

Job Title	Self-employed Play Worker
Hours of work	7.5 hours per week for 10 weeks across three Mothers In Mind groups
Salary	£34 per session (2.5 hours), £102 per week (three sessions)

Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester is a voluntary organisation committed to promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under five years of age. We are recruiting for a self-employed Play Worker to support children attending with their mothers at our Mothers in Mind sessions across our Stroud, Quedgeley and Gloucester groups.

The Mothers in Mind group is a 10 week peer support group during term-time, offering mums a place to find comfort, advice and support while experiencing anxiety, depression, low mood, OCD, or loneliness around the time of pregnancy or after birth. The group is a place for sharing thoughts and experiences, taking part in activities or solely enjoying the company of other mums and their children. The aim is to provide reassurance to mothers coping with moderate to severe mental health concerns in a non-judgemental way. We welcome babies and up to preschool aged children to ensure support to our mums, where there will be child-friendly activities.

We need an experienced and qualified Play Worker for each session of 2 hours plus 30 minutes support in setting up/clearing down. We may consider different Play Workers per location but ideally would like one person to cover all three groups:

*Mondays – Kingfisher Church, Tredworth
Sept 19th – Nov 28th @10.30am-12.30pm*

*Wednesdays – Randwick Scout Hut
Sept 21st – Nov 30th @ 10am-12pm*

*Thursdays – Kingsway Sports Pavilion
Sept 22nd – 1st Dec @ 10.30-12.30pm*

Main Responsibilities

- To set up play areas, materials, and equipment for each MiMs session
- To lead age-appropriate games and activities
- To supervise children whilst their mums attend the session (held in same room)
- To talk to children about their concerns or worries

- To model good behaviour to the children
- To build relationships with parents and carers.
- To keep accurate records of any incidents
- To ensure that the play space is healthy, safe and secure
- To debrief with staff and volunteer after each session to share any progress and/or concerns with children.

Skills and Personal Qualities Needed

Playworkers should:

- Have previous experience and qualifications relevant to the post.
- Be able to build good relationships with children and their parents and carers.
- Be good at listening to and socialising with children.
- Understand the play needs of children up to pre-school age.
- Provide a stimulating but safe environment.
- Be aware of health and safety issues.
- Be able to work well as a member of a team.
- Have good communication skills.
- Be flexible and adaptable.
- Have a sense of fun.
- Be patient and tolerant, with the ability to remain calm and work well under pressure.
- Have a reasonable level of physical fitness.
- Understand play work principles.
- Have a positive attitude towards children and enjoy working with them.

You'll need to pass enhanced background checks and have access to your own transport.

Please email CVs and a covering letter to groups@homestartsd.org

Deadline for applications: 19th August but we may appoint a suitable candidate before the deadline date.