



Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership

Title	Play Program Facilitator/Early Childhood Education Specialist
Learning Objectives	<p>The intern will explore the following topics:</p> <p>To identify benefits for urban and suburban children to spend time interacting with nature.</p> <p>To gain an understanding of the importance of nature play to the healthy development of the young child.</p> <p>To become knowledgeable about and gain skills in developing and facilitating nature play experiences.</p> <p>To create a nature play environment indoors and outdoors to support the need for children to connect with the natural world.</p>
Responsibilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitates play with children, aged birth-10, including holding live animals, in both indoor and outdoor settings, as assigned. (20%) 2. Responsible for the daily care of equipment, property, play program materials, and play settings, including but not limited to: daily set-up, clean-up, inventory, and proper use of all equipment and property. (15%) 3. Creates, develops, and implements play programs and developmentally appropriate learning experiences for children, aged birth-10, and their families at Hamill Family Play Zoo. (25%) 4. Creates, develops, and implements developmentally appropriate learning experiences and programs, with an emphasis on nature play for children aged birth-10 and their families for the Education Department Subscription Programs, Chicago Zoological Society Special Events, and other programs as requested by the Senior Manager of Learning Experiences. (20%) 5. Incorporates knowledge of Chicago Zoological Society, its mission and zoo-wide operations into daily job responsibilities. Becomes familiar with and follows zoo policies and procedures. (5%) 6. Provides guidance to adult and youth volunteers as directed. (5%) 7. Attends meetings and training sessions as assigned. (5%) <p>Other related duties as assigned. (5%)</p>
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum two years college at an accredited institution; G.P.A. 2.5/4.0, majoring in early childhood development, education, or other relevant field. Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts, Science, Fine Arts, Drama, Early Childhood Education, Environmental Education or related field. • Minimum 18 years of age. • Completion of a reflective journal or project required as part of internship. • Commit to an 8-12 week internship, which is unpaid. Scheduling can be somewhat flexible to accommodate applicant's coursework or other employment commitments • Must be able to work with and handle live animals including small mammals, herps, birds, and invertebrates. • A genuine interest in nature, animals, and children. • Must be able to work in outdoor and indoor work settings in a variety of weather

Brookfield, Illinois 60513-0719 708.688.8400 www.CZS.org

Brookfield Zoo is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and managed by the Chicago Zoological Society.
 Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer M/F/D/V



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	<p>conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Willingness to learn play facilitation skills.• Excellent customer service skills and/or demonstrated ability to work with the public effectively in both high and low visitor attendance conditions.• Strong ability to communicate effectively with children of diverse background aged birth-10 and their caregivers..• Bilingual in Spanish, Polish, or a language other than English is a plus.• Must represent the Society in a courteous, professional manner at all times.
Wage Rate	Unpaid

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