



## FENNER CONSERVANCY

# PRESCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF

Fenner Nature Preschool is a State of Michigan licensed, nature-based preschool program managed by Fenner Conservancy, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The program makes use of child-directed learning in both indoor and outdoor settings with a provocation-based curriculum inspired by Reggio Emilia.

### **Summary**

FNP support staff are responsible for assisting classroom teachers in instruction of students. The FNP support staff will be scheduled as needed in response to teacher time off and professional development. This position is for the school year; however temporary summer positions may be available in the Fenner Nature Preschool Summer Camp program.

This position is an hourly position, non-exempt based on need with a base hourly rate of \$9.50-12.50/hour. Position reports to the Fenner Nature Preschool Lead Teacher.

### **Duties & Responsibilities**

#### Planning and Directing (5%)

- Assist the teaching team in implementing and evaluating center programs in alignment with licensing, mission and vision of the organization, and best practices outlined by the Natural Start Alliance and NAEYC standards.

#### Teaching and Evaluating (90%)

- Provide respectful, playful, and age appropriate interaction with children.
- Provide support to teachers and families at arrival, departure and daily transitions.
- Assist the teachers in delivering child directed curriculum to FNP students.
- Be responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of all children in the group.
- Interact with children in an effective and positive manner using positive discipline or redirection as needed.

#### Classroom and Facilities (5%)

- Conduct daily classroom and facility upkeep to maintain hygienic environment.
- Conduct daily inspections of outdoor play areas for hazards.

#### Additional Requirements:

- Build and maintain positive working relationships with staff, trustees, and volunteers.
- Project a professional image internally and externally.
- Participate in other Fenner Nature Center functions as appropriate.
- Attend training sessions for blood borne pathogens, CPR, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, and other professional development opportunities as appropriate.
- Other duties as assigned.

#### Qualifications:

- Experience in Early Childhood, or Elementary Education (Preferred)
- 21 years of age or older
- Additional experience in environmental education or related fields preferred
- Demonstrated understanding of principles and techniques of early childhood education and developmentally appropriate practices and the ability to implement that knowledge
- A demonstrated knowledge about the natural world or a willingness to acquire knowledge about the natural world
- Experience with Reggio Emilia teaching preferred
- Excellent communication skills. Able to effectively and comfortably communicate with parents and peers
- Criminal history background check and Central Registry Clearance will be required

#### Environmental Conditions of Position:

- The majority of the work associated with this position will occur in the outdoor learning environment.

**Mission, Vision & Beliefs:**

Mission: Connect the early learners of Lansing to nature through exploration, play, and discovery.

Vision & Values: At Fenner Nature Preschool, children are **respected** and treated as **capable and competent** individuals who learn through play. Families are seen as a child's first teacher and are valued as **partners**. Teachers serve as **advocates** for the success of both children and their families. We value being interconnected within our **community** and both our indoor and outdoor environments serve as the third teacher.

*To apply, please submit cover letter that addresses your interest in the position, along with your résumé and a list of three professional references and their contact information to:*

Email: [preschool@mynaturecenter.org](mailto:preschool@mynaturecenter.org)  
Note: email submissions are preferred, but not required

Mail:  
Fenner Conservancy  
Attn: Preschool Director  
2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave. Lansing, MI 48910

It is Fenner Conservancy's policy to provide equal opportunities in employment, promotions, wages, benefits and all other privileges, terms and conditions of employment to all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, height, weight, national origin, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, marital status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.