**Contracted Story Builder (weekends)**

Job Description

**About Discover:**

Discover is the UK’s first Story Centre for children aged 0-11 and their families, based in Stratford, rooted in the borough of Newham, and resonating through east London and beyond. We are an inspirational cultural resource, providing excellent story-based play and learning experiences for all children to support and develop a love of language, literature, and storytelling. At the heart of the centre are our purpose-built Story Worlds and Story Garden which are creative play spaces designed to inspire children’s curiosity, creativity, and imagination.

Our temporary interactive exhibitions immerse families in enchanting, fantastical worlds, often working with popular authors and illustrators. The current exhibition is based on the work of Dapo Adeola and Tolá Okogwu. We also curate a programme of high-quality story-telling events and throughout the year we invite much-loved and up-and-coming authors, illustrators, poets, musicians, artists, and storytellers to run workshops and events. Alongside the offer in our venue, we also deliver an extensive range of activities externally, creating and running programmes or events in schools, libraries, children’s centres, and parks.

**Overview:**

Story Builders bring Discover to life by telling stories, supporting play on our Story Worlds, helping visitors engage with crafts, stories and immersing themselves in our exhibitions. Story Builders work with families, schools, and community groups during their visits to Discover and at external events. They ensure our Story Worlds and exhibition spaces are welcoming and inviting by keeping them tidy and by actively engaging with visitors.

Story Builders come from a range of backgrounds, and we’d like to hear from people who like performing or storytelling or have a passion for working with children and families, children’s literature or stories. As a Story Builder, you will be a friendly, approachable member of the team and you will also be able to adapt and thrive in a busy children’s museum.

We offer paid training with ongoing support, flexibility with shift patterns, plus regular opportunities to extend your skills through taking on responsibilities to develop new creative activities or deliver outreach in libraries, schools or festival settings.

**Responsible to:**

* Head of Creative Programming (development, performance monitoring and appraisals)
* Duty Manager (day-to-day basis)

**Specific Responsibilities:**

**Main duties**

* Facilitating and encouraging the imaginative play of all visitors to Discover through stories and games. This is to stimulate the enjoyment of words, stories and reading.
* Ensuring the Story Worlds, 0-3's Story Spaces, Exhibition and Story Garden are set and maintained and presented to a high standard throughout the day. This will include tidying and ensuring material supplies are maintained as required.
* Delivering storytelling sessions for families and community groups, both internally at Discover every day, and occasionally at external venues.
* Facilitating sessions and workshops for primary-aged school classes, at Discover and in school settings
* Encouraging adults to be involved and engaged with their children's play.
* Creating a warm and inviting welcome to visitors and responding to all visitor enquiries in a helpful and informative manner.
* Supporting other Story Builders, Visitor Service staff and the Operations team in the smooth-running of the visitor experience.
* Maintaining awareness of Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Security.
* Assisting with the research, development and implementation of new programmes when required and as instructed by the Head of Creative Programming.

**Contract Terms:**

* Contract: permanent, minimum 1 day per week – variety of contracts available
* Fixed Days: This is role is advertised for Saturday and/or Sunday working (additional shifts can be picked up during the week).
* Pay: £14.02 per hour
* Holidays: 25 paid holiday days pro rata
* Hours: 9.30am – 5.30pm (with one-hour unpaid lunch break)

Our contract staff are also able to pick up additional, casual shifts when available.

**Person Specification:**

**Essential**

* Comfortable working with children 0-11, with experience of helping children and their families with creative or play-based activities.
* Have performance experience.
* Be flexible and adaptable, with an ability to be proactive and demonstrate initiative.
* Have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to engage professionally with a range of people.
* Have the ability to keep calm under pressure.
* Be available during public holidays and weekends.
* Be committed to promoting equal opportunities.

**Desirable**

* Have an active interest in Children’s Literature, Early Years and Primary learning and a commitment to the creative development of children.
* Have an awareness of different learning abilities and styles.
* Have some experience storytelling for and engaging children with Special Educational Needs.
* Be experienced in delivering creative, arts-based activity for children and families.

**To apply:**

Please email your CV, a completed Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form, and a brief cover letter outlining how you meet the job criteria to recruitement@discover.org.uk by 9am on Friday 10 May 2024.

Please note that we are looking for someone with immediate availability.