



Montessori Guide Role

March 2022

About us

Playhood is an award winning London Montessori nursery school, workspace and community. United in one place. Opened in 2020 we've made waves in the EY sector and have been featured across the press.

Playhood offers families a garden studio nursery for their youngest members with a comfortable professional workspace for parents on the same site. Based in a uniquely renovated Victorian house in leafy Crouch End, Playhood is designed to meet the needs of families today seeking more sustainable and connected living, and ambitious Educators seeking more progressive and collaborative practice. It's a concept that we're shaping together, as we go.

In private nurseries parents can feel more like adversaries than allies. A transactional, service-provider relationship creates at best customers, and at worst, critics. And yet we know urban families with young children need a village and Educators need partners and champions. It's why we're doing what so many others are thinking and having so much fun in the process.

We are an authentic Montessori school, inspired by Reggio Emilia, Forest Schools and with an open, learning approach to new research and methods. We're based in North London, N8 (2 mins from the buzzing Broadway) and open from 9am-5pm, Monday - Thursday, 47 weeks of the year. We close for 6 staff-led training days per year.

Crucially, we work with just 6 brilliant children a day.

Playhood is co-led by Karen Partridge (business & community) and Laura Perfetti (education) with support from our skillful team. There is little hierarchy here. Laura (Montessori Level 6, Mentor & Teacher Trainer) brings 10 years Montessori experience from London and Africa. She absolutely embodies the philosophy and is a highly regarded member of the Montessori community. Uniquely, Laura is as skilled in teaching adults as she is children and relishes the chance to support our parent members, as well as Montessorians in their careers. More widely, we tap into the knowledge base of the global Montessori community through our network and friends.

The role and you

Job openings at Playhood are rare so this is an exciting opportunity for the right Educator to flourish in a joyful outdoor environment with total freedom (within limits!). We welcome applications from English speaking Educators at different points in their career, from recently qualified to more experienced, and those seeking flexible hours or with a particular burning passion.

Working shoulder-to-shoulder with Laura you'll ideate, design, implement and lead across all aspects of school life. Much of the activity will be familiar to you, it might be creating a new AEL activity, deputising for Laura, leading a forest school session in the local woods, writing a 2 Year Review and weekly observations, or meeting with parents. But you'll also be given the freedom (and support) to develop areas of the curriculum, elements of the business of interest to you and our work in the wider sector.

With only 6 children you can provide a highly responsive approach and will build strong relationships with their lovely parents, all of whom are on-tap and keen to support you wherever possible.

We are more interested in your approach than your background and can offer any level of support needed. You'll be known for your passion, energy, creativity, empathy, patience and initiative. Your zeal for Montessori will be infectious. You'll love Playhood's uniqueness and wonder why all settings aren't like ours.

You'll be a natural at spotting opportunities - whether it's how to extend learning in the moment, build on our passion for sustainability or write an article for our newsletter. Essentially, you'll be brimming with ideas from the get-go.

The Important Stuff

- Applicants must be accredited to Montessori Level 4 (or close to finishing training)
- September 2022 start date (earlier may be possible)
- 1 year post with a view to extend
- Hours: 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday. We also work Friday mornings from home, with 1 Friday per month at Playhood. We use the time flexibly for observations, research, planning or to attend team meetings on Zoom
- Salary £21,000-£28,000 pro rata, depending on experience
- Company pension scheme and Christmas bonuses
- Daily Mediterranean cooked lunch provided by our fabulous chef and shared with our member community. Plus homemade cakes and fresh fruit
- 5 weeks of holiday per year (when Playhood is closed) plus bank holidays. We close for 2 weeks at Christmas, 1 week for Easter and 2 weeks in the summer
- Countless opportunities to learn and develop with help from our rich network, in-house mentoring and external training opportunities
- Socials! Last year we organised dinners, summer parties, visits to the ballet and theatre, as well as strategy days at a country members club
- Job title and responsibilities will depend on the successful applicant - we're happy to shape both around you.

Applicants should have the right to work in the UK. If you need sponsorship and think you have an excellent case, speak to us.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share our commitment. An enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post and appointment will be subject to at least two references, including your most recent post.

Apply

1. For an informal chat - email to book a call with Karen and/or Laura
2. Send a CV and a covering letter/video which responds to the job role and person specification and gets us excited to meet you!

karen@playhood.club

Apply ASAP. As some applicants will need to give notice before the summer term we will progress interviews quickly.

www.playhood.club