their world, using relational authenticity to support this.
- To be able to work under pressure and manage conflict.
- High level numeracy, literacy and IT skills.
- To be able to work flexibly throughout the week, including on Saturdays and throughout school holidays across the service.

The following would be desirable:

- A recognised playwork qualification.
- A clean, full driving licence.
- A MIDAS qualification.
- A first aid qualification.
- Carpentry and structure building skills to support child led self-build projects.
- Relevant specialist skills for example sports, arts, crafts, carpentry and structure building, additional language(s), alternative communication systems, a Food Hygiene certificate.

You will need to demonstrate that you have the Right to Work in the UK. No post will be offered without it.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Portsmouth City Council is the Data Controller of any personal information you provide when applying for a job. It will only be used in connection with the recruitment process and will not be kept for longer than necessary. For more detailed information you can access the Data Protection Privacy Notice on our [careers portal](#).