



Deputy Lead Practitioner at Venture Outdoor Kindergarten

Post name: Deputy Lead Practitioner, Venture Dartington

Post reference: VD0924DLP

Minimum qualification: Level 3 Early Years Childcare qualification

Salary: Up to £22,105.20 FTE, dependent on qualifications and experience.

Location: Venture Dartington, Dartington.

Working days: Job share position, negotiable 2 / 3 days per week.

Working hours: 8.30am - 3.30pm, during Devon school term times.

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, or negotiable for the right candidate.

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. We are in the process of opening our 3rd kindergarten this year, in Dartington.

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

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:

Up to date Paediatric First Aid

Safeguarding Level 2/3

Qualified Teacher Status

Forest School Training 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. 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 \(ventureok.co.uk\)](http://ventureok.co.uk)

For more information about our kindergarten please see: ventureok.co.uk or contact Jennifer Papenfus on 07500927722.

Deputy Lead Practitioner at Venture Outdoor Kindergarten

Job Description

As the **Deputy Lead Practitioner** you will:

- Work alongside the Leader to ensure the smooth day to day running of the setting.
- Work alongside the Leader to ensure high quality provision in line with the EYFS Statutory Framework.
- Work alongside the Leader to ensure the ethos of the setting is maintained and developed further.
- Work alongside the Leader to ensure policies, procedures and ways of working are implemented at all times.
- Work alongside the Leader to ensure the health, safety and well-being of staff, children and parents.
- Work alongside the Leader to organise and deliver events for families and the wider community.
- Carry out the role of Leader in the absence of the Leader.

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 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.
- 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 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, track children's development and assess.
- Use observation and assessment to find gaps 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.

The Deputy Lead Practitioner will report directly to the Lead Practitioner.

- 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 the lead on additional responsibilities such as SENCO, safeguarding officer etc.