ABINGDONCAROUSEL

Holiday Lead Playworker Recruitment Pack

Job Advert

Following our successful application to Oxfordshire Community Foundation's Step Change grant programme, we are thrilled to be hiring a Lead Playworker to take the lead on planning, preparation and session delivery during the school holidays.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and reliable Lead Playworker to deliver high quality stay and play sessions. The working hours are 6 hours per day, which includes 2 additional hours for planning, preparation, set up and pack down.

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 Lead Playworker
Pay: £14.50 per hour
Hours: 6 hours per day (approx. 52 days per year throughout the school holidays)
Contract: Permanent
Location: Abingdon Carousel, Caldecott Chase, Abingdon, OX14 5GZ
Reports to: Centre Director

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

Line Management

- To line manage the Holiday Playworker and support them in the delivery of high-quality school holiday sessions.
- To provide clear direction regarding roles, responsibilities and expectations before and during each session.
- To provide regular check-ins, feedback and support, identifying any training or development needs.
- To undertake an annual appraisal, in line with Carousel's procedures.
- To support the Holiday Playworker to develop their skills and confidence in working with children and families, including families with SEND children.
- To address any concerns relating to performance, conduct or practice promptly and appropriately, seeking support from the Centre Director where required.
- To provide leadership to volunteers supporting holiday sessions, ensuring that they understand their role and feel supported and confident.

Sessions

- To take the lead in planning, preparing, delivering and evaluating the Stay & Play sessions during school holidays.
- To develop a varied and engaging programme of activities which responds to the ages, interests, abilities and needs of the children attending.
- To plan and facilitate activities which may include arts and crafts, cooking and baking, sensory and messy play, physical play, imaginative and role play, games and other creative or child-led activities.
- To ensure activities provide opportunities for children to make choices, explore, develop independence and learn through play.
- To work within the Early Years Statutory Framework (EYFS), where applicable, to encourage children's learning and development across the identified key areas.
- To adapt activities appropriately for older children attending sessions, ensuring opportunities remain engaging, age-appropriate and inclusive.
- To ensure activities are inclusive and accessible by identifying and addressing barriers to participation and making reasonable adaptations where appropriate.
- 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 play and learning.
- To create an open, supportive and welcoming environment where children, parents and carers feel comfortable, included and able to participate.
- To capture the voices and feedback of children and parents/carers to help evaluate sessions and inform the ongoing development of Carousel's holiday provision.
- To respond flexibly during sessions, adapting planned activities according to attendance, children's interests and needs, weather, resources or other circumstances.

Job Description

Signposting and Support

- To build positive and supportive relationships with children, parents and carers attending sessions.
- To work in partnership with parents/carers to support their children's play, learning, development and wellbeing.
- To be approachable and responsive to families who may require additional information or support.
- To provide information to parents and families about Carousel activities and other relevant activities within the local area.
- To develop knowledge of local services and organisations in order to appropriately signpost families to additional support.
- To work positively with Carousel staff, volunteers and staff from statutory and voluntary agencies to provide accessible and effective support for families.

Administration and Session Management

- To maintain accurate attendance and registration records for holiday sessions and support Carousel's Administrator as required to ensure information is compiled accurately.
- To ensure relevant information about children attending, including allergies, additional needs or other information necessary for their safe participation, is understood by the appropriate session staff.
- To support the effective use of session spaces, equipment and resources.
- To contribute to the evaluation of holiday sessions, including recording attendance, feedback and learning which can inform future provision.
- To communicate any significant session issues, incidents, resource requirements or concerns to the Centre Director.

Safeguarding

- To be familiar with and work within Carousel and OSCP's safeguarding protocols and procedures.
- To maintain professional curiosity, keeping the welfare and protection of children as paramount at all times.
- To bring any matter of concern relating to a child or family promptly to the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- To ensure accurate records and reports are maintained in relation to safeguarding concerns.
- To promote safe and appropriate working practices amongst the Holiday Sessions Playworker and volunteers and raise any concerns about practice promptly.
- To ensure appropriate professional boundaries are maintained with children and families.

Person Specification

Essential

- ·Have experience of working with children and families in a play, early years, childcare, family support or similar setting.
- Have experience of planning and delivering engaging activities for children.
- Have a good understanding of children's play, learning and development and an awareness of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
- Be confident in leading four-hour Stay & Play sessions and adapting activities in response to children's needs and interests.
- Be able to plan and deliver a range of creative activities, with confidence in areas such as arts and crafts, cooking/baking, sensory play and active play.
- Have the ability to lead, support and supervise another Playworker and volunteers.
- Have a good understanding of safeguarding responsibilities when working with children and families.
- Understand the importance of inclusion and be able to adapt activities to enable children with differing needs and abilities to participate.
- Be confident communicating with children, parents/carers, colleagues, volunteers and other professionals.
- Be organised and able to plan activities, manage resources and maintain appropriate records.
- Be able to work independently, use initiative and respond calmly and appropriately to changing circumstances during sessions.
- Be committed to creating a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment for children and families.
- Be willing to undertake relevant training and continuing 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"