



Job Description

- Title:** BlueGreen Project Lead
- Responsible to:** Partnerships Programme Lead
- Hours:** 24 per week for 52 weeks, with the possibility of additional hours within our play programmes. Sessions with children are likely to be out of school hours.
- Salary:** £26,754 pro rata
- Location:** Our office is at The Fraser Centre in Tranent. Most project delivery happens in other settings and spaces across East Lothian.
- Organisation:** East Lothian Play Association SCIO (ELPA) is a vibrant and impactful small charity. ELPA's aim is to promote and enrich a culture of play in East Lothian by:
- promoting children's right to play (article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)
 - sharing the benefits and value of play for all children and young people living in our community
 - inspiring and supporting people who work with children. ELPA currently has a range of activities to achieve these aims.

Job description contents

- 1. Project overview**
- 2. Role description for the project lead**
- 3. Person Specification**
- 4. The ELPA approach – we believe in collaboration**
- 5. Outcomes**
- 6. East Lothian Play Association**
- 7. Deadlines and interview dates**

1. Project overview

ELPA is excited to introduce our newest project which aims to improve access to outdoor spaces for children with additional support needs (ASN) to play and socialise, all year round, with friends, family and peers. This new project builds on several years of ELPA activity which has highlighted concerns about lack of inclusive play spaces and looked for ways to improve access to inclusive opportunities.

The aim of the project is to help us stimulate best practice on inclusive and accessible outdoor spaces in East Lothian. East Lothian has great countryside, parks, playgrounds and coastal assets but these are often inaccessible for children and families with ASN.

ELPA is seeking a creative, well organised and play-oriented person to lead our BlueGreen project. It's a role full of opportunities to put creative ideas into practice, build relationships with children and foster children's expression of their own ideas and views.

The project lead will work alongside our Development Team & Delivery Team to:

- **build** on ELPA's prior work on inclusion with children and families
- **collaborate** with the Play Team to deliver inclusive outdoor play
- **plan, organise** and **deliver** creative opportunities for children with ASN to share their views and ideas
- **create** a temporary demonstration space to show what can be done
- **involve** children to document the project, report and promote findings.

In our project title, Blue refers to water, sky, openness to ideas and inclusion; Green refers to landscape, nature and being environmentally friendly. ELPA brings play to the heart of communities - always "free, fun and friendly." We hope these are inspiring ideas to guide the project.



A girl in a bright t-shirt is sitting on the ground in a park, painting a rainbow onto cardboard. In the background there is a playpark and other children playing



We can see a child's head as they are relaxing in a hammock, which is outdoors, hanging between trees in dappled sunlight.

2. Role description for the BlueGreen Project Lead

Working with the ELPA team, the postholder will:

- contribute to the development of a detailed workplan for the project
- implement the project workplan with colleagues, being mindful of meeting timeframes, milestones and available budget
- liaise with children, families and partner organisations
- develop creative ideas and approaches which will support inclusive activities
- plan and deliver play sessions with children with additional support needs, using inclusive approaches
- engage with children with ASN using fun and creative to find out their views, ideas and wishes in relation to play and play spaces
- share ideas and best practise with colleagues to improve inclusion across ELPA's activities
- provide direction to colleagues from the Play Team to deliver the sessions and activity within the plan, following ELPA policies and procedures
- document all work undertaken
- implement evaluation plans
- contribute to reporting, including ensuring children's views and experience are represented.
- participate in ELPA meetings – project meetings, full staff meetings, and Trustees meetings as appropriate.
- represent ELPA at events and meetings with project partners and funders etc.
- any other duties deemed suitable for the grade of post.



A colourful poster drawn by a child. It has Welcome in large letters across the top and Okay to Play! in one corner. There are drawings of trees, hearts, lightbulbs, flowers, a tent and smiley faces, with words including Smile! Love! Explore! Create!



A consultation suitcase with colourful items including a map of East Lothian, a magic wand, a magnifying glass.

3. Person Specification

ELPA expects Project Leads to be:

- **proactive** – look ahead, be conscious of milestones, look for opportunities
- **problem-solvers** - notice challenges on the horizon, be creative and open to looking for solutions, support colleagues to manage challenges positively
- **collaborators** – actively seek views, listen to others, welcome advice
- **role models** – demonstrate principles in practice, expect high standards.

Essential skills, experience and knowledge

- Knowledge and understanding of children's human rights and in particular children's right to play
- Practical experience in play, arts or creative fields
- Knowledge and experience of participatory approaches
- Understanding and appreciation of the value outdoor spaces and natural environments have for children
- Commitment to using a playwork ethos ([See this link](#))
- Knowledge of, and commitment to, equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practices, working within diverse communities
- A qualification at SCQF level 8 or above in a relevant area such as Early Learning and Childcare, Playwork or relevant transferable experience
- Ability to work flexibly and creatively in changing circumstances, and willingness to work outdoors in all seasons
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Desirable skills, experience and knowledge

- Experience of working with children with additional support needs in play or creative environments
- Experience of using loose parts, natural, recycled and flexible materials creatively for play with children and adults, particularly outdoors
- Skills, experience and/or knowledge of creating or adapting spaces, especially outdoors, for children's play
- Skills, experience and/or knowledge of issues around accessible and inclusive environments
- Skills related to inclusive communication
- Experience and knowledge of risk management (including risk-benefit assessment) and health & safety legislation and guidance as it applies in play settings
- Ability to make written, verbal, visual reports on the project and its outcomes.
- A valid UK driving licence.

If successful, you will be required to become a PVG Scheme member or undergo a PVG Scheme update if you are already a member. ELPA makes arrangements for Child Protection and First Aid training for staff.

4. The ELPA approach – we believe in collaboration

ELPA believes in collaborative approaches and aims to nurture a supportive environment to share and develop ideas, and to implement projects. We are organised as a Delivery Team and a Development Team. Both teams work closely together.

The role of BlueGreen Project Lead will be supported within ELPA's Development Team through project meetings, staff meetings and support and supervision.

The postholder will lead the project and work with the team of sessional Play Rangers who are experienced and skilled in delivering community-based opportunities and innovating with creative, child-led approaches.

The Project Lead will also have opportunities to contribute to other programmes, such as Community Play, Spark the Park, schools work and events.

The ELPA team has developed a distinctive approach which is child-led, responsive and respects children's rights, with a focus on article 31 of the UNCRC, especially the right to play. We are looking for someone who will enjoy working in this environment and help ELPA to innovate, experiment and deliver consistently high standards.

5. Outcomes

Most of ELPA's activities, including the BlueGreen project, work towards achieving the following outcomes:

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

6. East Lothian Play Association, SCIO

ELPA's aim is to promote and enrich a culture of play in East Lothian by:

- **promoting** children's right to play (article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- **sharing** the benefits and value of play for all children and young people living in our community
- **inspiring** and supporting people who work with children. ELPA currently has a range of activities to achieve these aims.

ELPA activities

- **Loose Parts Play** – working across schools and community settings, promoting play and supporting the 'circular economy' to reduce waste and promote environmentally sustainable practice
- **Play Rangers** - providing play opportunities supported by our play ranger team in community spaces in the areas of highest disadvantage in the county (SIMD 10% and 20% most deprived)
- **Partnerships** - to bring play to East Lothian communities through 'Pop Up Play', Pop Up Adventure Play and other play-based activities and events
- **PlayCan** - in partnership with Can Do offering year-round community-based, inclusive outdoor play opportunities for children and young people with ASN
- **Spark the Park** – a series of activities and play events aimed at re-imagining public spaces for play and inclusion
- **Creative participation** - supporting children's voices through use of creative, age-appropriate methods in all our projects and as a service for partners
- **Spring and Autumn free training** – providing twice-yearly free training for East Lothian practitioners on all aspects of play
- **Presentations and workshops** – delivering at conferences to a range of audiences in play, childcare, education and cultural sectors.

Governance and staffing

ELPA has an active Board of Trustees with a range of backgrounds and skills. We have three part-time staff and a team of sessional playworkers and play rangers.

- Shortlisted nominee: IPA Right to Play, 2023
- Winning recipient: IPA International Award on the Right to Play in Times of Crisis, 2020.
- Shortlisted Nominee: Promoting Play, National Playwork Awards, 2019.
- Winner: Positive Support for Play, National Play Awards, 2018.

7. Deadlines and interview dates:

- Applications should be sent to admin@elpa.org.uk and received by 12noon on Monday 19th February 2024.
- Interviews will be held on 27th or 28th February at the Fraser Centre, Tranent, East Lothian.
- If for any reason you require an online interview or an alternative date, you will have the opportunity to indicate this at the time of application.
- If you require any adjustments for the interview, please discuss this with us and we will do our best to put arrangements in place.
- For any enquiries and an Application Form, please contact admin@elpa.org.uk