

Job Advert



Blossom House School

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SEN Lunchtime Learning Support Assistant (17.5 hours per week, Term- Time, Permanent)

About us:

Blossom House is an Ofsted-rated "Outstanding" specialist school for children aged 3 - 19 years of age with speech, language and communication difficulties. Although many of the children have some associated difficulties such as fine motor problems or poor organisational skills, they are all within the average range of cognitive abilities. Our school has a unique atmosphere created by its totally dedicated, highly professional and caring staff. We acknowledge specific strengths and support individual weaknesses, so that each child "blossoms" and has the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential.

We have a lovely opportunity for an enthusiastic Lunch-Time Assistant to join our Adapted Curriculum Teaching Team, supporting children during lunch time and at play time.

Permanent, term-time only.

Monday to Friday, 10:30 – 14:00

Actual Annual salary: £7,762 per annum

Closing date: 11th December 2023

To start: ASAP

About the Adapted Curriculum:

Situated within the school, the **Adapted Curriculum** is specialist SEN provision for Early Years and Primary children with complex social communication disorders and/or a diagnosis of ASD. Many of the children may present as non-verbal or have limited verbal abilities, and our aim is to provide them with a nurturing environment to develop their social communication and emotional regulation, within an education setting to facilitate their access to learning alongside their peers. Class sizes are a maximum of 6 pupils supported by a Class Teacher, two Learning Support Assistants and Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists. The children in the Adapted Curriculum do not access the National Curriculum, but instead are provided with a functional curriculum where communication is the main focus.

What the role involves:

- Providing support to children during lunch and at play time, promoting positive behaviour.
- Ensuring the lunch and play areas are clean and tidy before, during and after lunch.
- Setting up and clearing up equipment and resources during lunch time and play time.
- Providing Teaching Assistant cover while colleagues have their lunch.
- Liaising with Teachers, Therapists and staff.

We offer:

- A supportive working environment in a modern and well-equipped building.
- Small class sizes
- Support from an enthusiastic and dedicated team of Therapy staff and Teachers.
- Continued professional development and training.
- Great staff non-contractual benefits such as termly wellbeing claims, annual bonuses and pay rises and a friendly nurturing environment.
- Close to a good transport network and on-site free parking is available.
- UK Healthcare cash plan designed to help cover your “day to day” healthcare expenditure such as Optical and Dental bills and offers cash back (up to policy limits) for a variety of different medical treatments. It also offers lifestyle benefits and discounted gym membership.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Confidence, enthusiasm and a passion for learning and working with children.
- Excellent English skills (clear written and spoken English) along with good reading, writing and numeracy skills.
- The ability to build good working relationships with children, teachers, parents and carers.
- Experience of working with children with Special Education Needs (SEN), particularly children on the Autism Spectrum.
- The ability to manage a small group of children with complex social communication needs.
- The ability to promote positive behaviour in a nurturing environment is essential.

If you wish to apply for the post, please download the application form from the school website, www.blossomchristopherplace.co.uk/vacancies, complete the application indicating how you meet the requirements of the person specification, along with the recruitment activity detailed below and email it to recruitment@blossomhouseschool.co.uk.

This role is subject to the relevant Safeguarding checks, which will include an Enhanced DBS check.

Job Description

Job Title:	SEN Lunchtime Learning Support Assistant
Reports to:	Line Manager
Accountable to:	Principal
Contract term:	Permanent, Term-Time only
Hours per week:	10:30 to 14:00 (Monday to Friday)
Salary per annum:	£7,762 pa (actual salary)

Responsibilities and Duties

- Providing support and supervising children during lunch and at play time, being aware of health and safety and first aid procedures.
- Ensuring the lunch areas and are clean and tidy before, during and after lunch.
- Ensuring the play areas are clean and tidy before, during and after play time.
- Setting up and clearing up equipment and resources during lunch time and play time.
- Assisting children to eat their lunch and use utensils.
- Promoting and role modelling acceptable behaviour according to the school's Behaviour Policy.
- Promoting health eating and good table manners.
- Assisting the team as directed and when required.
- To assist the child to remain on task, and encourage their attention and listening skills, so that their learning opportunities are maximised.
- To work cohesively with the teaching and therapy staff to further nurture and develop the needs and skills of the pupil.
- To assist teaching/therapy staff during lessons by performing simple duties, as reasonably required, e.g.: setting up equipment and resources.
- To take pro-active steps to prevent injuries and accidents by identifying risks and hazards and taking preventative action where possible or reporting issues as appropriate in reasonable timescales.
- To attend staff meetings and INSET, as required.
- To be a point of reference to all teaching/therapy staff regarding individual needs of specific children during play and lunch time.
- To contribute towards providing an environment for the children that enables them to realize their potential and maximise their academic, social, physical and emotional development.
- To be flexible and carry out any such other duties as may be reasonably required and directed by the Principal.

Person Specification					
Qualifications	Essential	Desirable	Application Form	References	Interview/ Selection Process
Educated to GCSE level, or equivalent in Maths and English		✓	✓		✓
CACHE Diploma Level 3 in Child Development or equivalent qualification		✓	✓		✓
First Aid Training		✓	✓		✓
Food handling and food hygiene		✓	✓		✓
Evidence of further qualifications; a completed qualification relevant to the role		✓	✓		✓
Knowledge & Skills	Essential	Desirable	Application Form	References	Interview/ Selection Process
A basic understanding of how children develop & learn	✓		✓		✓
A basic understanding of Safeguarding and child protection in schools	✓		✓		✓
An understanding of supporting diversity and equal opportunities	✓		✓		✓
An understanding of health and safety and confidentiality	✓		✓		✓
An understanding of healthy eating and food safety	✓		✓		✓
A good understanding of first aid	✓		✓		✓
An understanding of play and how to promote good behaviour	✓		✓		✓
Clear written and spoken English	✓		✓	✓	✓
Good numeracy and literacy skills	✓		✓	✓	✓
Behaviour management skills	✓		✓	✓	✓
Competent ICT skills	✓		✓	✓	✓

Experience	Essential	Desirable	Application Form	References	Interview/ Selection Process
Experience of working with children	✓		✓	✓	✓
Experience of working with children during meal and play times		✓	✓	✓	✓
Experience of working with groups of children	✓		✓	✓	✓
Experience or awareness of special needs	✓		✓	✓	✓
Experience of working with children with challenging behaviour	✓		✓		✓
Experience of working within a multi-disciplinary team or with a therapist		✓	✓		✓
Personal Attributes and Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Application Form	References	Interview/ Selection Process
A high level of emotional resilience and emotional maturity	✓		✓	✓	✓
Flexibility and creativity in your approach to tasks	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ability to build good relationships with children, teachers, parents and carers	✓		✓	✓	✓
Patience and a positive attitude	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ability to adapt to changes quickly	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ability to work as part of a team	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ability to carry out moving and handling of resources and good eye hand co-ordinating	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ability to work independently on prescribed tasks, take initiative and manage change	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ability to use initiative, good problem-solving skills and to be engaging and pro-active	✓		✓	✓	✓
Willingness to participate in training and other learning activities	✓		✓	✓	✓
Commitment, reliability and trustworthiness	✓		✓	✓	✓

Willingness to support diversity and ensure all pupils with speech & language difficulties have equal access to opportunities to play and develop	✓		✓	✓	✓
Safe-guarding & Child Protection (COMPULSORY)	Essential	Desirable	Application Form	References	Interview/ Selection Process
A commitment to follow school policies, procedures and guidance	✓		✓		✓
A commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people	✓		✓		✓
Successful Enhanced DBS Status	✓				✓
Recruitment Activity (compulsory activities to accompany your application form)					
<p>1. In your own words please write a brief review of a popular children’s book that you have enjoyed reading with Primary children.</p> <p>Your review should be between 100 and 200 words, and briefly describe the plot, characters or theme in your own words, and include your own personal opinion of the book and why you think it is suitable for children of a particular age.</p>					
<p>2. Sometimes our pupils may present with unexpected behaviour. This can include being physical or verbally disruptive.</p> <p>a. Why do you think they might behave like this?</p> <p>b. How would you manage your own emotions if you were faced with unexpected behaviour?</p> <p>What strategies could you suggest to minimise these behaviours?</p>					