



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

Playground commences on Monday 18 October 2021 and will run until 6 May 2022

£20 per hour, average 4 hrs per week with contribution to offset travel costs.

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 Dybwik [DybwikDans](#)
- Rhona Matheson and Heather Armstrong [Starcatchers](#)
- [Anna Newell](#)

Purpose of the role

To support the Creative Director and Lead Artists to deliver the objectives of the project

Key activities

- Work with Playground mentors and Lead Artists to develop understanding and knowledge of creative work with early years
- Work with the Playground Lead Artists to contribute to and support delivery of weekly sessions
- 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.
- Work with the Playground team to ensure evaluation, reporting and funding targets are met.
- Contribute to weekly reports capturing what was delivered, artistically, and the responses from participants
- Attend relevant training as and when required

Qualifications and experience required

- An early career artist in any discipline
- Experience or interest in working with early years children (ages 0-2) and their families
- Interest in working in a multi-disciplinary environment

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

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.

