

Nature-based Pre-Kindergarten Co-Teacher

The First Baptist Church of Clarendon Child Development Center is looking for a qualified caregiver/teacher to join our Nature-based Early Childhood Education team. An ideal candidate is someone who has a great insight, love and patience for young children, and a deep respect and appreciation for the outdoors. FBCC's mission is to provide an environment that meets the developmental needs of the whole child, while encouraging them to develop a lifelong, meaningful relationship with the natural world. While not required, candidates with direct experience or knowledge of forest schools or nature-based programs, Reggio Emilia, the Project Approach, Montessori or Waldorf classrooms are encouraged to apply. All candidate must be willing to work with young children in an outdoor setting year-round, as outdoor play and learning are essential elements of our daily routine, regardless of the weather. This position supports an age-appropriate blend of early childhood education as well as nature-based pedagogy. Qualified candidates must possess and demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate practices and expectations.

Summary of Job Responsibilities:

Co-teacher works closely with a lead teacher to facilitate indoor and outdoor learning with children. Tasks include supporting thoughtful curriculum design based on children's emergent interests, on-going reflection about and assessment of children and the environmental education program, and collaboration with other teachers. Co-teachers support in maintaining the tone for learning as engaged, enthusiastic role models of nature-based education while maintaining a safe, positive atmosphere.

- Support lead teacher in creating and implementing developmentally appropriate practices grounded in nature-based pedagogy.
- Plan and deliver nature infused learning opportunities that support children's interest *both* inside and outside the classroom.
- Provide daily opportunities for outdoor exploration in *all* weather (through neighborhood walks and time in the outdoor classroom).
- Design, develop and deliver a comprehensive individualized and differentiated teaching plan that meets the developmental levels of children with variant learning styles and modalities.
- Maintain an open line of communication with parents and provide appropriate information.
- Reflectively respond to children's development using the tools of observation and documentation.
- Establish, maintain and sustain relationships with each children.
- Conduct measurement and evaluation of learning outcomes.
- Observe and maintain risk assessments related to outdoor classroom play.
- Ensure every child has an opportunity for outdoor experiential education throughout the school year.
- Work collaboratively and cooperatively with others to support and contribute to the FBCC's mission and vision.

Most Desirable Qualities

- Love of children.
- Love of nature.
- Resiliency when faced with challenges
- Eager to grow and learn with others
- Ability and comfortability to work in all weather.
- Knowledge and understanding of local ecology, flora, and fauna.

Skills

- Proven working experience as a preschool caregiver/teacher with children ages 3-4
- Excellent knowledge of child development and latest education theories and practices
- Creative and artistic teaching abilities
- Teaching and organization skills
- Patience and flexibility
- Strong communication skills
- Keep abreast with the latest trends and best practices
- BS/BA degree in Early Childhood Education (or relevant/related field) minimally a CDA (or relevant license/certificate)