



Job Information Pack

Early Years Lead Practitioner

Noah's Ark Pre-School

Gracious Street Methodist Church, Knaresborough, HG5 8AN

Closing date: **12th August 2025, Noon**
Interviews: **19th August 2025**



Noah's Ark is a pre-school based in Gracious Street Methodist Church that welcomes, values and respects the uniqueness of each child and family.

We believe that working closely in partnership with parents will help each child thrive, enjoy and achieve.

We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experiences and environment we provide.

Noah's Ark Pre-school is part of Gracious Street Methodist Church, Knaresborough, and occupies dedicated and secure inside and outdoor spaces within the Church premises. We are an outstanding 20 place, TTO early years setting and currently employ five members of staff.

The pre-school works under the authority of the Church Council through a sub-committee of volunteers and parents who support the staff with policy and finance. Situated in the centre of Knaresborough, an ancient North Yorkshire market town, our premises are easily accessible from the Market Square or the bus station and are adjacent to one of the town's carparks.

Our Early Years work began in 1993 and has been expanding and developing ever since, at our last OFSTED inspection in the summer of 2024 the setting was rated **"outstanding in all areas."**

- We believe that childhood is a time for children to be, to explore and make meaning of their world. A sense of trust, security and belonging helps them to build positive relationships as well as respect for themselves and others.
- We believe when children are allowed to follow their own interests and motivations, and take age-appropriate risks within a safe, warm, caring and supportive learning environment, they will develop an eagerness to learn and acquire the skills needed for formal learning to take place later.

Our pre-school welcomes children aged two years to five years from a wide variety of backgrounds, different ethnicities and faiths, as well supporting children with SEND and children with EAL.

The Christian festivals are recognised and celebrated with families and children are sensitively encouraged to take part whatever their background. We promote the learning and development of all children, ensuring their entire early years' experience contributes positively to their holistic development and their eventual transition into school. The setting always has a healthy waiting list and benefits from a good reputation in the local area.





About the job:

We are seeking an Early Years Lead Practitioner. This role is 30 hours per week, term-time-only (TTO) post, that is a hands-on role. It requires the successful applicant to work closely with our staff team, children, management committee and the Rev Gordon Hay, minister at Gracious Street Methodist Church.

Learn more:

Visit our [website](#) to discover more about our amazing pre-school, rated outstanding Summer 2024. Visit the Gracious Street Methodist Church [website](#) to understand more about our wider community and missional work.

Next steps:

We actively encourage enquiries and welcome informal conversations about this exciting opportunity. In the first instance direct these by email to myself at hr@yorkshirenemethodist.org

- To download an application form, visit our [website](#).
- Please return completed application forms by email to our [District HR Advisor](#).

Anticipated timeline:

1. Closing date:	15 th August 2025
2. Interview date:	w/c 18 th August 2025
3. Anticipated start:	ASAP

- We reserve the right to close the vacancy earlier than this date should a sufficient number of applications be received.
- Interviews will be held in-person at Noah's Ark Pre-School, Knaresborough, HG5 8AN.

On behalf of the Gracious Street Methodist Church trustees and the management committee at Noah's Ark Pre-School, thank you for your interest in this post. I look forward to hearing from you.

With good wishes,

Doreen Whittaker
Chair of committee



Job Title: Early Years Lead Practitioner
Employed by: Gracious Street Methodist Church
Location: Noah's Ark Pre-school, Knaresborough, HG5 8AN

Reports to: Accountable to the Managing Trustees of Gracious Street Methodist Church through the appointment of a Line Manager.

Key relationships:
(Internal)

- Staff and volunteer team at Noah's Ark.
- Minister in Pastoral Charge of Gracious Street Methodist Church.
- Management committee at Noah's Ark.
- Trustees of Gracious Steet Methodist Church.

Key relationships:
(External)

- Parents, guardians and carers of attending Children.
- Regulatory bodies with a relevant interest in Noah's Ark.
- The wider community, including groups and businesses.

Purpose of role:

- To support the aims and objectives of Noah's Ark, a pre-school within the Christian setting of Gracious Street Methodist Church assisting in the organisation and delivery of high-quality provision for Children.
- To plan and deliver effective daily management in accordance with relevant legislation and requirements, ensuring that provision is of the highest quality meeting all the children's educational and developmental needs.
- To take responsibility for the development of all staff and to liaise closely with parents, encouraging high levels of involvement.

Main duties:

- To ensure that each child is learning and developing, making progress in the areas of learning set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework; and to monitor the effectiveness of the pre-school provision.
- To ensure that the curriculum and environment supports children's current learning needs and interests.
- To be responsible for providing a high quality of teaching, ensuring that staff are properly deployed and offer appropriate stimulation and support to the children
- To be responsible for implementing systems of recorded observation and in The Moment Planning (ITMP) so that the children's attainment and progress is effectively and regularly assessed.
- To organise the key worker system and to supervise staff on a daily basis; to be responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching; to participate in self-appraisals and supervision meetings, to identify in-service training needs and to be responsible for monthly staff meetings.
- To oversee the work of other staff with leadership responsibilities e.g., Safeguarding, Health & Safety and SENDCo.
- To liaise closely with parents/carers as Lead Practitioner and key person, informing them about the pre-school, our "in the moment planning", exchanging information about children's progress, encouraging parent's involvement, sharing information about Church

events and activities. Organising and attending an Under 5's Crib Service and Christmas and Leavers' events.

- To liaise with OFSTED, and other professionals as necessary and ensure that all legal and statutory requirements are fulfilled, including safeguarding and welfare, to provide reports and head counts as required
- Alongside other staff, to liaise with schools or other settings regarding transitions, safeguarding, Early Help or SEND needs.
- To contribute to and have oversight of all pre-school policies and procedures.
- To attend in-service training, staff and committee meetings, as required.
 - To provide a staff report for Committee Meetings.
 - To keep up to date with research, updates or key messages regarding Early Years practice
 - To effectively use North Yorkshire systems.
 - To oversee the family app for communication with parents and guardians.
 - To ensure our Website and other online information is always appropriate.
 - To complete Methodist Advanced Safeguarding Training.

This post is exempt from the rehabilitation of offender's act 1974 - applicants must be prepared to disclose any convictions they may have and any orders that have been made against them.

Other requirements:

- Maintain a good understanding of the culture, values and ethos of Noah's Ark Pre-school.
- All other reasonable duties within the capabilities of the post holder that support the developing mission of Noah's Ark and Gracious Street Methodist Church.

Summary of terms and conditions:

Contract type	Part-time, Term Time Only (38/52-weeks a year).
Working hours	30 hours per week.
Working pattern	A flexible working pattern across a traditional Monday-Friday working week.
Rate of pay	£15.50 hourly rate TTO (38/52) paid over 12 monthly instalments.
Location	Noah's Ark Pre-school, Knaresborough, HG5 8AN.
Pension	There is a contributory pension scheme to which eligible staff will be auto enrolled. Employees who do not meet the auto enrolment criteria may be eligible to join the Scheme, subject to certain provisions.
Probationary period	Appointments and offers of employment are conditional on the satisfactory completion of a 6-month period of probationary service. We reserve the right to extend this up to a maximum of 12-months.
DBS disclosure	Appointments and offers of employment are conditional on a satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).
Right to work	Appointments and offers of employment are conditional on the successful applicant demonstrating the right to live and work within the United Kingdom as required by the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006.
Training	<p>We are an employer who will try to support you to develop and improve your professional practice. During employment with us we will consider relevant requests for continuing professional development (CPD).</p> <p>Advanced Methodist Safeguarding and a full level 3 paediatric first aid course must be completed within 3-months.</p>



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	E	D	A
Training and Qualifications			
A relevant Level 3 Qualification (eg Early Years Educator)	Yes		A, I, Q
Continued training and professional development in Early years (or related field.)	Yes		A, I
Knowledge, Skills and Experience			
At least two years' experience of working in an early years setting or have at least two years' other suitable experience.	Yes		A, I
Experience and understanding of working with Children and families	Yes		A, I
Experience of using social media, able to engage innovatively with families.		Yes	A, I
All-round and up-to date knowledge of legislation relevant to Early Years such as EYFS, SEND, safeguarding, and the Childcare Act 2006.	Yes		A, I
Good understanding and use of written and spoken English.	Yes		A, I
Qualities and Aptitudes			
Able to maintain consistent professional boundaries, developing trusted working relationships with a diverse range of internal and external stakeholders.	Yes		A, I
Able to communicate in a culturally relevant, appropriate, and sensitive way to young people and families from different backgrounds.	Yes		A, I
Able to demonstrate an up-to-date knowledge of current thinking and development in an early years setting.	Yes		A, I
Able to face challenges whilst creating and developing an environment where Children and families recognise that they are respected and able to flourish.	Yes		A, I
Able to manage a variety of professional conversations with staff, parents and relevant agencies.	Yes		A, I
Enthusiastic, committed, organised and well prepared.	Yes		A, I
Able to write and present clear, informative and relevant reports.	Yes		A, I
Any Other Requirements			
A commitment to embed and promote good practice with Safeguarding, GDPR and Data Protection, in line with evolving Methodist policy and practice.	Yes		A, I
A commitment to undertake training as necessary and as identified appropriate by the Line Manager as soon as practically possible.	Yes		A, I
Awareness of and a sensitivity to issues of Equality and Diversity.	Yes		A, I
A satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service.	Yes		DBS

Assessment: A: Application form; I: Interview; Q: Proof of Qualification; P: Presentation



Adjustments:

Please let us know if you require adjustments making at any stage or to any aspect of the application process or provide us with any information that you feel relevant whilst we consider your application.

If you are selected for interview, we will ask if you have any access needs or if you require any reasonable adjustments to be made for the interview. Please be assured that we will be supportive in discussing reasonable adjustments at all stages of the recruitment process.

If you have any questions about how we recruit you can contact us by clicking [here](#).

Entitlement to work in the UK:

Any job offer will be conditional on you demonstrating the right to live and work within the United Kingdom as required by the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. You will be asked to provide evidence of your entitlement should an offer of employment be made.

Experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities:

The person specification lists minimum requirements for this post. When shortlisting, the panel will only consider information that is written on your application form, and they will assess this information against the person specification.

References:

Any job offer will be conditional subject to receipt of satisfactory references. We reserve the right to withdraw a conditional offer based on the references that we receive. One should be from your current or most recent employer, the second from a previous employment. It is important that both referees are able to comment on your suitability to the role.

Criminal convictions/DBS disclosure:

Many roles at the Noah's Ark involve working with children and are exempt from Section 4(2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Offers of employment for these posts remain conditional on a satisfactory enhanced disclosure form a DBS check. Whilst having a criminal record does not automatically bar you from working with us this will depend on the job that you have applied for and the nature of the conviction.

Data protection:

The information you provide will be held in the strictest confidence. We process information in line with our Privacy Policy and if you are successful in your application the information we hold will be used to administer your employment with us. By making an application, we assume that you agree to the processing of your data in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion:

Our aim is to have a workforce that reflects the diversity of talent and abilities drawn from across our community. In line with the Equality Act 2010, we will monitor the composition of our workforce to ensure it is representative and that staff are treated equally and fairly.

Unless stated that an 'Occupational Requirement' is in place for a vacancy, recruitment will be made on the basis of an applicant's ability and merit as measured against the job criteria.