



One Cool Earth
P.O. Box 150
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Leila Daniel - Director of Education
leilad@onecoolearth.org

Job Opening |Lead Playworker: Early Childhood Educator

(part-time, 25-30 hrs)

August 5, 2024 – June 7, 2025

Posting Date: March 21, 2024

Pay range: \$27-\$30/hour

Hours per week: 27-30 hours per week (part time)

Purpose:

One Cool Earth is San Luis Obispo County's leading garden education nonprofit. Founded in 2001, One Cool Earth partners with public schools to provide science based hands-on learning in the outdoor garden classroom. One Cool Earth is currently partnered with 25 public schools across San Luis Obispo County. One Cool Earth is now launching a garden enrichment program for early learners, the Play Grove! The Play Grove is designed for children ages 3 to 5 to explore their environment through play-based learning. The Play Grove is a nature-based and place-based enrichment program, meaning we use the environment as our guide as we play, grow, create art, and learn together. The Play Grove is open to children weekdays from 8:30-12:30 and runs two semesters from Aug - Dec and Jan - June.

Position Available:

We are seeking a passionate and dedicated part-time Lead Early Childhood Educator (Lead Playworker) to join our team and lead outdoor play experiences for young children ages 3-5. See the following article for more details about the term Playworker: [The Cultural Origins and Play Philosophy of Playworkers: An Interview with Penny Wilson](#). Playworkers participate as a team of naturalists/early childhood mentors to plan and implement nature-led play, exploration, and garden activities carried out at our gorgeous headquarter garden site on the outskirts of San Luis Obispo. Playworkers are expected to be at the Play Grove site from 8:00-1:00 pm Monday through Thursdays and 8:00-3:00 pm Fridays. This position offers a unique opportunity to inspire young minds while immersing them in the wonders of the natural world. This position will report to the Director of Education.

Required Qualifications:

- High school Graduate or GED
- 12 core semester units in early childhood education/development or appropriate age-level program curriculum and/or willingness to receive Early Childhood Education credits



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- 3 + years working with young children (specifically 3-5 year olds), understanding of child development and play-based philosophy
- Current CPR and First Aid certification (or willingness to obtain).
- Proficiency with the entire Google Suite especially Google Docs, Google Sheets and Google Calendar
- Demonstrated communications and interpersonal skills
- Ability to lead a small team of 2 Playworkers
- Have skill and practice with program planning and holding safe boundaries for children and families
- Have experience interacting supportively with parents and families
- Able to work with people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds
- Flexibility, adaptability, and a positive attitude towards outdoor experiences in all weather conditions.

Preferred Qualifications:

- BA/BS in Early Childhood Education, Environmental Studies, or Education
- Have life experience with children, love being with young children, and be curious about their nature and the “whys” of children’s behavior
- Knowledge of gardening basics and interest in learning about plants, animals, tracking (training will be provided, but a love of gardening is a plus!)
- Have experience with storytelling, song, and body movement
- Possess a strong work ethic and value being of service
- Come with a willingness to participate in growing our organization and a vested interest in the success of the program and the organization

Primary Responsibilities:

Lead Playworker

- Lead the team of 2 Playworkers
- Plan and implement developmentally appropriate outdoor activities and experiences for children aged 3-5 years old
- Work effectively with other Playworkers (staff) to coordinate activities and prepare materials
 - Gathering supplies for lessons
 - Setting up play stations as children show interest
 - Facilitating free play
 - Garden snack prep



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- Meet once a week with other Playworkers to prepare for the upcoming week's lessons and activities (collaborate, brainstorm, share resources)
- Have check-ins with each individual Playworker once a month
- Ensure the safety and well-being of all children during outdoor activities, including managing risks associated with outdoor environments and weather conditions.
 - Follow emergency procedures when necessary
- Facilitate group activities, games, and storytelling that promote social-emotional development, teamwork, and communication skills.
- Support children as they work through social problems, practice conflict resolution with children
- Attend all relevant meetings and trainings provided by One Cool Earth

Parent communication:

- Maintain clear communication with parents regarding children's experiences, progress, and any concerns (in person and online communication via Brightwheel)
- Facilitate check-in and check-out for children and their families

Administrative tasks:

- Be the first point of contact for enrolled families
- Support Director of Education and Operations Manager to recruit prospective families
 - Support with open houses and tours for prospective families
 - Support with orientation days for prospective families
- Assist the Director of Education in facilitating trainings for Playworkers
- Clean up and maintain the space in an orderly fashion
- Maintain accurate records and reports
- Communicate effectively with Director of Education to meet performance expectations
- Process incident reports and perform safety checks

Garden Maintenance

- Support basic maintenance for the Play Grove Garden: planting, weeding, pruning, composting, minor irrigation adjustments and repairs

Schedule:

- Part-time position, typically 27-30 hours per week
- Schedule may vary based on program needs and seasonal changes in weather



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- Some weekend or evening hours may be required for special events

Physical Demands: *The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.* The ability to perform normal garden tasks, including digging, carrying, stooping, weeding, reaching, walking on varied terrain, and lifting and carrying materials and potted plants weighing up to 50 lbs. As this position is mainly outside, the Playworker must be prepared to work in all weather conditions.

Playworkers attend mandatory weekly, 2-hour paid planning sessions on Monday and Friday afternoons, starting August 19, 2024 through June 7, 2025. A required all Playworker training to launch our program year is scheduled for the week of August 12, 2024.

Learn more about The Play Grove at <https://www.onecoolearth.org/play-grove>

Certificates, Licenses, Registrations: The applicant must possess a valid driver's license, a reliable vehicle with proof of insurance, and be able to pass a background check and TB test.

Compensation & Benefits: This is an 11 month (August-June), part time, hourly position. Hourly wages are based on experience, starting at \$27/hour up to \$30/hour. Paid sick time, Optional 401(k); Extensive professional development/ training schedule; 50% off Play Grove Tuition for direct descendants; Garden goodies and snacks to enjoy with young children.

How to apply: Email your resume, cover letter, and any relevant certifications or credentials to Leila Daniel at leilad@onecoolearth.org. Please include "Lead Playworker Position" in the subject line of your email. Applicants will not be reviewed without a cover letter. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. We look forward to welcoming a passionate educator to our team!

We strongly encourage applications from Black and Indigenous people and other people of color, people from working-class backgrounds, women, LGBTQIA+ people, and other people of historically excluded identities. **Data shows that women and BIPOC candidates more frequently do not apply to a job because they don't feel that they meet all of the**



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qualifications listed. If you feel passionate about our efforts and believe that you have the skills to accomplish the job, we want to hear from you!

We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.