



Playground is intended to build upon the success of the **Playground** pilot that took place in Kent 2018-19. Links to further information on the pilot project are below

[Playground Report](#)

[Playground documentary](#)

This second phase is supported by Kent County Council's Children and Young People Programme – [Reconnect](#) in the context and recognition that Covid has had a major impact on all sectors of our society but in particular on children and young people.

The **Playground** project recognises that the first years of life are the most critical having a lasting impact on a child's ability to learn and succeed in school and life. **Playground** aims to inspire disadvantaged young children and their families by immersing them and those who care for them in creative activity that is deeply engaging, transformative and above all fun. **Playground** Artists will work in libraries and early years settings with mentoring from highly experienced artists and professionals to develop their understanding, creative skills and confidence in working with very young children and their families. Working alongside library and early years staff, parents and carers you will aim to empower them with the confidence and enthusiasm for continued and sustained creative engagement with their children.

As lead artists you will undertake Artist-led research mentored by highly experienced academics from the University of Kent and University of Stavanger. We are really interested to understand the impact the project might have on artists' practice as well as on the work of library and early years staff. [Playground Evaluation Plan](#)

Playground will take place in sessions in libraries and early years settings throughout Kent over the next 8 months culminating in a celebration of the creativity of babies and their families on Baby Day in May 2022.

**Freelance contract fixed fee £17,000 with contribution towards travel costs
(18 October 2021-6 May 2022) average 20 hrs per week**

You will need to be available for 2 full days of in person training and mentoring with Rhona Matheson, Chief Executive, (Starcatchers) and Heather Armstrong, Head of Early Years Development (Starcatchers) on the 18th and 19th October.

Artist Mentors

- - Nils and Siri Dybvik [DybwikDans](#)
- - Rhona Matheson and Heather Armstrong [Starcatchers](#)
- - [Anna Newell](#)

Purpose of the role

To support the Creative Director and session artists to deliver the objectives of the project

Key activities

- Work with Playground mentors to develop understanding and knowledge of creative work with early years
- Plan and deliver weekly creative sessions
- Develop creative activity packs
- Support and mentor sessional Artists on the project
- Work in close partnership with library and early years staff recognising the value of mutual sharing of skills and experience
- With the Marketing and Engagement Officer create and share content that can be used online; contribute to blogs and other social media activity.
- Undertake Artist-led research to understand the impact of project on artists, library and early years staff
- Contribute to weekly reports capturing what was delivered, artistically, and the responses from participants
- Positively represent Playground at events/meetings
- Work with the Playground team to ensure evaluation, reporting and funding targets are met.
- Organise family workshops, events and consultation sessions

Qualifications and experience required

- Degree (or equivalent professional experience) in the arts
- Experience or interest in working with early years children (ages 0-2) and their families
- Experience of working in a multi-disciplinary environment
- Experience of working collaboratively and co-facilitating sessions
- Minimum three years work experience in creating and leading imaginative creative engagement activity

Essential skills and abilities

- A creative mind with the ability to generate innovative ideas and projects
- A commitment to creating experiences that are fun, inspire, and fire the imagination
- A demonstrable commitment to the principles of equal opportunity, cultural diversity and broadening access to the arts
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- Excellent interpersonal, organisational and planning skills
- An ability to develop good working relationships with artists, project partners, funders and other staff

Desirable

- A full driving licence and access to own car, or ability to travel within Kent
- An understanding of the developmental stages in early childhood development
- An understanding of and commitment to the United Nations Rights of the Child

These roles will require an enhanced DBS check

How to Apply

To apply, please send us a short statement, (max 2 sides A4 or equivalent) covering:

- Why you are interested in this project
- The ideas that you are interested in exploring
- Your experience and/or interest in working with early years
- How you fit the qualities required for the role (see essential skills and abilities requirement above)
- Please also include a link to more information about yourself and your practice and/or previous work, or attach a CV.

Alternatively, you may submit a video application (max 5 mins) outlining your skills, experience and artistic vision along with your qualifications and work history details.

Email to: Please email your application to liz.moran@kent.gov.uk

Closing date: Monday 13 September at 12 noon. Please note that applications received after 12 noon on the 13th cannot be considered.

Interview dates: Interviews will take place via zoom on **Friday 24th or Monday 27th September.**

Application Support: If you would like any of this information in a different format or require further support in making an application, please contact us directly. Please also tell us about any access requirements you may have to support you to undertake this project.

We recognise there are barriers to working in the creative sector and that these challenges are experienced more acutely by some people. We are committed to increasing the diversity of artists working in our sector creating a workforce representative of the diverse communities we work with. We actively encourage applications from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Disabled people.

