

Playworker Job Description

play:groundNYC is looking for part-time play staff who are enthusiastic, playful and patient to provide an engaging environment for children attending the adventure playground on Governors Island as well as sporadic off-site programming.

Mission Statement play:groundNYC is a non-profit organization advocating for young people's rights by providing environments that encourage risk-taking, and experimentation through free play. We operate The Yard, a 50,000 square foot adventure playground on Governors Island, and work with communities to establish their own neighborhood playgrounds and play initiatives.

By providing professional development and school programming, and training a new generation of playworkers, play:groundNYC is reimagining the urban environment as a place for all children to play, create and explore, regardless of demographic status.

About The Yard play:groundNYC is preparing to reopen The Yard, New York City's only adventure playground on Governors Island for the 2019 season. At this unique play space, kids can imagine a world of their own making and experience self-directed play. Modeled after a junkyard, the adventure playground lets children shape their environment using an assortment of loose parts materials, tools and objects.

Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with the adventure playground team to document and reflect on play experiences through written assessments and team meetings
- Offer material support when called upon by young persons, and present ideas if asked, but be comfortable with them being rejected.
- Participate in caregiver activities for young campers.
- Maintain the playground through active reporting of suggestions for improving the functioning of the playground to the lead playworker and the Executive Director.
- Maintain the adventure playground site, including restocking and organizing materials as needed, making repairs, and identifying hazards, in cooperation with the play:groundNYC team.
- Routinely assess risk/benefit and inspect the space for safety.
- Represent play:groundNYC and educate parent visitors to play:ground regarding the role of play in child development and the importance of child-directed activities during the school day and at home.

Characteristics of a playworker:

- A playworker is patient and playful.
- The role includes building trust with the children on site by providing space for children's exploration and experimentation. This includes the need to be able to respond to children who exhibit difficult behavior with compassion rather than discipline.
- A playworker is infinitely aware of the environment and all of the children within it and is able to quickly assess risk versus hazard.
- A playworker MUST be comfortable with allowing children to take risks and to provide feedback and guidance in a way that doesn't impede the children's own play.

Experience / Qualifications:

- Have experience working with young people between the ages of six and fourteen.
- Experience as playworker or knowledge of playworker field a bonus but not required.
- Experience with tools is desired
- CPR / first aid certification preferred. It may be required for certain positions, in which case we will pay for the cost of certification.
- Spanish language proficiency is desired but not required.
- Be able to lift more than 25 lbs
- Be punctual

Prerequisites:

- This job entails working with young people in a messy setting. Playworkers will need to be comfortable getting dirty.
- Must pass a background check.
- Must be at least 18 years old.

Schedule: play:groundNYC seeks to hire for a variety of schedules including summer camp and weekend play. The most competitive applicants will be able to work flexible schedules over the course of the season (April-October). Below is listed examples of schedules we will need to staff. These schedules may change.

- April: Week of April 1 for interviews, site construction and two days in late April for staff training
- May-June: Weekend days plus some weekdays (dependent on school trip bookings)
- July-August: Weekends and some weekdays during summer camp
- September-October: Weekend days plus some weekdays (dependent on school trip bookings)

Benefits: Pay is \$16/hr

play:groundNYC is an equal opportunity employer. No applicant will be denied on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status, or domestic violence victim status.

Please submit a recent resume along with the application below to adventure@play-ground.nyc by 5pm March 22, 2019. All interviews will be held the week of April 1, 2019. Competitive applications will specifically address why training and working as a playworker in an adventure playground environment appeals to you.

Skills (please check all that apply)

Spanish (provide level of fluency) _____

CPR Professional Certification _____

Construction with hand tools _____ Hand crafts _____ Digital
Photography _____

Availability (Explain if there are specific days/times in which you are not available in each category)

April _____

May _____

June _____

July &
August _____

September _____

October _____

Employment History

Job Title:

Organization:

Website:

Supervisor's Name and Email:

Start Date:

End Date:

Ages of children worked with (if applicable):

Job Title: _____

Organization: _____

Website: _____

Supervisor's Name and

Email: _____

Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

Ages of children worked with (if applicable)

Education (check)

High School _____ Some college credits _____ College Degree _____
Graduate Degree _____

School:

Major/Area of Concentration:

References Please provide two professional references. References may not be related to the applicant.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Relationship of reference the applicant: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Relationship of reference to applicant: _____

Why did you leave/are you attempting to leave your last/current employment position?

Why do you want to become a playworker?

How did you become interested in playwork and adventure playgrounds?

What books/articles/websites have you read to learn more about adventure playgrounds?

Describe a way in which you have supported a child in their play.

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Initial: _____

The applicant has read and fully understand the job description (pages 1-2).

Initial: _____

Employment at play:groundNYC is at at will, in compliance with the laws of New York.

Initial: _____

The applicant gives permission to check references and perform the necessary background checks.

By signing below, the applicant certifies that all of the information the applicant supplies on this application is true and that any omission or false information will be grounds for rejection of the application or grounds for later termination if the applicant is hired.

Applicant's Name:

Applicant's Signature:

Date Signed:
