



Outdoor Early Years Practitioner at Venture Outdoor Kindergarten

Post name: Outdoor Early Years Practitioner, Venture Dartington

Post reference: OEYP0126VD

Minimum qualification: Early Years Level 3 qualification

Salary: Up to £19,963.35 FTE, dependent on qualifications and experience.

Location: Dartington Estate, Totnes

Working days: 4 or 5 days per week, term times only (38 weeks per year)

Working hours: 8.30am - 3.30pm

Start date: January 2026

Appointments will be offered for an initial probationary period of one school term.

Do you want to become part of the Venture Outdoor Kindergarten team?

We are looking for an Outdoor Early Years Practitioner, who is passionate about engaging children in their environment, to join our adventurous business and help us to progress the kindergarten further.

Venture Outdoor Kindergarten opened in January 2018 in Hope Cove. At Venture Hope Cove we spend the entire day outdoors on the beaches, in woodlands and other open spaces. Our second setting, Venture Kitley Farm, opened in June 2020. Venture Kitley Farm, Yealmpton is based within a garden setting with a cosy indoor space provided by a large Scandinavian lodge with wood burning stove. We make the most of opportunities to spend the day in local woodland and at local beaches. Venture Dartington opened in

September 2024 on the Dartington Hall Estate, where we have our own fenced off space nestled in the woods just beyond the Deer Park.

As an Outdoor Early Years Practitioner, you will predominantly be working with children aged 2.5 to 5 years with the vast majority of your time spent outside.

For the right candidate, the position could also entail training to become part of the leadership team within our growing business.

Essential qualifications, skills and experience:

Early Years Level 3 qualification.

Experience in implementing the EYFS statutory framework.

Enthusiasm for spending the entire day outdoors in varying weathers and for sharing that enthusiasm with children.

The ability to develop strong relationships and build a good rapport with parents and children.

The ability to scaffold an environment for play-based, child-led learning.

A creative, fun, energetic and calm demeanour.

A willingness to adapt and embrace new ideas and skills.

Excellent skills in working as part of a small and close-knit team.

Good physical fitness and ability to carry out physically demanding tasks and some lifting.

Desirable qualifications, skills and experience:

Qualified Teacher Status.

Up to date Paediatric First Aid.

Safeguarding Level 2 / Safeguarding Level 3.

Forest School Level 3 or willingness to complete Forest School Training.

SENCO training and experience.

Venture Outdoor Kindergarten is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All applicants must be willing to undergo an enhanced DBS check rigorous safeguarding and suitability screening.

Closing date for applications: Ongoing. Please apply as soon as possible as applications will be reviewed and progressed to interview as we receive them.

When we receive your application, we will confirm receipt and inform you as to whether you have been successful in reaching the next stage in our recruitment process. Interviews will be held at a mutually convenient time.

To apply please complete the application form on our website: [Work With Us | Venture Kindergarten](#)

For more information about our kindergarten please see: ventureok.co.uk or contact Jennifer Papenfus on 07500 927722.

Outdoor Early Years Practitioner at Venture Outdoor Kindergarten

Job description

Purpose of post

- To provide high standard physical, emotional, social and intellectual care for children in the setting.
- To give support and work closely with other staff in the setting, taking on a shared responsibility for the running of the kindergarten.
- To work as part of a team to provide an enabling environment in which all children can play, develop and learn.
- To build and maintain strong partnership working with parents/carers to enable children's needs to be met.
- To contribute to the kindergarten's high standards of care in the outdoor environment.

Your main duties will be

- To demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the safeguarding of children and young people and promote these values to all staff and volunteers.
- To set up an inspiring selection of resources at the beginning of the day, ensuring this covers the EYFS and is individually tailored for the children attending.
- To deliver the EYFS ensuring individual needs and interests are met.
- To use the local natural environment as a tool to teach and deliver the EYFS.
- To scaffold and support children's learning and promote independence in a non-coercive way.
- To ensure that children are always treated with respect and taught to be respectful.
- To keep records of the children's learning and development and learning journeys and share these with parents, carers and significant people including professionals.
- To use Tapestry to add observations, track children's development and assess.
- To use observation and assessment to find gaps or developmental issues.
- To support all other staff members and be engaged in working as a team.
- To develop and maintain strong partnerships with parents/carers in order to facilitate day to day caring and early learning needs.

- To ensure the provision of a high quality environment to meet the needs of individual children having an awareness of any disabilities, sensitivities, family cultures and medical histories.
- To advise the managers of any concerns about the children, parents, safety of the environment.
- To be able to assess risk in a constantly changing environment, acting quickly to ensure the safety of the children in many different locations and situations.
- To be involved in out of hours working hours for training, staff meetings, parent events etc.
- To be flexible within working practices, undertaking other duties where needed and with the possibility of being transferred to a different site in the future.
- To work with the managers and other staff members to ensure that the Venture philosophy and ethos is fulfilled and where possible developed and improved upon.
- To read, understand and adhere to all policies and procedures relevant to your role and to the safe running of the setting.
- To develop your role within the team and be open to taking on new responsibilities.
- To understand information acquired as part of your job regarding the children and their families or staff members must be kept confidential.
- To be aware that you will need to uphold our high profile and standards at all times both during work hours and outside, and to help with promoting our setting.
- To support assistants, students and volunteers.
- To undertake additional responsibilities such as SENCO, safeguarding officer etc.