

Job title: Assistant Teacher

Location: Position at one of our three locations (Hastings-on-Hudson, NY; Yonkers, NY; Ossining, NY)

Age group: Mixed-age (3-5 years old) or Toddler (2-3 years old)

Who we Are

Little Leaf is a play-based nature preschool that places the values of love, joy, and community at the center of everything we do. Little Leaf's mission includes creating a learning environment that nurtures a child's mind and body, and respects the wonder and magic of early childhood. We are dedicated to providing a daily experience that emphasizes play, social-emotional learning, and a connection to the natural world. Little Leaf's work is aligned with important environmental standards, as we strive to create stewards of the planet and young naturalists. Our approach is inspired by Reggio Emilia, Waldorf, Forest Kindergartens, and Coyote Mentoring. Each class engages in a curriculum that emerges directly from the interests of the children. Our teachers are warm and direct children's behaviors in a positive way, always considering the needs of the child.

What you'll do

The responsibilities of this position will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Communicate with children using developmentally appropriate language.
- Provide emotional support to children during separation from parents at drop-off and throughout the day.
- Daily set-up/clean-up of indoor and outdoor classroom materials, including snack prep and clean-up.
- Ensure visual supervision and child safety at all times, and communicate with your team throughout the day about student:teacher ratios, student needs and behavior, etc.
- Assist children with dressing in their outdoor gear as they transition between our indoor and outdoor spaces, while empowering them to develop self-help skills.
- Work with your teaching team to maintain a flexible yet consistent daily schedule/routine for the children.
- Engage in ongoing and open communication with colleagues to ensure a community of trust and safety.
- Participate in planning emergent curriculum that meets the needs of individual learning styles.
- Support children in building independence and confidence, and guide them in becoming responsible integral members of their class community.
- Treat each child with dignity and respect, and approach all interactions with empathy and understanding.
- Observe and respond to children's physical needs, including toileting and first-aid.
- Actively participate in staff development meetings and contribute during meetings with your team.
- Participate in school-based and other professional development opportunities, some of which occur outside of school hours.

What is required

- Experience working with children ages 2-5 (preferably in a child care setting), and knowledge of/comfortability with the general developmental needs of this age group.
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather, including rain, snow, heat, and cold.

- A background check and 15 hours of state-mandated training.
- Complete the required training and professional development throughout the school year and attend monthly staff meetings (off-hours)

Helpful qualifications

- Preferred: College degree (or in the process) or Child Development Associate (CDA)
- Experience working with children in a childcare setting.
- Three positive references that demonstrate your ability to lovingly work with children.
- General knowledge of our school philosophies, mission, and values (www.littleleafschool.com)
- Willing to learn about the following educational approaches: Reggio Emilia, Waldorf Education, Forest Kindergarten, Coyote Mentoring.

Hours & Compensation

We have both morning positions open (approximately 8:30-1 or 8:45-12:15). This position is M-F September through June, with some training days before the start of school. We offer a competitive salary depending on role.

Equal Employment Opportunity

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status, disability, or any other factors prohibited by law.

How to apply

Email your resume to Theresa McCaffrey at tmccaffrey@littleleafschool.com. Please include the position you are applying for in the subject of your email.