

JOB DESCRIPTION



MIDDLE WAY
SCHOOL

Middle Way School Toddler Teacher

Overview

The Middle Way School (MWS), pioneering a new model of education based on the best in education research and enhanced by the wisdom and compassion of Buddhist wisdom traditions, is hiring a Lead Toddler Teacher. Master teachers with deep understanding of childhood development are the pillars of this education. We are carefully building our faculty to accommodate growing enrollment. In the 2020-2021 school year, MWS intends to enroll students ages 2-10. Our lead toddler teacher is responsible for co-creating, evaluating, and implementing curricula in cooperation with the Head of School and fellow teachers. Lead teachers must have a deep understanding of emergent learning and are responsible for supporting students' development in all areas. Lead teachers assess students' strengths, progress and needs and communicate with parents regularly. MWS is located on five acres of forested land. It is an uplifted, dynamic, environment in which to work, with daily meditation and ample professional support. We seek seasoned teachers who know how to meet conventional outcomes in unconventional ways and who have the skillful means to differentiate in ways that help meet students exactly where they are socially, emotionally, and academically. Applicants must have an interest in the Middle Way view and openness to manifest it through presence and pedagogy. Identifying as a practicing Buddhist is not necessary, however, an understanding of Buddhist principles and terminology and experience in Buddhist practices is encouraged.

Responsibilities

- Creating a positive, nurturing classroom community
- Setting up and maintaining an organized and inviting classroom for purposeful play that is child driven
- Developing age-appropriate curriculum including unit and lesson plans
- Organizing each day's activities to provide children with a variety of experiences and opportunities that allow their curiosity, initiative, creativity and problem-solving skills to develop
- Tending to children's personal hygiene needs, remaining especially attentive to them during routines such as diaper changing, cleaning, rest, eating, and changing soiled or wet clothes
- Maintaining frequent contact with parents including a weekly newsletter
- Writing narrative reports and leading parent-teacher conferences twice each year
- Attending staff meetings
- Conducting home visits for new students
- Planning and participating in seasonal celebrations and events
- Supervising two recess periods each day
- Participating in monthly community meetings
- Participating in the admissions process
- Maintaining a daily contemplative practice
- Pursuing ongoing professional development
- Participating in summer curriculum development and environment work



Core Competencies

- Skills to properly address the developmental needs of toddlers
- A strong understanding of developmental milestones and the ability to provide activities to support them.
- Knowledge of current best practices in early childhood education, including play-based learning, early childhood development, mindfulness, and social-emotional learning.
- Ability to meet each child's developmental needs.
- Prior experience working with progressive education and emergent curriculum.
- Knowledge, understanding, and use of active learning strategies to support a range of learners
- Ability to creatively integrate and adapt the curriculum to engage learners
- A creative and rigorous approach to information gathering and analysis, ability to understand broad ideas and synthesize
- Clear communication – excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team – especially when it is necessary to facilitate change, overcome an impasse, face an issue, or ensure that decisions are made.

Qualities

- Able to nurture feelings of security and trust in toddlers
- Able to facilitate positive conflict resolution for children
- Passionate about education and carrying out the vision and mission of Middle Way
- Has a love and understanding of children and early childhood development
- Interested in personal and professional growth
- Open to the teachings of the Buddhadharmā
- Flexible, open-minded, adaptable, patient with change (especially true in 2020-2021)
- Exceptional patience and empathy and has a pleasant and gentle demeanor.
- Able to work independently and in teams
- Practical and resourceful
- Able to see the merits of perspectives other than his/her own; open to different and new ways of doing things
- Reliable and respectful of deadlines
- Maintains perspective and a sense of humor!

Required Education/Experience

- Bachelor's degree. Master's degree preferred
- Minimum 5 years of experience in grade level

Physical Capabilities

- A high level of stamina
- Ability to lift 25-30 lbs.
- Ability to move, see, hear, and speak with children to ensure children's health and safety.



Term and Compensation

- We are hiring for the 2020-21 school year. The starting salary for this position is \$40K. Compensation commensurate upon experience.

How to Apply

The Middle Way School actively seeks applications from the most capable, professional candidates. Please contact Noa Jones at noa@middlewayeducation.org or 845-272-0141 for more information and an application form.

The Middle Way School welcomes and in fact strongly encourages students and prospective employees of any race, age, national or ethnic origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic background to apply. The Middle Way School will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. As an institution and as individuals we have the responsibility to actively change the power differences that perpetuate biases against historically underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.