



Nature Preschool Teacher (Part Time)

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, a leading environmental education provider for the Philadelphia region, seeks a passionate and energetic early childhood educator/naturalist to engage our Nature Preschool children through meaningful and innovative learning experiences in nature. The ideal candidate will have experience teaching in a progressive preschool as well as experience in, and a passion for, using nature as a context for learning.

This is a part time position for approx. 25-30 hours per week late August through mid-June with the potential for extra hours for substituting and with the summer program (mid-June – mid-August).

Duties and Responsibilities

Teaching (90%):

- Supervise children at all times. Awareness of the entire group of 3-5-year-olds while maintaining proper ratios.
- Conduct morning activities as children transition into their day.
- Provide mentorship and guidance to children, supporting their social-emotional, physical, and intellectual development, healthy risk assessment, and community building
- Interact with children outdoors for extended periods of time
- Respect and observe children's interests. Intervene when needed to maintain safety. Enhance children's play with language, materials, and activities
- Interact with children frequently, affectionately, and respectfully
- Attentive and responsive to children's needs, questions, and requests
- Acknowledge feelings with sensitivity, and model appropriate social behavior
- Communicate with families on a daily basis to inform them of their child's development, achievements, and any concerns
- Organize indoor and outdoor spaces daily to keep the environment safe, clean, and accessible for children to use independently
- Teaching and developing of an emergent curriculum with other members of the teaching team
- Complete the required training, professional development, and paperwork in a timely manner
- Collaborate with other projects in the education department as requested
- Support the Schuylkill Center's mission, philosophies, values, goals, and policies to families, co-workers, and community

Writing (10%)

- Assist in the writing of documentation to assess and record children's learning and development throughout the year.
- Use PA Early Learning standards to connect learning in a visual, concrete, and meaningful way

Expected Competencies

- Desire and ability to engage youth in learning experiences using developmentally appropriate pedagogy and group management techniques, especially in early childhood
- Understanding of early childhood development, the different stages of growth, and an awareness of young children's needs
- Interest in the natural sciences, local flora and fauna, and outdoor-based education

- Experience and knowledge of the Reggio Emilia philosophy and emergent curriculum
- Excellent customer service skills, with the ability to build relationships with constituents and partners based on integrity and trust
- Desire and ability to employ redirection and positive behavior modification strategies when confronted with challenging behaviors
- Strong work ethic and personal integrity displaying initiative and ownership
- Adapt and be flexible with quickly changing environments
- Team-oriented with strong interpersonal skills; work collaboratively with fellow staff and ability to communicate in a timely and respectful manner
- Ability to make decisions wisely based upon available and sometimes limited data

Physical Demands/Work Environment

The physical demand and work environment characteristics described are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

During most of the year, Preschool staff spend the better part of their day outdoors. The employee must be able to:

- Spend multiple hours outdoors in all weather (Heat, cold, rain, snow)
- Hike 2-5 miles a day on rough terrain, keeping pace with the children in their care
- Engage in sustained physical activity throughout the day
- Lift up to 50 pounds (size of a small child)
- Hear children that might be out of direct sight-line
- Have 20:20 vision (with corrective lenses) to provide oversight during outdoor play

The employee is also regularly required to stand, walk and use hands and arms to operate general office equipment (PC, telephone, file cabinets, copier, fax machine, and printer). The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

Education, Experience, and Qualifications

- An Associate's or Bachelor's degree is preferred in one of the following: early childhood, social work, or related degrees. A minimum of 2 years of comparable experience. (Applicants enrolled and attending college/university will be considered if they have sufficient amount of credits in education)
- Must pass background checks and complete all requirements mandated by the state

Compensation

This is an entry-level part-time position. \$12-15 per hour; commensurate with experience

Start Date

ASAP

To Apply

Submit a cover letter, resume, and three letters of reference along with contact information to Marilyn Tinari, Interim Director of Early Childhood Education, marilyn@schuylkillcenter.org

The Schuylkill Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. **We value a racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse work community and we strongly encourage applications from people of all backgrounds.** E.O.E