

Role Statement: Playgroup Facilitator and Family Linker – North West

Position Summary

The Playgroup Facilitator and Family Linker – North West is a combined role supporting the delivery of Playgroup Tasmania's early support programs across the North West, with a particular focus on the Thriving Kids Supported Playgroup Program.

Thriving Kids is a national system of foundational supports for children aged 8 and under with developmental delay or autism with low to moderate support needs and their families. Playgroup Tasmania contributes to Thriving Kids through the Thriving Kids Supported Playgroup Program.

This new role creates welcoming, inclusive and developmentally supportive playgroup experiences where children and families can play, learn and connect. Through a strengths-based, family-centred approach, the role supports children's development and participation, strengthens parent and caregiver confidence, and builds connection between families.

The role also provides Family Linker support to families who may benefit from additional practical assistance, information, warm referrals and connections with other supports and community opportunities that reflect their circumstances, priorities and pace.

The role works collaboratively with other services involved in Thriving Kids, as well as local early childhood, health, disability, education and community services.

The role may also facilitate Baby Village and other Playgroup Tasmania programs in response to organisational priorities, community needs and funding requirements.

Our Commitment to the Rights and Safety of Children

Playgroup Tasmania believes that all children have the right to live safely – emotionally, mentally and physically. We are committed to promoting and protecting the safety and wellbeing of all children at all times and in all circumstances. Everyone has a role to play in keeping children safe from harm and creating child safe and child friendly communities.

Playgroup Tasmania staff are required to commit to the Playgroup Tasmania Code of Conduct and comply with all organisational policies and procedures.

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Key Areas of Responsibility

Delivering Quality Playgroup Experiences

- Plan and facilitate welcoming, engaging and developmentally appropriate Thriving Kids Supported Playgroups, Baby Village sessions and other evidence-informed group programs as required.
- Create safe, inclusive and child friendly environments where children can learn through play.
- Plan and adapt play experiences in response to children's strengths, interests and developmental needs, with a focus on communication, social and emotional development, participation and inclusion.
- Work alongside parents and caregivers, modelling practical strategies through play and everyday interactions that support their child's development.
- Embed evidence-informed parenting and early learning approaches, including PEEP Learning Together where appropriate.
- Prepare and manage venues, resources and activities to support high quality program delivery.

Family Engagement and Support

- Build trusted and respectful relationships with families to support ongoing engagement and participation.
- Support the participation of families from diverse backgrounds and respond to barriers that may impact participation or inclusion.
- Work alongside families to identify strengths, aspirations and goals, providing support that reflects each family's circumstances, priorities and pace.
- Provide information, practical assistance, warm referrals and follow-up to help families access and engage with early childhood, disability, health, education and community services.
- Strengthen parent and caregiver confidence and encourage peer connection and mutual support between families.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

- Build and maintain positive relationships with local services and community organisations to strengthen opportunities and support pathways for families.
- Work collaboratively with Early Childhood Connectors and other services involved in Thriving Kids to support children and families to connect with timely and appropriate information, supports and services.
- Work with CHaPS, Child and Family Learning Centres, early childhood education and care, health and allied health providers, disability, education, family and community services to strengthen local referral pathways and connections.
- Support visiting specialists and other practitioners to work alongside children and families within the familiar playgroup environment where appropriate.

- Promote Playgroup Tasmania programs within local communities to increase awareness and participation.
- Provide flexible outreach across North West communities where required.

Reporting, Reflection and Contribution

- Maintain accurate records of participation, family engagement, referrals and outcomes.
- Contribute to program planning, evaluation and quality improvement.
- Collect family feedback, outcome information and the voices and experiences of children and families to support organisational learning.
- Participate in supervision, reflective practice, team meetings and professional development..

Selection Criteria

Experience/Qualifications

Qualifications

A Certificate, Diploma or Degree in Community Services, Early Childhood Education, Disability, Health, Education or another relevant discipline is desirable, or equivalent experience working with children and families.

Experience

- Experience working with young children and families in community, early childhood, education, disability, health or related settings.
- Experience facilitating group-based programs or learning experiences for children and families.
- Experience working in strengths-based, family-centred and inclusive ways.

Knowledge and Capability

- Understanding of child development, the importance of play, and the diverse strengths, experiences and support needs of families with young children.
 - Knowledge of the North West service system, or demonstrated ability to quickly develop knowledge of local services, networks and referral pathways.
 - Understanding of strengths-based, family-centred, culturally responsive and inclusive practice.
 - Ability to build positive relationships with children, families and community partners.
 - Strong communication, group facilitation and interpersonal skills.
 - Ability to work independently while contributing positively within a collaborative team.
 - Sound digital literacy, including Microsoft Office and electronic record keeping.
 - Commitment to child safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.
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Additional Requirements

- Current Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (or ability to obtain).
- Satisfactory National Police Check (or ability to obtain).
- Current driver's licence and access to a reliable vehicle.
- Current First Aid Certificate (or ability to obtain).
- Ability to travel across the North West and occasionally work flexible hours.