



Job Description

updated Sept 2023

- Title:** Sessional Playworker – PlayCan project
- Project:** **PlayCan** is a partnership project for inclusive community play, based on the Play Ranger model & delivered by East Lothian Play Association, SCIO (ELPA) and Can Do. This Job Description for is the **PlayCan** project, but if you join the team, there may be other opportunities within ELPA and CanDo.
- Responsible to:** ELPA's Programme Lead/Can Do Coordinator
- ELPA SCIO**, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC050202
- Can-Do**, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC049885
- Hours:** **PlayCan** generally runs from 1pm – 3pm on Sunday afternoons. With time to set up, tidy up and record the session, the usual paid hours are 12pm – 4pm. There may be some variation depending on location and time of year.
- Other ELPA play sessions run after school, at weekends and during holidays. There may be opportunities to be involved in ELPA activities held during the day, or with Can Do evening and holiday provision
- 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.
- Rate of play:** £10 - £12 per hour depending on experience (with opportunities for Senior Playworkers at enhanced rate).
- Location:** The ELPA office is at The Fraser Centre in Tranent, but most project delivery happens in other settings and spaces across East Lothian.

About PlayCan

PlayCan sessions are open access, community-based play sessions aimed at children and young people with additional support needs, with their friends and family. The sessions are “free, fun and friendly” and are mainly outdoors in a variety of locations across East Lothian. Locations are chosen to offer a choice to families, with consideration of how to get there, accessibility, play value and available facilities such as toilets. They have included parks, beaches and historic gardens. The sessions are open to all ages.

We usually run the sessions with four members of staff, drawn from the ELPA and Can Do team. This combines the experience of both organisations – ELPA in delivering community based, open access play, and Can Do in offering inclusive provision for children and young people with disabilities. The sessions are advertised in advance, and the team plans resources to set up and support play – hammocks, water play, parachutes, sensory play, chalking and art and music activities are favourites. The sessions also make use of the environment for play – trees, play equipment, shrubs, sands etc.

PlayCan run all year round, in almost all weathers. Depending on the location, generally only a severe weather warning cancels a session.

PlayCan sessions are open access, meaning families do not need to book and can stay as long or short a time as they wish. Children and young people remain in the care of their family or carer at the sessions. PlayCan staff are not involved in meeting care needs.

Find out more about the Inclusive Outdoor Play project

PlayCan is funded by Inspiring Scotland's Thrive Outdoor programme. Our project is part of a group of projects across Scotland, aiming to support more inclusive provision. We have developed resources together which you can find by following these links:

- [Thrive Outdoors - Inspiring Scotland](#) Bite Sized Tips on communication with families, adapting spaces, and risk benefit assessment all with inclusion in mind.
- <https://vimeo.com/832304009/c508d7c2f7?share=copy> A short film including PlayCan highlighting Article 31, the importance of playing outdoors for children with ASN.
- <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/publication/winter-outdoor-play-for-children-of-families-with-additional-support-needs/> 'Winter Outdoor Play for Children of Families with Additional Support Needs' provides practical information on ensuring outdoor play sessions are inclusive in all weathers.

Key Job Responsibilities

- Plan and set up resources for play (mainly outdoors), adapting them to the environment and the weather to support inclusive play opportunities.
- Facilitate play sessions, supporting children and young people to participate in the way they would choose.
- Adapt and adjust activities so children and young people can participate and provide alternatives as appropriate.
- Bring a playwork ethos to all sessions ([playwork principles.pdf \(playwales.org.uk\)](https://www.playwales.org.uk/playwork-principles.pdf)).
- Provide support to children, young people and their families or carers – this may be emotional, (e.g. chatting to parents, help children regulate their behaviours) physical (e.g. swinging a child on a hammock), or social (e.g. encourage engagement, communication, and conversation.)
- 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 and Can Do policies and procedures.

Essential background tasks

- Ensure records are kept up to date (for example, recording attendance, 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 and Can Do policies and procedures are adhered to (for example, child protection, health and safety).
- Assist with monitoring and evaluating the project, using methods which are fun, engaging and suited to the children and young people taking part.
- Participate in planning and review sessions and support and supervision.

Person Specification: Sessional Playworker - PlayCan

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 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 understanding or knowledge of the benefits of play
- is eager to learn
- is willing to undertake relevant training to develop skills and knowledge.

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
- have experience of using play resources and materials (loose parts) creatively with children and young people
- have any experience to draw on with children and young people with additional support needs
- have experience and/or knowledge of managing risk in play / risk-benefit assessment
- have awareness and any experience of child protection guidelines
- have knowledge of and commitment to equal opportunities
- have experience of gathering 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
- have an in date first aid certificate
- IT skills.

Apply

Applications are welcomed from those who meet our person specification. Please apply by completing the attached Application Form and returning this to info@elpa.org.uk

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

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