



## Lead Teacher Environmental Educator

### Job Description

The Darien Nature Center envisions a community that is deeply connected to nature and inspired to take action to preserve and protect it. We inspire passion and respect for the natural world through nature education, hands-on experiences with nature, and environmental action and stewardship.

This is a great opportunity for educators who have a passion for nature and love sharing its wonders with children.

Lead teacher expectations:

- Embrace the Darien Nature Center philosophy of nature-based play and incorporate these experiences into daily lessons.
- Be a nature enthusiast. Share your curiosity, excitement, and sense of wonder with the children every day.
- Use natural materials as much as possible, and creating with process art is encouraged
  - Process art: where the act of creation, the gathering, experimenting, and experiencing is the primary focus, rather than the finished product
- Responsible for the care and safety of all children enrolled in designated class. Must supervise children at all times.
- In advance, prepare daily lesson plans based on the provided curriculum. Begin each day prepared with the materials expected to be used.
- Seek out and utilize available materials, artifacts, books, and live animals to enhance lessons.
- Keep classroom materials clean and organized. Change classroom materials frequently to reflect curriculum.
- Be an active example of a nature explorer. Come ready to get down on the floor/ground and explore alongside the children. Come ready to be outside in all weather.
- Greet students and parents in a relaxed, friendly tone.
- Communicate with parents on an ongoing basis.
- Keep the focus on the children during drop-off and throughout the day. Reserve parent conversations or conferences for after class.
- Ensure the conversations you are having with other teachers are appropriate for little listeners.
- Encourage children to try new things, whether it's a different toy, manipulative, or place they sit for a snack.
- Help children resolve conflicts by identifying feelings, describing problems, and trying alternative solutions.
- Organize time and space so that children have the opportunities to work/play individually and in groups.
- Modify strategies and materials in response to the needs and interests of each class.
- Ask for help when you need support in coming up with ideas, solving problems, etc. Your teaching team is a great resource!
- One of the things that makes our programs unique is the use of live animals in the classroom. Try to use them daily!
- Use inclusive language – ex: kids, friends, families, grown-ups, etc.
- Treat all caregivers equally. Do not assume parentage. Use “grown-up” in place of babysitter, grandparent, or parent if you are unsure.
- Acknowledge different holidays and traditions. Don't assume everyone celebrates the same things/ways as you.

**EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**Position applied for:** \_\_\_\_\_

Days/Hours available to work: \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION**

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Years Completed \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_ Years Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Business or Professional School \_\_\_\_\_ Years Completed \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND**

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY CRIME, including sex-related or child-abuse related offenses? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

If yes, explain the number of conviction(s), nature of offenses(s) leading to conviction(s), how recently such offense(s) was/were committed, sentence(s) imposed, and types(s) of rehabilitation.

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