Blue School
2s Associate Teacher Position
2022-2023

Blue School is an independent school in the South Street Seaport that serves children from age 2 through Grade 8. Blue School seeks to both practice and model a dynamic balance between creative thinking, academic mastery and self and social learning, and to educate irrepressible innovators, and adaptable problem solvers. Please learn more about us at www.blueschool.org

Blue School seeks an experienced and reflective 2s teacher to join a vibrant professional community of early childhood educators. Candidates should bring a fascination with and strong developmental understanding of the early childhood years, experience and commitment to developing emergent curriculum in collaboration with children and colleagues, and a desire to learn and evolve within the context of a vital, growing learning community. Teachers should have experience and expertise in working with 2 year olds and their families and guiding them through the transition to school.

Blue School’s Pre-primary Program is committed to child-centered learning based on careful observation and documentation of children’s work and play, and grounded in caring and respectful relationships among children, teachers and families. We are seeking an early childhood teacher with a minimum of 2 years classroom teaching experience in early childhood. The candidate should have experience building effective communication and trusting relationships with families, and the ability to work in a collaborative environment that values multiple perspectives. The individual should also demonstrate an understanding of the critical role of the environment and materials in the formation and expression of children’s thinking and understanding of their world. Commitment to cultivating an inclusive environment that respects and honors the stories, experiences and identities of all community members is essential.

Associate teachers at Blue School are an integral part of the classroom and pre-primary program, and participate in a substantive and meaningful partnership with their collaborating lead teacher. Associate teachers are active and engaged participants in all aspects of the teaching and learning experience and school community, and take part in all professional development opportunities.

Primary Responsibilities (in collaboration with lead teacher):

- Organize and conduct home visits and/or individual classroom visits and facilitate children’s transition to school through a gradual phase-in process.
- Guide children and families in a supported autonomy separation process.
- Establish a caring classroom community and a nurturing and stimulating environment where children develop a deep sense of purpose and ownership.

- Support children’s social and emotional learning through respectful and developmentally appropriate practices that foster an attitude of problem-solving and empathy.

- Through photography, video and written notes, observe and document children’s learning, play and interactions in the classroom to guide planning for future learning experiences.

- Facilitate short and long-term curriculum experiences that build on children’s strengths, questions, and curiosity and which support their intellectual, emotional and social development.

- Collaborate with teaching partners and other colleagues to develop learning experiences and support children’s growth and well-being.

- Communicate regularly with families through meetings, phone calls, email, classroom blogs, annual narrative reports, parent teacher conferences, curriculum night presentations and at other times as needed.

- Participate in regular reflective meetings with Division Director, professional development meetings, faculty meetings and developmental team meetings.

- Engage in a pedagogical reflective process that includes reviewing observations and video footage, actively participating in weekly reflective meetings, and producing documentation and displays of children’s thinking and work.

- Welcome constructive feedback from lead teacher and division director to grow as classroom teacher and meet professional goals.

- Reflect on the growth and needs of individual children through conversations with Early Childhood Development Specialist.

- Maintain a classroom environment that is functional, aesthetically pleasing and well-organized.

- Commit to practices that build towards a more socially-just school community and world, and actively participate in school-wide DEI efforts.

**Qualifications and traits:**

- Collaborative and team-oriented
- Reflective, empathetic and compassionate
- Strategic, flexible, and creative thinker
- Strong problem-solving skills and attitude
- Sense of humor
- Strong communication skills, both written and oral
- Minimum 2 years early childhood classroom teaching experience

To apply please send a detailed cover letter and resume to Karen Zippler, Director of Pre-primary Program at karenz@blueschool.org