**Job Description**

**Title:**  Sessional Playworker

**Responsible to:**  ELPA’sProgramme Lead

**Hours:**  ELPA’s organised play sessions generally run after school (from 3pm Monday to Thursday and 12pm on Fridays), at weekends and during holidays.Our sessions may also be held during the day, especially when working alongside schools and other community organisations.Sessional hours are not guaranteed and will vary according to project needs. We would always aim to plan ahead with members of the team. Sessional Playworkers are paid for time taken to plan sessions, tidy up afterwards, recording and evaluation, as well as face-to-face delivery.

Sessional Playworkers are expected to keep the Programme Lead informed of their availability and their preferences about the number and timing of hours they would like to work.

**Salary:**  £10 - £12 per hour depending on experience.

**Location:** Our office is at The Fraser Centre in Tranent, but most project delivery happens in other settings and spaces across East Lothian. Currently, we have funding for various sessions in Haddington, Musselburgh, Tranent, Wallyford and Whitecraig however, we do cover the whole of East Lothian so additional locations may come up.

**Sessional Playworkers**

ELPA organises free indoor and outdoor play sessions for children, young people, families and/or community groups. These may take place at local greenspaces, beside playparks, in schools, community centres or other spaces. Sessional Playworkers work alongside other members of the ELPA team to facilitate these sessions by bringing a supply of ELPA’s play resources and making use of the environment for play. There are specific weekly and monthly outdoor play sessions that ELPA hosts as part of our Play Ranger project. Play Ranger sessions are always on the same day, at the same time and place so that children can rely on them.  Play Ranger sessions are a big part of what ELPA delivers.

**Growing our Team**

We would be keen to hear if you have any complimentary skills or experience that could enhance ELPA’s training, development, and communications activities. We are eager to build our team and use the skills that people bring.

**Outcomes**

Most of ELPA’s projectsworks towards achieving the following outcomes:

1. Children have more opportunities to play, both indoors and out, leading to improved health and wellbeing outcomes.
2. Children and families become more aware of the benefits of play.
3. Communities value and support play opportunities for children and young people.
4. Children and young people will be listened to and their views on playing and free time taken into account.
5. Adults who work alongside children feel confident and knowledgeable in supporting and facilitating children’s play in their setting.

**Key Responsibilities**

* To facilitate play sessions (indoor and outdoor).
* Bring a playwork ethos to all sessions ([playwork principles.pdf (playwales.org.uk)](https://www.playwales.org.uk/login/uploaded/documents/Playwork%20Principles/playwork%20principles.pdf)).
* Ensure records are kept up to date (for example, numbers, evaluations etc).
* Use a risk benefit assessment (RBA) and dynamic risk assessment approach when planning and supporting children and young people’s play.
* Ensure that all ELPA policies and procedures are adhered to (for example, child protection, health and safety).
* Model positive behaviour and support children and young people to do the same.
* Deal with children’s behaviour in a sensitive and fair manner and in accordance with ELPA’s policies and procedures.
* Liaise with parents, carers, professionals, funders and partnership agencies/organisations to develop positive working relationships, as required.
* Monitor and evaluate the project, using methods which are fun, engaging and suited to the children and young people taking part.
* Participate in support and supervision sessions as required with ELPA’s Programme Lead and other members of the team.

**Person Specification:** ELPA Sessional Playworker

**We are looking for someone who...**

* Has experience of working with children and young people.
* Is able to build good relationships with children and their families.
* Is willing and confident enough to work indoors or outdoors with children, young people and families in all weathers and seasons.
* Has excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
* Is positive with an enthusiastic attitude.
* Enjoys working as part of a friendly team.
* Has some understanding or knowledge of the benefits of play.
* Is eager to learn.
* Is willing to undertake relevant training to develop personal knowledge.

**If successful, you will be required to become a PVG Scheme member or undergo a PVG Scheme update if you are already a member.**

**It is not essential you have the following, but it would be good to know if you...**

* Have a qualification recognised by SSSC at SVQ level 3 or above (or equivalent) in playwork or early learning and childcare or relevant transferable experience in playwork.
* Have experience of using play resources and materials (loose parts) creatively with children and young people.
* Have experience and/or knowledge of managing risk in play (including risk-benefit assessment).
* Have awareness and any experience of child protection guidelines and other relevant legislation.
* Have knowledge of and commitment to equal opportunities.
* Are able to gather evidence of outcomes and benefits using a variety of approaches, particularly methods that are child/young person friendly.
* Are able to travel easily between locations e.g. a driving licence and access to a vehicle.