

Job Description - Drama Facilitator

Job title: Hackney KidsTime Drama Facilitator

Reporting to: Workshop Lead

Job Location: Linden Children's Centre, 86-92 Rectory Road, Hackney, London N16 7SH

Hours: 4 hours per month. The Hackney KidsTime Workshop takes place on the last Thursday of every month, excluding August, from 5-7.30pm

Salary: £35.00 per hour

Contract Length: 12 months

Main purpose of the job

To lead drama sessions with children as part of multi-family workshops for families where a parent has a mental illness or mental health difficulties. The workshops will involve multiple families and include children, young people and their parents/carers, and/or members of the extended family.

The KidsTime Workshops

KidsTime Workshops are multifamily workshops for families where one or more of the parents has a mental illness or mental health difficulties. These unique sessions create a safe, supportive and relaxed space for families that live with mental illness in a parent. Here, young people can express themselves amongst others in the same situation. Together, they learn about mental illness through discussion, drama and games. Meanwhile, their parents can connect with each other, creating a supportive community of shared experience.

Three pillars underpin our work with children and young people whose parents have a mental illness:

- Children and young people who have a parent with a mental illness need to know they are not alone.
- They deserve a good explanation of mental illness.
- They should all have a trusted adult to talk to, outside of the family.

KidsTime Workshops take place once a month, after school for approximately 2.5 hours. The Hackney KidsTime Workshop will consist of 11 monthly, after school workshops (excluding August), with up to 15 families.

You can find out more about the KidsTime Workshop model here:

ourtime.org.uk/ourwork/kidstime-workshops

Principal tasks & responsibilities

- Work with the Mental Health Lead and Coordinator to plan, deliver and monitor workshops for families where one or more parents have a mental health difficulty.
- Design and lead the children's drama sessions within the workshops including a range of games and exercises. Your focus will be the children's session, however you will also be involved in designing and facilitating the whole family session, facilitating games and activities to encourage family engagement and discussion.
- Work with the children to help them express themselves and gain confidence in being in a group.
- Develop children's stories into a short, basic drama that is filmed at the end of the children's session.
- Facilitate group discussion after showing the drama film or presenting outputs from the drama session.
- Keep a record of key issues discussed with the children in each group, any significant incidents that occur, and any positive or negative feedback from the group for discussion with the Clinical Lead.
- To observe confidentiality in all matters relating to group participants consistent with organisational policies and legislation and report any safeguarding issues promptly and appropriately.
- Work with the Mental Health Lead and Coordinator to assist with the collation of project data and evaluation for reporting to Our Time.

- Keep up to date with new evidence and information about the challenges faced by families affected by parental mental ill-health and share this with group participants, as appropriate.
- Act as a positive ambassador for the KidsTime Workshops in all opportunities.

Person Specification - KidsTime Drama Facilitator

Essential criteria

Experience

- Relevant experience of group facilitation.
- Experience in drama through acting, directing or other arts training.
- Experience of using drama, with an emphasis on storytelling, to facilitate group work with vulnerable children and young people.

Skills & abilities

- Ability to facilitate group exercises with children, young people and adults, creating a safe space, developing and modelling appropriate boundaries.
- Ability to ensure children do not feel exposed by the stories and experiences they are sharing (e.g. use of composite stories, character names rather than participant names, with adequate debriefing).
- Ability to engage easily with children in discussion of potentially difficult topics.
- Ability to react calmly to any confusing or challenging situations at the workshops.
- Ability to recognise and intervene when children are either in an unsafe situation, or when the level of response to a child is inadequate or inappropriate.

- Ability to work organically with the group; adapting, being flexible and changing plans as necessary.
- Ability to work under pressure, whilst maintaining a safe, fun, playful atmosphere.
- Ability to lead the drama sessions with playful authority, inspiring confidence, self-discovery and encouraging creativity.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills appropriate for a wide range of audiences.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively within a team and also with a degree of independence.

Knowledge

- Strong commitment to the issue of mental health and commitment to respecting diversity in all its forms.
- Understanding of the challenges in the lives of children and young people who have a parent with a mental health problem.
- Knowledge of safeguarding policies and procedures and an ability to react appropriately and consult with the relevant professionals when a safeguarding concern arises.
- Knowledge of health and social care services, public health and local government bodies.

Desirable criteria

- Degree or equivalent qualification or significant experience in the field of drama/arts/mental health.
- Experience of working with children, young people and families in a mental health capacity.
- Understanding of project evaluation approaches.