



PLAY SPECIALIST – BAND 5

SALARY	£29,553- £36,265 (depending on experience)
LOCATION	Barnet (North London)
HOURS	37.5 hours per week (full time)
CONTRACT	Permanent
REPORTING TO	Lead Play Specialist
CLOSING DATE	3 rd July 2022

BACKGROUND

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice help babies, children and young people who are seriously unwell make the most of every day. Working with talented individuals who share our passion to improve the lives of seriously unwell children and their families, we're changing the landscape for paediatric palliative care in North and Central London, as well as Herts Valley.

You'll be based in The Ark, our new award-winning building set in a North London nature reserve. It's a place of laughter, play and real connection, with an atmosphere that's both supportive and inclusive.

With thanks to funding from the Starlight Children's Foundation, the charity dedicated to supporting the power of play to make the experience of illness and treatment better for children and their families, we are recruiting a Play Specialist to join our growing Noah's Ark Play Team.

PARTNERSHIP WITH STARLIGHT CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Starlight Children's Foundation and Noah's Ark Children's Hospice know that when illness intervenes in a child's life, protecting play as a vital part of their development is crucial.

As well as delivering quality support to children who are seriously unwell at The Ark and within children's homes in the community, over the course of 36 months, you will contribute to research led by Starlight Children's Foundation. Utilising a logic model developed in partnership with Starlight and their University partner, you will gather insights and impact data from the families you'll work with, supported by the team at Starlight. This data will be sent to Starlight and their University partner, who will analyse it to create a persuasive narrative promoting greater support for play in healthcare.

Once the partnership with Starlight comes to an end after 36 months, the post holder will remain a Noah's Ark employee.

ABOUT YOU

You will enjoy creating engaging activities and play experiences for those in your care. You will ideally already have experience as a Play Specialist and be passionate about using play to build long-lasting relationships with babies, children and young people. Unlike many Play Specialist roles where relationships can be limited to a child's time in hospital, this role will often develop over time, allowing you to truly understand and adapt to the needs of the families we support.

Knowledge of developmental play for children with complex needs and being able to adapt your skills to work in both a community and hospice setting will be essential. Your work will be varied, with sessions led by the child, requiring you to flexibly use your key skills to support their individual needs in the moment. You will work with many other departments at Noah's Ark, with a focus on Child in Need Safeguarding and bereavement. Through all your work and your input into Starlight Children's Foundation's research, we will actively encourage you to continually progress your professional skills.

A full driving licence and access to your own vehicle for business use is essential to cover our wide operating region. As a valued member of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, we will offer you free uniforms, free DBS, ongoing professional support and role specific training.

KEY TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROLE

1. To reflectively provide a quality play and youth service for children who are diagnosed with a life limiting or life-threatening condition through to death, making assessments of play, development and emotional needs of the palliative child/adolescent.
2. To support the parents/carers to implement appropriate strategies for play as part of the child's total care.
3. To work independently/autonomously and at times without direct supervision, and be accountable for your own professional actions while remaining accountable to both Noah's Ark



and Starlight Children's Foundation.

4. To support the collection of case studies and impact evidence, within the boundaries of informed consent and agreed procedures.
5. To contribute to the provision of bereavement work with children, siblings and families, as appropriate.
6. Take on referrals and manage a case-load of palliative child/adolescent and siblings, using evidence-based practice to assess, plan, implement and evaluate therapeutic interventions.
7. Ensure that as a representative of Starlight Children's Foundation and Noah's Ark you are providing a warm, welcoming and secure environment where culturally diverse patient populations' needs are being represented.
8. Work as a community practitioner, supporting the best outcomes for children and families whilst working within institutions and in families' homes, practicing and respecting all organisational policies and procedures.
9. To support the wider Noah's Ark and Starlight Foundation family services endeavours in events and experiences/escapes, as requested and in collaboration with the setting team.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
QUALIFICATIONS	<p>NVQ, CACHE, NNEB (Level 3) in Child Care/Play Work or equivalent and be a registered & qualified Health Play Specialist holding the Foundation Degree in Health Care Play Specialism or previous HPSC/HPSEB, Edexcel PDC/HND in Hospital Play Specialism or oversees equivalent</p> <p>Evidence of commitment to continued professional development</p>	<p>Willingness to commit to further study and/or continued professional development</p>
SKILLS / KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full UK driving license with access to a car 2. Experience of working with children and/or young people in a health care/education setting 3. Detailed knowledge of current health legislation and NAHPS Guidelines for Professional Practice. 4. Comprehensive knowledge and application of therapeutic assessments and interventions relevant to patient group and treatment plan. 5. Knowledge and awareness of the emotional and personal impact of the work, and full understanding of developmental milestones/targets 6. Strong verbal and non-verbal communication skills 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience of working with children in the palliative care setting or caring for children/young people with complex care needs 2. Experience of working in a hospice of charity 3. Experience of working within a multidisciplinary team 4. Ability to undertake audit and evaluation processes.



	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Ability to self-manage or seek help appropriately.8. Ability to record information in a concise, accurate and legible manner	
BEHAVIOURAL / PERSONAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Enjoy being part of a small team where individuals thrive on working outside of their designated roles from time to time to get things done.2. Experience of working independently towards shared goals and objectives3. Ability to ensure that internal policies and procedures are complied with4. Ability to show compassion and patience when dealing with children and complex family dynamics5. Ability to understand and adhere to professional boundaries and demonstrate complex thinking6. Ability to demonstrate the quality of relaxed awareness in complex and challenging situations7. Ability to live Noah's Ark values of kindness, courage and excellence	

CHARITY BENEFITS

ANNUAL LEAVE

25 days, rising by a day after each completed year up to 30 days. We offer the ability to buy or sell up to 5 days

SEASON TICKET LOAN

An interest-free loan is available to all staff to purchase their season ticket

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Each employee receives suitable training and development opportunities

PENSION

Provided by Aviva, with contributions from Noah's Ark up to 6%. Nursing staff are offered the NHS pension.

FLEXIBLE WORKING

Flexible working opportunities are available to staff dependent on the charity's needs

LIFE ASSURANCE

Staff will receive Life Assurance (Death in Service) provided by Canada Life Group Insurance. The benefit basis is 4x annual salary

PAID MEMBERSHIP TO BLUE LIGHT CARD

Staff will receive a Blue Light card membership giving discounts to a number of well-known brands and stores

BIKE2WORK SCHEME

Salary sacrifice scheme offering the opportunity to purchase a bike and accessories, with tax free payments spread over a period of time

SUBSIDISED CAFÉ

Freshly prepared hot and cold meals provided at The Ark daily

STAFF REFERRAL SCHEME

Monetary incentive for staff when they successfully recommend a candidate for an open position

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your completed application form to the HR team at recruitment@noahsarkhospice.org.uk

The application form is available to download under the relevant vacancy at <https://www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk/work-with-us>.

If you would like to have a confidential discussion about this role, please email the HR Team at hr@noahsarkhospice.org.uk or call 020 8449 8877.

We can't wait to
hear from you!

The Ark, Byng Road,
Barnet, London EN5 4NP
+44 (0) 20 8449 887
info@noahsarkhospice.org.uk
noahsarkhospice.org.uk

Noah's Ark Hospice is a Company Limited
by Guarantee Registered in England
Company Registration No. 3901606
Registered Charity No. 1081156



About Noah's Ark Children's Hospice

ABOUT NOAH'S ARK CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Noah's Ark Children's hospice helps babies, children and young people who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions, and their families, make the most of every day. We are here to enable those we support to enjoy life as children, rather than as patients, as families, not just as carers.

Our expert staff and trained volunteers provide clinical, emotional and practical support for families across north and central London and Herts Valley. We carefully adapt our support for every child and offer it wherever it is required - whether in their home, their community or at our state-of-the-art children's hospice building, The Ark, in Barnet.

THE ARK

Designed by families, for families, The Ark was opened in September 2019 by the Mayor of London. The Ark is a place of light and life, where you will find music, art, play and drama therapy; children blossoming in sensory and soft play rooms; and a fully accessible playground. The grounds offer wheelchair accessible outdoor experiences, including a Woodland Walk through a 7-acre nature reserve and a sensory walkway. At The Ark we are able to provide Specialist Care and Nursing for babies, children and young people, supporting their full clinical, emotional, social and practical needs. We have created a space where children who are seriously unwell are accepted as they are, safe to play, explore, express themselves and build confidence.



OUR VALUES

Our values capture who we are, and what we expect from staff and volunteers. They are the 'Noah's Ark way', and are reflected in everything we do.



KINDNESS

- We show compassion and empathy in all our interactions
- We put the child and family at the heart of all we do
- We are considerate: act thoughtfully and behave with integrity
- We go above and beyond
- We embrace diversity
- We create precious moments for children and their families
- We actively promote good mental health and look after our team
- We do not judge others for their differences



EXCELLENCE

- We are exacting and passionate about our mission
- Our expert and dedicated team is tenacious and solution focused
- We are pioneering, creative and adaptable
- We collaborate and build partnerships
- We listen and learn
- We are considered and reflective
- We plan and grow responsively and responsibly
- We invest in our people



COURAGE

- We are strong and ambitious in all we do
- We challenge the status quo, making bold resilience and aim to empower
- We help families and each other build resilience and aim to empower
- We act with candour and integrity
- We reach out to people in very difficult circumstances
- We do not shy away from making hard decisions or from challenging situations
- We are not afraid to ask for help

About Starlight

We are the national children's charity dedicated to supporting the power of play to make the experience of illness and treatment better for children and their families. We champion the importance of play and defend every child's right to it through direct delivery of products and services, generating impact measures and sharing research and structurally through policy and advocacy.

At Starlight, we protect play by providing the additional support that children with illnesses may need to access it. For children in healthcare settings this means using our toys and resources or being supported by a Starlight Play Specialist. The family services offer opportunities to get away and connect with each other during days out or short holidays with other families. There is a regular online activity offer to keep children connected and engaged. All services are informed by evidence-based practice and designed to put the agency of children and wellbeing of the family at the centre.

Starlight support by gathering insights and feedback from service users to adapt and improve services as well as contributing to research in the field of play and healthcare. The policy function is in the first stage in the development of a new Starlight strategy for advocating systemic change in the role of play in children's healthcare. The consultation and engagement phase is drawing to a close and we will soon be moving forward with a clear set of policy aims.