

Job Description

- Title:** Sessional Playworker/Play Ranger
- Responsible to:** ELPA's Programme Lead
- Hours:** ELPA's play sessions generally run after school, at weekends and during holidays. Sessions may also be held during the day, especially when working alongside schools and other community organisations. Sessional hours are not guaranteed as they vary according to project needs, and we plan ahead with members of the team. Playworkers/Play Ranger are paid for time planning and setting up sessions, face-to-face delivery, tidying up afterwards, recording and evaluation.
- Playworkers/ Play Rangers 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 (with opportunities for Senior Play Rangers at enhanced rate).
- 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 various sessions planned in Haddington, Musselburgh, Tranent, Wallyford, Whitecraig, Dunbar and North Berwick however, we do cover the whole of East Lothian so additional locations come up, particularly during school holidays,



Sessional Playworkers/Play Rangers

ELPA organises free play sessions for children, young people, families and/or community groups. These take place at local greenspaces, beside playparks, in schools, community centres or other spaces – usually outdoors but sometimes with indoor options. Sessional Playworkers/Play Rangers 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. They directly support children's play to the extent that children need and want their involvement. Play Ranger sessions are a big part of what ELPA delivers. Some Play Ranger sessions take place regularly on the same day of the week, at the same time and place, others Pop-Up across East Lothian. ELPA sessions are free, fun and friendly. We do not provide childcare; children are free to come independently and leave independently. Our play sessions run all year round, mostly outdoors, in almost all weathers!

PlayCan

PlayCan is a partnership project with Can Do, and you may also be offered work on this project. Play Can sessions are tailored for children with additional support needs, their friends and families. 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. PlayCan sessions are supported by ELPA Playworkers and staff from Can Do. 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 additional support needs. 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.

Outcomes ELPA's projects works 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 are listened to and their views on playing and free time are 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

- Plan and set up resources for play (mainly outdoors), adapting them to the environment and the weather to support 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 \(playwales.org.uk\)](#)).
- Listen to children's ideas and share these with Senior staff to support the development of the programme.
- Model positive behaviour and support children and young people to do the same.
- Support and respond to children's behaviour in a sensitive and fair manner and in accordance with ELPA's policies and procedures.

Background tasks

- 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, safeguarding, health and safety).
- Ensure records are kept up to date (for example, recording attendance, evaluations etc).
- Participate in planning and reviewing sessions and support and supervision.
- Contribute to the evaluation of the programme and record keeping.



Person Specification: ELPA Sessional Playworker/Play Ranger

We are looking for someone who...

- has experience of and enjoys working with children and young people
- is able to build good relationships with children and their families
- is willing and confident to work indoors and outdoors in all weathers and seasons
- has excellent communication and people skills
- is positive with an enthusiastic attitude
- enjoys working as part of a friendly team
- keen to create fun, inclusive opportunities for children's play
- has some understanding or knowledge of the benefits of play
- is eager to learn
- is willing to undertake relevant training to develop skills and knowledge.

If successful, you will be required to become a PVG Scheme member or have a PVG update

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 experience of working with children and young people with additional support needs
- have skills and experience that can contribute to a fun, friendly and inclusive atmosphere such as art/creative skills, drama, physical activity, dance, nature/environment etc.
- have understanding of children's human rights and in particular children's right to play
- have experience and/or knowledge of managing risk in play / risk-benefit assessment
- have awareness and any experience of safeguarding and 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 other skills, interest or experience to contribute to ELPA's development
- have a current first aid certificate
- IT or media skills.