ABINGDONCAROUSEL

Holiday Playworker Recruitment Pack

Job Advert

Following our successful application to Oxfordshire Community Foundation's Step Change grant programme, we are thrilled to be hiring for a Playworker to support session delivery during the school holidays.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable playworker to support the Holiday Lead Playworker to deliver high quality stay and play sessions. The working hours are 5 hours per day, which includes an additional hour per day to set up before and clear up after sessions.

Candidates will need to agree to undertake training in food hygiene, safeguarding and paediatric first aid if they do not have current qualifications .

For an informal chat and / or to arrange a visit to Abingdon Carousel, please contact Emily Rawle at e.rawle@abingdoncarousel.org.uk

To apply, please download and complete the application form and send to office@abingdoncarousel.org.uk by 5pm on Sunday 8th November 2026.

Abingdon Carousel is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults. We expect all employees, workers and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect these commitments.



Job Summary



"Carousel takes the loneliness out of childcare"



"to take advantage of an outdoor space where my daughter can play! We don't have a garden"

Job Title: Holiday Playworker
Pay: £13.50 per hour
Hours: 5 hours per day (approx. 52 sessions per year throughout the school holidays)
Contract: Permanent
Location: Abingdon Carousel, Caldecott Chase, Abingdon, OX14 5GZ
Reports to: Holiday Lead Playworker

Closing date: 8 November 2026, 5pm
Interviews: In week of 16th November 2026
Start date: As soon as possible

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Job Description

Sessions

- To support in the delivery of a wide range of creative activities which provide support and opportunities for children and their families during the school holidays
- To work within Early Years Statutory Framework (EYFS) to encourage learning and development in the identified key areas.
- To ensure that activities are inclusive by addressing barriers to participation.
- To ensure that children's play opportunities are of a high quality and that parents/ carers are encouraged to become involved in their children's learning through playing with them, observations and discussion about their development.
- To ensure that the voices of parents/ carers and children are captured to inform the development of Carousel's services.
- To create an open and supportive environment where parents/ carers feel comfortable and welcome to participate.
- To work with volunteers in sessions, providing guidance and ensuring they feel supported and confident to fulfil their role.
- To maintain accurate attendance and registration records as needed and support Carousel's Manager / Administrator as needed to ensure this data is compiled.
- To manage resources and suggest new resources as needed.
- To ensure that the environment and resources are set up prior to the commencement of the sessions and cleared away at the end of the session.

Signposting and Support

- To work in partnership with parents/ carers to help them identify and understand their own adult needs, those of their children, and of their family unit. Enable them to make informed choices and respond in such a way that they promote the health and wellbeing of their children.
- To work positively with Carousel staff, volunteers and staff from other statutory and voluntary agencies in order to provide accessible and effective support for families.
- To provide information to parents and families on activities in the local area.
- To develop knowledge of local services and organisations in order to signpost additional support options to families.

Job Description

Safeguarding

- To be familiar with Carousel and OSCP safeguarding protocols and procedures, be professionally curious keeping the welfare and protection of the child as paramount and bring to the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead, any matter of concern relating to families.
- To ensure you keep accurate records and reports in relation to any safeguarding concerns.

General

- To preserve the confidentiality of any information regarding users of the services, staff (in connection with their employment), any other information deemed confidential.
- To understand and work within Carousel's policies and procedures.
- To contribute to health and safety working practices in the workplace bringing to the attention of the manager any unsafe or potentially hazardous situations, reporting any accidents or injuries. Also, to contribute to risk assessment annual reviews.
- To be involved in any general domestic duties as required and to assist in the safe storage of equipment, helping to maintain everyday play and kitchen equipment in a good, safe and clean condition.
- To maintain a positive public image of Carousel, ensuring that complaints and issues are handled effectively and sensitively by following the necessary procedures.
- To actively participate in training and personal development as agreed with the Manager.
- To support the promotion of Carousel, its activities and services, including through creating social media posts.
- To carry out any other duties to the post as may be reasonably required by the Manager and by the trustees.

Person Specification

Essential

- Have experience of working with children and families in a play, early years, childcare, community or similar setting.
- Good understanding of child development and the importance of play in supporting children's learning and wellbeing.
- Understanding of safeguarding and child protection responsibilities, with a commitment to keeping children safe.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build positive relationships with children, parents, carers and colleagues.
- Ability to plan and deliver fun, creative, engaging and age-appropriate play activities.
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, with the ability to support children and families from different backgrounds and with varying needs.
- Have the ability to support volunteers.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team.
- A caring, approachable and non-judgemental attitude towards children and families, including those experiencing additional challenges.
- Understanding of the importance of maintaining a safe, welcoming and stimulating play environment.
- Enthusiastic, reliable, patient, flexible and creative, with a willingness to undertake relevant training and professional development.



I really appreciated finding a place where I could take my three little girls on a Saturday. When I first visited the centre I had 18 month twins and a four year old, so getting out and about was a real challenge. The Saturday Club was perfect, as it was a safe and cosy space for them to play outside of the home. The staff and other families were also really warm and welcoming, and it was lovely to have the chance to chat and relax with other families.



"The only baby club that feels like home"