

Job description

**Job title:**

Senior Pepper Play Specialist (Suitable as a development post for a play specialist or an experienced Senior Play Specialist)

Contract Type:

Permanent – 30-37.5hrs

Location:

Community based in Herts & Bucks (as well as homeworking)

Salary:

£31,049-£33,487 FTE Dependant on Experience

Line Manager:

Lead Senior Play Specialist

Accountable to:

Lead Senior Play Specialist

About The Pepper Foundation:

The Pepper Foundation raises funds to provide children's hospice care at home in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. Since 1993, the charity has been ensuring that families caring for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions have access to essential clinical nursing care, and more recently, specialist play services and family days out too. It is our mission to provide families with the choice to stay in the comfort of their own homes at a time that is extremely challenging. We believe that it is important to ensure that families are able to stay together and that they are able to experience as much joy as possible in the time they have together. The Pepper Play Service is extremely important to our mission, as it means that children that are socially isolated, have the opportunity to play, develop and create happy memories.

Primary purposes of the post

As a Senior Play Specialist, you will work alongside the Lead Senior Play Specialist to deliver the Pepper Play Service. This service is predominantly an outreach model providing one to one specialised play sessions within children's homes, but on occasion may include within the hospital setting (on a specific patient basis for children who are already on the caseload), sessions may include siblings and other family members.

You will use theoretical knowledge and evidence-based practice to assess, plan, implement and evaluate therapeutic play interventions. As the Pepper foundation supports children who have a life limiting and life-threatening diagnosis, the children we support often have very complex needs (in terms of medical needs, physical needs, and may need full support to play in ways that are most appropriate and enjoyable for them and their needs). Sessions may include working with children who are at or approaching the end of their life. All play sessions with the Pepper Play Service have a large basis around enjoyment and memory making, however some sessions may include the more

formal aspects of memory making such as hand/ footprints, casting, creating memory boxes and albums.

The Pepper Play Service supports with family days and group sessions (for example music sessions), as a Senior Play Specialist you will support in the organisation of such events, including supporting with elements such as booking external activities and carrying out risk assessments.

As play is a vital part of children's holistic care, the Pepper Play Service works closely with the healthcare services supporting the children and families on our caseload – as such you will attend regular MDT meetings, providing regular feedback on play sessions, including notifying of any changes or concerns observed in sessions. You may at times be asked to support children with specific specialised play such as preparation, anxiety around procedures and post procedural play input.

You will ensure that the service is adhering to best practices within GDPR, Health & Safety, safeguarding and Policy & Procedure guidelines.

Area of operation

Covering Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Duties and responsibilities

- Carrying out assessment and induction process for new referrals, including risk assessments of the home and working alongside the lead play specialist to triage play and recreational needs.
- To use theoretical knowledge and evidence-based practice to; assess, plan and evaluate specialised play plans for children aged 0 – 19, who have life limiting or life threatening conditions.
- Deliver play services one-to-one or in small groups either in children's homes or another suitable location, with a parent, guardian or carer present at all times.
- Work in partnership with parents and/or carers and key workers/assigned nurses to implement planned play sessions, informing key professionals of any observations.
- To keep clear, documented evidence of each play session, in line with the Pepper Play Service's guidelines.
- Attend multi-disciplinary team meetings with healthcare providers (such as hospices, community nursing teams and hospital teams) in relation to children on the caseload.
- Organise family day events and group activities delivered by external providers.
- Work alongside the Lead Senior Play Specialist to support on-going monitoring of caseload and capacity.
- Work alongside the Lead Senior Play Specialist to ensure all play equipment is; safe, effective and stored/ transported in line with best practice.
- Work along side the Lead Senior Play Specialist to identify potential need for new resources and equipment to ensure all children's play needs are met, including supporting the fundraising team with applications for funding and purchasing process.
- To work inline with policy and procedure, including GDPR, safe guarding and infection control.

- Report and record all accidents and incidents in line with the safeguarding policy and other relevant policies.
- Represent The Pepper Foundation at relevant forums, conferences, and networking events-giving speeches or talks where needed.
- Attend Pepper events when appropriate to represent the charity and actively promote the impact of the Pepper Play Service and The Pepper Foundation.
- Work collaboratively with internal fundraising team to raise awareness of the service and assist with the preparation of case studies and other promotional assets.
- Support the Lead Senior Play Specialist to monitor service impact, outcomes, and feedback.
- Work with the Lead Senior Play Specialist to ensure you maintain your CPD required both for revalidation and your own personal goals for development.

Note

The above is not an exhaustive list of duties, and you will be expected to perform different tasks as necessitated by your changing role within the organisation and the overall business objectives of the charity

Person Specification

Area	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications, special training and education	• Registered & qualified Health Play Specialist holding the Foundation Degree in Health Care Play Specialism or previous HPSC/HPSEB, Edexcel PDC/HND in Hospital Play Specialism or oversees equivalent. • Full UK driving licence	• Evidence of continuing professional development. • Specific CPD in areas such as; advanced communication, memory making, grief loss and bereavement, sensory play.
Knowledge and experience	• Experience of working in partnership with families, healthcare professionals and organisations, as a part of an MDT. • Understanding developmental milestones and how these may differ for children who have additional needs (medical, physical and learning needs). • A good understanding of GDPR and patient confidentiality. • Knowledge of current guidelines relating to play in healthcare such as the NHS England Play well tool kit.	• Experience of working with children and young people with complex healthcare needs • Experience of working with children who are receiving Palliative/end of life care. • Experience of working with volunteers • Experience of grief, loss and bereavement support work • Experience of working independently as a lone worker in the community.

Area	Essential	Desirable
Skills and abilities	• Effective verbal, non-verbal and written communication skills. • Ability to plan and manage your own working day, effectively prioritising tasks and workload. • Ability to work independently as a lone worker without direct supervision or support. • Ability to adapt play interventions to different environments and situations that may arise during a play session. • Inclusive and adaptable in approaches to working with children and young people who have significant additional needs. • Ability to devise, plan and organise activities and events • Ability to record information in a concise, legible and accurate format • Ability to remain calm in highly stressful situations (including medical emergencies).	• Ability to devise, risk assess and co-ordinate group activity sessions. • Ability to use non-verbal communication methods with children who do not use words to communicate (e.g. eye gaze, switches, AAC devices).
Personal qualities	• Passionate about specialised play for children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions • Supportive of hospice care • Positive attitude • Enthusiastic • Professional manner • Approachable • Honest and trustworthy • Understanding of professional boundaries	
Special circumstances and additional requirements	• Basic IT skills including Microsoft 365 and use of databases • Car owner and driver with a full UK driving license - required to drive own car as part of the job • Requires motor business use insurance	

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the lead play specialist.

This job description does not attempt to describe all aspects of the role to be performed, but indicates the general role required of the post holder. It is open to review and as a result alterations and additions may be made.