



ROOM TO HEAL

Play Worker Job Description

Line manager: Community Manager

Working Hours: 3hrs on Monday morning fortnightly (until December 2023, with the possibility of extension, subject to funding)

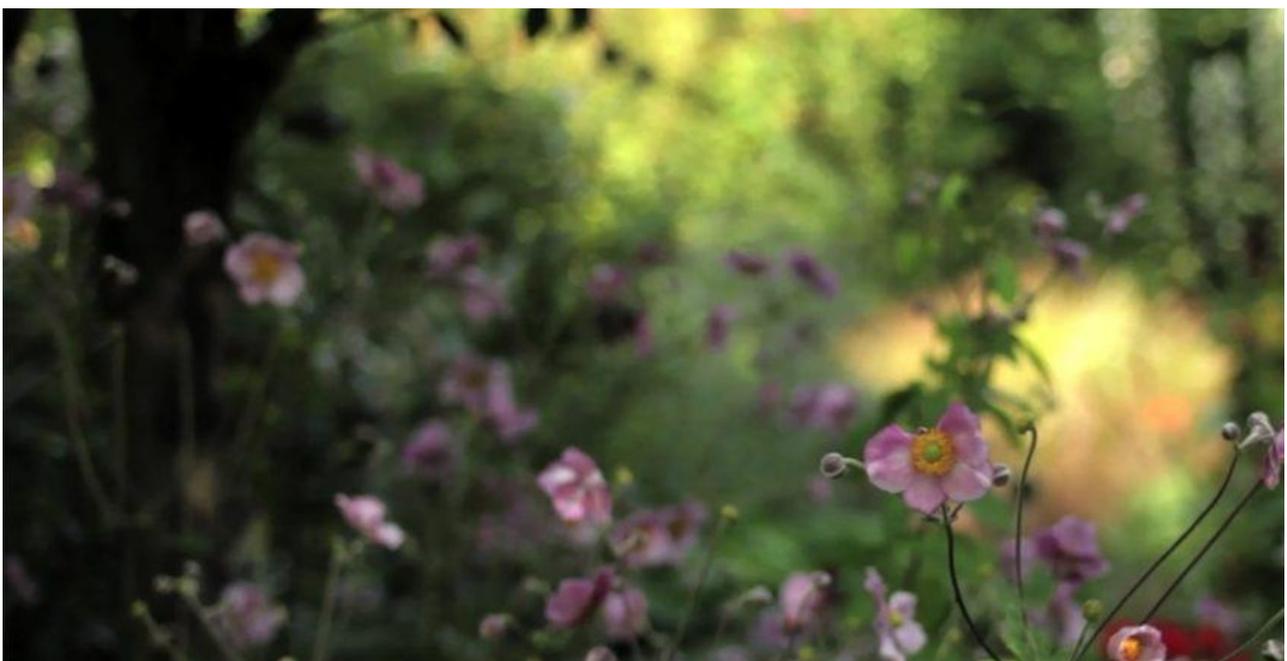
Contract type: Self-employed / freelance (and responsible for paying your own tax)

Start date: July/ August 2023

Pay rate: £30 per hour

Location: Newington Green, London

Qualifications: Formal qualification in a child care related subject



About Room to Heal

Room to Heal is a human rights charity and therapeutic community based in London. We support people who have survived torture and organised violence to rebuild their lives in exile, through an integrated programme of therapeutic and casework assistance. We offer a range of activities including: therapeutic support groups, gardening, individual therapy and casework, creative workshops, cooking and social gatherings, and therapeutic retreats.

At the heart of our work lies the cultivation of community, through which our members can restore meaningful relationships, overcome the legacy of their traumatic experiences and integrate into the UK. Our community is currently made up of over 100 community 'members' from over 35 countries: including former political prisoners; people who have been persecuted on account of their sexuality or religious belief; and those who have escaped trafficking.

Room to Heal's group resilience model is respectful of different cultural approaches to mental health and challenges the patient-expert model, putting refugees at the heart of their healing journey.

We are a small team of committed and hard working individuals who work collaboratively in a supportive and friendly environment.

Purpose of the role

Women who become new mothers whilst in one of our therapy groups, often drop out of therapy at this stage because it is difficult both to make the long journey to the group and to find appropriate childcare support to attend. New mothers have talked to us about feeling extremely isolated, with no one to turn to, and this being a period of particular distress. Based on this feedback, we decided to pilot a group for new mothers, together with their young children. We will be running an online therapeutic support group for mothers from July to December 2023, with the possibility of this extending, subject to funding.

As part of the Mothers' Project, we will run a fortnightly in-person social group for mothers and fathers and their children on Monday mornings. We are expecting to have approximately 10 children (mostly below school age) attending these sessions. The role of the Play Worker will be to support the parents and facilitate the play session. Your role will be to lead on fun activities for the children and to encourage them to use their imagination and make full use of the space and toys available. You will work closely with the therapists running the Mothers' Group, the caseworker and the Community Manager, who will oversee the project.

Main responsibilities

- To work with the team to create a welcoming, fun and safe environment for the social sessions
- To lead on planning and facilitating activities for the children
- To assist in maintaining the room and toys to the required standards of Health and Safety, including those of cleanliness and tidiness.
- To provide inclusive play opportunities

Person Specification

Qualification

- Formal qualification in a child care related subject - Early years level 2 or level 3
- Full Paediatric First Aid (PFA) or emergency PFA certificate

Essential skills and experience:

- Experience of working with mothers and children who are marginalised or affected by trauma
- Ability to work effectively within a team
- Understanding of health and safety practices
- Fun and open minded attitude to play
- Understanding of and commitment to equality of opportunity and diversity in practice and ability to apply this to practise
- Creative and enthusiastic

Desirable criteria:

- Experience of working/volunteering to support people who are seeking asylum or have refugee status
- Understanding of child protection issues
- Understanding of the importance of confidentiality and professional boundaries

Pre-engagement checks

- Qualifications check
- Enhanced DBS check
- Right to work in the UK

We invite you to join our diverse and inclusive team.