

Nature-based Pre-Kindergarten Lead 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:

Lead teacher works closely with a co-teacher to facilitate indoor and outdoor learning with children. Tasks include 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. Lead teachers set the tone for learning as engaged, enthusiastic role models of nature-based education while maintaining a safe, positive atmosphere.

- Develop and implement developmentally appropriate practices that are 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)