

Job Description

Position Title	Foundation Stage Practitioner		
Location	School		
Reporting to	Early Years Teacher/Nursery Manager		
Position Number(s)			
Grade	C		
Directorate/Section/School	Education		
Effective date of JD		JE Job Number	1295

Job Purpose including main duties and responsibilities:

Job Purpose:

To work under the guidance of the teaching/senior staff, within an agreed system of supervision.

Main Duties & Responsibilities:

- implement agreed range of activities with individuals/groups of children, either within or outside of the nursery/foundation stage unit
- assist the teacher in the whole observation, assessment and planning cycle
- management/preparation of resources to support an enabling learning environment, both indoors and outdoors
- supervise all children during the short term absence of teachers (i.e. cover supervision)
- generally assist children in undertaking both adult directed and child initiated activities , interacting with them to support their learning and development
- Ensure school safeguarding policies and procedures are followed appropriately
- Regularly contributing towards written observations of a child's progress, whilst maintaining confidentiality at all times
- Collating evidence to support a child's progress towards learning outcomes

Person specification:

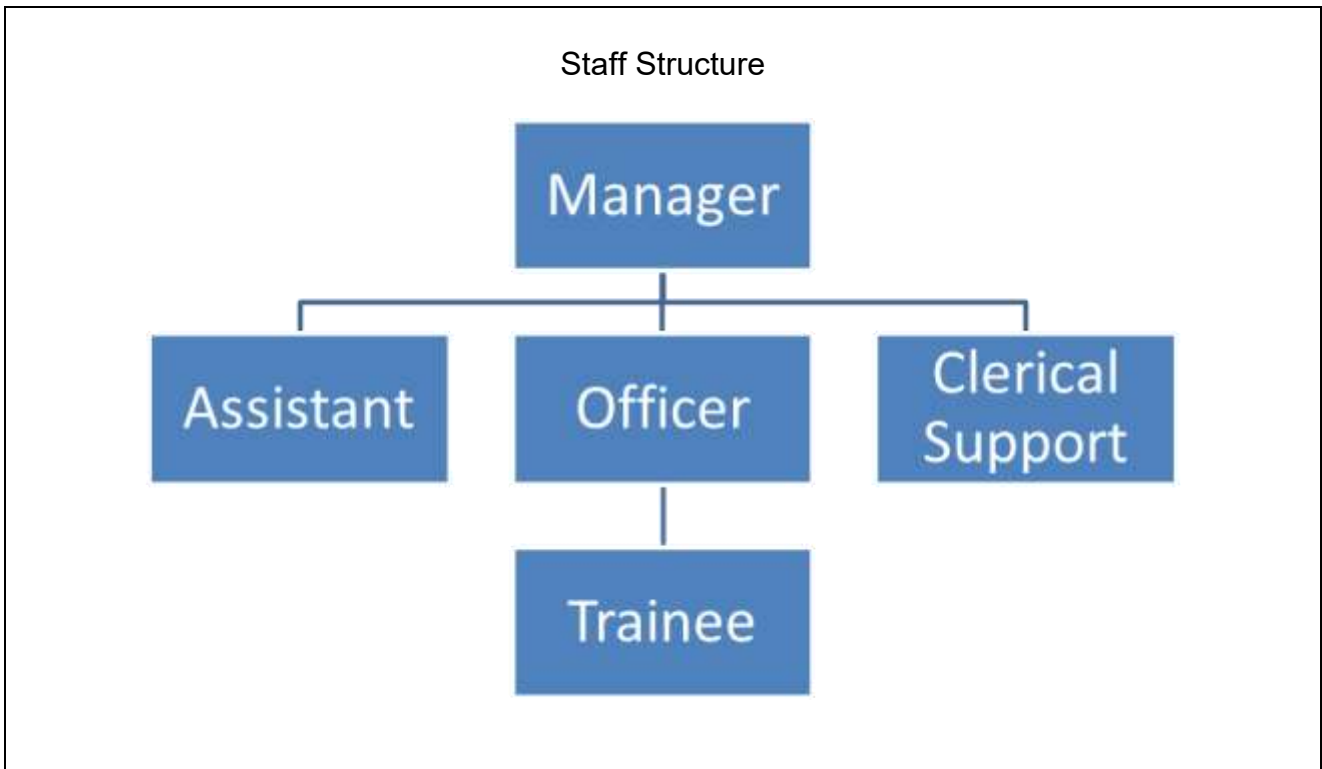
Attribute	Essential	Desirable	Method of Assessment
Management of people		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of guiding and supervising students and those on work placement • Contribute towards the maintenance and upkeep of resources in the setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • Interview
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven experience of working with children of relevant age in a early learning environment, either on placement or in paid employment • Experience of working with the Early Years Foundation Stage national curriculum and other relevant learning programmes/strategies e.g. contributing towards individual education plans • Knowledge or experience of working as a key worker with a group of children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working in Early Years in a school environment • Experience of working as part of a team • Experience of working with other agencies and professionals • Knowledge and understanding of the type of external support that is available to support childrens development and how to access these services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • References • Interview • Practical task/ assessment
Practical Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to plan effective learning and care programmes either under appropriate supervision and guidance or in collaboration. • Ability to work independently using own initiative. Ability to self-evaluate learning needs and actively seek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact with children and support their involvement in physical activities and outdoor play • Consistent approach with children and parents • Experience of having kept written 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • References • Interview • Practical task/ assessment

	<p>learning opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to relate well to children and adults including other professionals/carers/parents • Ability to demonstrate and promote good practice in line with the ethos of the school both indoors and out doors. • Ability to reflect on learning and care needs and use this knowledge to impact on children's outcomes e.g. in planning, procurement of resources, Education Plans, communication with parents • Ability to manage multiple tasks, whilst ensuring children, colleagues, parents and carers are respected and listened to. • Firm commitment to protecting and safeguarding children at all times. 	<p>records of children's achievements including observations</p>	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have sufficient understanding and use of English to ensure the well-being of children in their care • Effectively communicate with adults and children • Written, verbal and non verbal communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to promote and market the service to the wider community • Knowledge and/or experience of other forms of communicating with children, e.g. Makaton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References • Interview • Practical task/assessment
Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive and positive team player, able to work constructively as part of a team to understand nursery/foundation stage unit roles and 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • References • Interview • Practical task/assessment

	<p>responsibilities and own position within these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enthusiasm for learning and working with children • Reflective approach and commitment to personal development • Able to provide consistently high levels of quality care and education opportunities to all children, in pressured and sometimes noisy and challenging environments • Caring, friendly, approachable, open, inclusive, welcoming, and personable • Able to maintain confidentiality at all times 		
Strategic Thinking		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute ideas at school meetings for developing the early years provision, this may include policy writing and the school development plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References • Interview
Technology / IT Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to effectively use ICT to support learning or to undertake training to do so • Ability to use other technology to support learning e.g. video, photocopier, etc. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • References • Interview • Practical task/ assessment
Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full and relevant level 3 qualification • Training in the relevant strategies e.g. parenting and/or in particular learning areas, e.g. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full working knowledge of relevant policies/codes of practice and awareness of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • References • Interview • Practical task/

	<p>quality improvement, observation and record keeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication, Language and Literacy, ICT, maths, • safeguarding awareness or the ability to work towards etc. • Willingness to participate in other development and training opportunities 	<p>relevant legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working knowledge of Early Years Foundation Stage national curriculum and other relevant learning programmes/strategies • Requirement to participate in training/development as and when identified by line manager as essential for performance of the post. • Understanding of principles of child development and learning processes and in particular barriers to learning • Paediatric First Aid or Emergency Paediatric First Aid • Manual Handling 	<p>assessment</p>
Professional Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If applicable 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Certificate/Registration
Equal Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Devon County Council and its staff seek to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Demonstrate knowledge at Interview
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Able to carry out the duties of the post with reasonable adjustments where necessary. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ OH1
Other relevant factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Commit and conform to DCC Customer Service Standards. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦

Structure chart – to be completed in all cases by the manager with the job description and person specification



1. Supervision / Management of People:

Providing appropriate guidance and occasional general supervision to less experienced staff who may be undertaking duties/tasks as part of their personal development i.e. students, placements. Supervision of children outside usual school hours including before and after school and at lunchtimes as required. Accompanying teaching staff and children on visits, trips and out of school activities as required and taking responsibility for a group under the supervision of the teacher.

2. Creativity and Innovation:

- Working creatively with children, within the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, and any appropriate quality standards within Devon, as instructed by on site Early Years teaching staff. Daily interaction with young children, to provide a range of stimulating activities which promote all areas of learning as identified in the Early Years Foundation Stage, both adult led and child initiated. Working with the Early Years teacher in planning and evaluating daily/weekly learning and care, including planning of activities for key worker groups
- Implementing plans on a daily basis as devised with/by the teacher, including some scope for creativity and interpretation, eg. by adjusting activities according to children's responses/needs
- Assisting with the development and implementation of Individual Education Plans as needed
- Implementing local and national learning and childcare strategies e.g. EYFS, Devon's Learning Journey, making effective use of opportunities provided by other activities to support the development of relevant skills.
- Supporting the use of ICT in activities and developing children's competence and independence in its use
- Being aware of and supporting difference and undertaking actions to ensure that all children have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop.
- Recognising own strengths and areas of expertise and using these to advise and support others

3. Contacts & Relationships:

Working with a wide range of people including teachers and school/ nursery staff, visiting professionals and agencies (e.g. Ofsted), parents, children and families, and visitors/student placements. Regular liaison with parents/ carers of children, e.g. providing updates on a child's progress and specific needs, which may occasionally require a sensitive approach. These discussions may take place outside nursery opening hours. Working with teachers and other team members, to share information, liaise and agree upon a recommended course of action, prior to discussions with parents.

Liaising sensitively and effectively with parents/carers as agreed with the teacher, including:

- participating in feedback sessions/meetings with parents either alongside the teacher or as directed
- home visits prior to child starting a nursery/foundation stage unit if required
- working with the teacher to establish an appropriate safe and secure learning environment.

- Working with the teacher and other nursery staff in planning and evaluating daily/weekly learning and care.
- Establishing productive working relationships with children, acting as a role model and setting high expectations for behaviour and learning.
- Providing feedback to children in relation to progress and achievement on a daily/weekly basis.
- Establishing constructive relationships and communicating with other agencies/professionals in liaison with the nursery teacher to support achievement and progress of children
- Positive promotion and marketing of the provision to prospective parents

4. Decisions – Discretion:

Work is broadly defined by standards and regulations which operate in the nursery setting, and which are enforced and monitored by the nursery teacher. Decisions taken by this role would work within this scope. Making decisions on how to implement a specific activity which has been defined by/discussed with the Early Years Teacher, e.g. planning and implementing a small group activity to fit with defined learning intention for the day. Contributing recommendations to the team, regarding planning for future learning.

5. Decisions – Consequences:

Recommendations and suggestions made by this post are essential to the success of the early years nursery team, e.g. all members of the nursery team are expected to take shared responsibility for enabling children to reach their full potential, and seeking opportunities for continuous improvement in the nursery. The impact of recommendations made by the post holder may improve a child's ability to reach their full potential.

6. Resources:

Organising the availability and use of general and specialist play equipment and other resources, including checking to ensure they are clean, safe and secure to be available to young children. Carrying out risk assessments on equipment and environment on regular basis. Making recommendations about the procurement of new resources. Uphold school's health and safety policies, by reporting problems with resources and equipment to the teacher, for further action to be taken. The nursery operates a policy of collective responsibility, (including all staff and children) towards the appropriate management of resources.

7. Work Demands:

Occasional amendments to the planned programme may need to be implemented to accommodate children's needs and abilities, in agreement with the nursery teacher. Visits from external organisations are usually pre-planned and therefore not disruptive to the nursery, but may include Ofsted inspections, visits from advisory teachers and other professionals. Sudden interruptions would be minimal.

8. Physical Demands:

Work requires working with young children, including bending, kneeling and crouching for periods of time. It may also involve occasionally lifting or holding children during planned activities, and also may include changing nappies/ toileting duties. Activities may take place indoors, or outdoors.

9. Working Conditions:

Work involves significant elements of inside and outside work, including leading learning in an outside environment e.g. building a snowman with young children. Exposure to moderate noise, especially whilst working inside the nursery, e.g. a music session with young children. Other environments may include occasional trips to places of interest, e.g. local zoo.

10. Work Context:

There is a minimal risk of illness or injury working within the nursery setting.

11. Knowledge and Skills:

This role requires the ability to undertake work in one broad area of activity (i.e. a nursery/foundation stage unit with young children aged 3-5), with a good level of practical knowledge and skills, including:

Work with the children:

- Working with the teacher in planning and evaluating daily/weekly learning and care.
- Interacting with children and supporting development of their knowledge, skills, attitudes, problem solving and thinking.
- Monitoring and evaluating children's responses to learning activities through observation and planned recording of achievement against pre-determined learning objectives.
- Providing objective and accurate feedback and reports as required on child achievement progress and other matters to the teacher ensuring the availability of appropriate evidence.
- Encouraging children to interact and work co-operatively with others and engaging children in activities.
- Understanding and being able to implement inclusive practices into the setting, to ensure all children have the opportunity to learn, interact and fulfil their potential
- Working with the teacher to establish an appropriate safe and secure learning environment.
- Monitoring and evaluating children's responses to learning activities through observation and planned recording of achievement against pre-determined learning objectives.
- Having responsibility for keeping and updating records as agreed with the teacher, contributing to the reviews of systems/records as requested.
- Promoting positive values, attitudes and good child behaviour, dealing promptly with conflict and incidents in line with established policy and encouraging children to take responsibility for their own behaviour
- Establishing productive working relationships with children, acting as a role model and setting high expectations for behaviour and learning.

- Promoting independence and employing strategies to recognise and reward achievement of self-reliance
- Establishing productive working relationships with children, acting as a role model and setting high expectations for behaviour and learning.
- Working consistently whilst recognising and responding to individual children's needs
- Encouraging children to interact and work co-operatively with others and engaging children in activities.
- Providing feedback to children in relation to progress and achievement on a daily/weekly basis.
- Implementing agreed learning activities/teaching programmes, adjusting activities according to children's responses/needs.
- Awareness of specialist support services available to children and families, eg. Speech & Language Therapists
- Establishing constructive relationships and communicating with other agencies/professionals, in liaison with the teacher to support achievement and progress of children.
- Keep up to date with safeguarding requirements

Administration:

- Having responsibility for keeping and updating records as agreed with the teacher, contributing to the reviews of systems/records as requested.
- Accurately recording achievement/progress
- Provide general clerical/administrative support as required.

Liaison:

- Liaising sensitively and effectively with parents/carers
- Participating in feedback sessions/meetings with parents either alongside the teacher or as directed.
- Using specialist curricular/learning skills/training/experience
- Assisting with the development and implementation of IEP's/educational plans
- Implementing local and national learning and childcare strategies e.g. EYFS, Devon Quality Standards, making effective use of opportunities provided by other activities to support the development of relevant skills.
- Supporting the use of ICT in activities and developing children's competence and independence in its use.
- Determining the need for, preparation and maintenance of general and specialist equipment and resources
- Being aware of and complying with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health safety and security, confidentiality and data protection and reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.
- Being aware of and supporting difference and ensuring all children have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop.
- Contributing to the overall ethos./work/aims of the school.
- Providing appropriate guidance and general supervision to less experienced staff who may be undertaking duties/tasks as part of their personal development i.e. students, placements.

- Recognising own strengths and areas of expertise and using these to advise and support others
- Promoting and marketing the provision to prospective parents.

Other

A positive approach to continuous professional development, including accessing recommended training and development programmes as identified by the line manager.

Health & Safety:

Potential Hazards	Applicable to this job? (✓)	Action to be taken	<i>Examples of action to be taken (this list is not exhaustive)</i>
Display Screen Equipment	✓		<i>Conduct regular workstation assessments through Oshens software</i>
Electricity – fixed / portable			<i>Ensure PAT¹ certificates are up-to-date</i>
Manual handling	✓		<i>Ensure J/H attends appropriate training</i>
Verbal / physical abuse			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with appropriate policies & procedures</i>
Work equipment			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with all equipment and its proper usage and maintenance</i>
Fire			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with evacuation procedures and use of fire-fighting equipment (if appropriate)</i>
Environmental			<i>Wear appropriate PPE²</i>
Isolation / lone-working			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with appropriate policies & procedures</i>
Slips, trips & falls			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with appropriate policies & procedures</i>
Chemical			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with appropriate policies & procedures and wears PPE if required</i>
Working with Vulnerable persons			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with appropriate policies & procedures</i>
Premises related			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with appropriate policies & procedures</i>
Transport risks			<i>Ensure J/H is familiar with operation of vehicle(s) and safety procedures</i>
Working at heights			<i>Ensure J/H wears appropriate PPE and follows safe system of work</i>
Other hazards not identified above			<i>Deal with on an individual basis,</i>

¹ Portable appliance test

² Personal protective equipment

Job GLPC profile

SMP	C&I	C&R	D.D	D.C	Res	WDM	PDM	WCN	WCT	K&S	Score

Signatures:

I, the manager, confirm this is a true and accurate reflection of the job. This job description has been written in conjunction with the post holder (where applicable) who is aware that the post is being submitted for evaluation.

Job Description agreed by:

Job Holder (if in place): _____ **Date:** _____

Line/Originating Manager: _____ **Date:** _____

Head of Service/Head teacher _____ **Date:** _____