



## Lead Practitioner at Venture Outdoor Kindergarten

**Post name:** Lead Practitioner, Venture Hope Cove

**Post reference:** VHC0924LP

**Minimum qualification:** Early Years Level 3 qualification

**Salary:** Up to £31,392 FTE, dependent on qualifications and experience.

**Location:** Venture Hope Cove, Hope Cove, Near Kingsbridge.

**Working hours:**

Mondays, 8.30-3.30, Tuesdays, 8.30-3.30, Wednesdays, 8.30-3.30, Thursdays, 8.30-3.30

Additional work required outside of these times to fulfil the obligations of the role.

Opportunities exist for additional work at our school holiday camps during school holidays.

**Start date:** September 2024.

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

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

We are looking for a Lead Practitioner, who is passionate about engaging children in their environment and looking for a new challenge, to join our adventurous business. We have exciting plans for the kindergarten over the next few years and the Lead Practitioner will be instrumental in helping us to progress the kindergarten and its unique vision 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. We are in the process of opening our 3rd kindergarten this year, in Dartington.

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

**Leader essential qualifications, experience and skills:**

Level 3 Early Years qualification / Qualified Teacher Status

Paediatric First Aid qualification

Safeguarding Level 3 qualification

Recent leadership experience within an Early Years setting

Excellent understanding and experience of implementing the EYFS statutory framework

Good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children obligations

A willingness to adapt and embrace new ideas, skills and ways of being with children

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

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

Excellent organisational skills and verbal and written communication skills

A reflective and adaptable attitude and the ability to work on own initiative

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

**Leader desirable qualifications, experience and skills:**

SENCO training and experience

Forest School Training or willingness to complete Forest School Training

**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 and rigorous safeguarding and suitability screening.**

**Closing date for applications:** Ongoing. When we receive your application, we will confirm receipt and inform you as to whether you have been successful in obtaining an interview for the position. Interviews will be held at a mutually convenient time.

To apply please complete the application form on our website: [Train With Us | Mysite \(ventureok.co.uk\)](https://ventureok.co.uk)

For more information about our kindergarten please see: [ventureok.co.uk](https://ventureok.co.uk)

Or contact Jennifer Papenfus on 07500927722.

## **Leader at Venture Outdoor Kindergarten Job Description**

As the **Leader** you will:

- Ensure the smooth day to day running of the setting.
- Ensure high quality provision in line with the EYFS Statutory Framework.
- Ensure the ethos of the setting is maintained and developed further.
- Ensure policies, procedures and ways of working are implemented at all times.
- Ensure the health, safety and well-being of staff, children and parents.

In order to do this you will need to:

- Have a thorough knowledge of the setting's ethos and the impact this has on children's early education and growth.

- Have a thorough knowledge of how the setting's ways of working implement the EYFS statutory framework.
- Evaluate the impact of the setting's policies, procedures and ways of working, and adapt them as necessary in line with the EYFS Statutory Framework and the setting's ethos.
- Role model and promote the ethos and ways of working of the setting to staff, parents and other agencies such as Ofsted.
- Use assessment data to inform plans for individual children, cohorts and the setting as a whole.
- Plan and lead staff meetings and action planning sessions.
- Lead staff supervision and appraisal meetings.
- Report to and liaise with the management team.
- Liaise with other agencies and professionals.

All of our staff work directly with the children and carry out the tasks of an Early Years Outdoor Practitioner. In addition to the above responsibilities, the setting Leader will therefore also be required to:

- Demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the safeguarding of children and young people and promote these values to all staff and volunteers.
- 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.
- Deliver the EYFS again ensuring individual needs and interests are met.
- Use the environment as a tool to teach and deliver the EYFS.
- Scaffold and support children's learning and promote independence in a non-coercive way.
- Ensure that children are always treated with respect and taught to be respectful.
- Keep records of the children's learning and development and learning journeys and share these with parents, carers and significant people including professionals.
- Use Tapestry to add observations, and track children's development.
- Use observation and assessment to find gaps/barriers or developmental issues.
- Support all other staff members and be engaged in working as a team.
- Develop and maintain strong partnerships with parents/carers in order to facilitate day to day caring and early learning needs.
- 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.
- Advise the managers of any concerns about the children, parents, safety of the environment.

- Assess risk in a constantly changing environment, acting quickly to ensure the safety of the children in many different locations.
- Be involved in out of hours working hours for training, staff meetings, parent events etc.
- Be flexible within working practices, undertaking other duties where needed and with the possibility of being transferred to a different site in the future.
- 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.
- Read, understand and adhere to all policies and procedures relevant to your role and to the safe running of the setting.
- Develop your role within the team and be open to taking on new responsibilities.
- Understanding information acquired as part of your job regarding the children and their families or staff members must be kept confidential.
- Uphold our high profile and standards at all times both during work hours and outside, and to help with promoting our setting.
- Support assistants, students and volunteers.
- Undertake lead on additional responsibilities such as SENCO, safeguarding officer etc.

The Leader will report directly to the kindergarten management team.