



The Playgarden, Inc.

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Lead Teacher of a LifeWays of North America Early Childhood Class Forest Kindergarten Program

FLSA Classification: Permanent Exempt Full Time

Reports to: College of Teachers for Curriculum, and Board of Directors for Compensation

About the Non-Profit Organization

As the first LifeWays of North America (“LifeWays”) Representative Site in Florida, The Playgarden is a steward for an innovative relationship-based vision for childcare. LifeWays takes its inspiration from Rudolf Steiner, founder of Waldorf Education, and develops home as the model and life as the curriculum for young children from birth to age 6. The Playgarden’s mission is *to support, strengthen and inspire the growing child, family and community*. We have been providing a nurturing early childhood environment for families for over 20 years. Our programs encompass the nurturing arts, domestic arts, the development of deep relationships, social and emotional development, imagination and creativity, and a life affirming connection with nature.

Position Summary:

The Playgarden Early Childhood teacher understands the essential needs of the young child and supports both children and their families by creating joy-filled and life-nourishing environments that enhance growth and development during the critical first six years of life.

General Responsibilities:

Please refer to Teacher Training Manual for detailed responsibilities

- Implement the strategic plan of the Board of Directors.
- Participate in scheduled College of Teacher and staff meetings as coordinated by the Administration.
- Comply with all state regulatory requirements.
- Conduct home visits with families in support of relationship-based child care for all students prior to the start of school.
- Plan and conduct seasonal festivals and school events throughout the year including parent work days.
- Communicate effectively with parents throughout the school year including weekly updates via email and holding mid-year conferences.
- Attend and participate in all prep work and end of the year closing & preparations for summer camp.
- Participate in parent education.
- Lead parent orientation evenings.
- Locate substitute teachers as needed.

- Maintain interpersonal relationships focusing on professionalism. Adult conversations should focus on the Waldorf and LifeWays pedagogy and around the work of the day with the children.
- Employees will refrain from engaging in personal opinions, gossip or triangulation.
- Comply with our [Human Resources Flow Chart for Communication](#) and Professional Development Planning as needed.

Development and Teaching of Curriculum

- Develop a healthy daily and weekly rhythm that supports the growth of the growing child.
- Prepare and lead daily activities (refer to teacher training manual for details.)
- Develop and maintain a safe and harmonious social environment for the students.
- Develop and maintain a clean, orderly, and beautiful classroom environment.
- Utilize pre-planning days and Teacher planning days as indicated in school calendar to develop curriculum consistent with Lifeways' principles.
- Engage in activities that place the teacher on a path of inner work and development.

Professional Development

- Track compliance with regulatory requirements and communicate and document those requirements with Administrative department.
- Participate in all training and coursework as recommended by Senior COTs, Admin, and the Board of Directors.

Required Qualifications

- A deep love for children, respect for parents, enjoyment of working in collaboration with colleagues, joy and enthusiasm in your work, and a commitment to self-development in order to become a model worthy of imitation by the children.
- Must be comfortable spending some time outdoors in all weather.
- Waldorf Education certification, Lifeways of North America Early Childhood Certification or College of Teacher approved equivalent
- Strong written and interpersonal communication skills
- Ability to work effectively with a diverse range of people
- 2+ years previous classroom experience

Preferred Qualifications

- Degree in Early Childhood Education

Physical Requirements:

The physical requirements described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the Essential Duties of this job. Reasonable accommodation may be made for individuals with disabilities to perform the Duties.

- Arrives ready to work at scheduled time and is rarely absent unexpectedly
- Must be able to be outdoors on their feet, for a minimum of 6 hours per day in all kinds of Inclement weather while being physically active
- Must be capable of lifting, holding and carrying a child up to 55 lbs.
- Must be capable of lifting and pulling an outdoor wagon weighing 20-30 lbs.
- Must be capable of carrying a backpack weighing up to 20 lbs. for up to 6 hours.
- Must have the stamina to hike/explore in temperatures anywhere from 35F to 100F

- Must be able to swim/be able to rescue any children in danger (meeting Lifeguard Certification requirements)
- Must be able to reach and lift overhead, bend, stoop, climb trees and other natural structures and kneel
- Must be physically capable of crouching and crawling
- Use hands to finger, grasp, feel or otherwise manipulate objects, tools or controls
- Able to have full range of motion to locate children and examine area for hazards