

JOB DESCRIPTION

EARLY CHILDHOOD NATURE SCHOOL LEAD EDUCATOR



www.verdiecoschool.org | info@verdiecoschool.org | 321-298-2501 | Melbourne, FL

OVERVIEW

The Verdi EcoSchool, the only Urban Farm School in the southeastern United States, is seeking an energetic and passionate early childhood educator to provide strong teaching, leadership, and direction for the school's start-up early childhood Nature Immersion program.

The Nature Immersion program provides child-led, play based learning in a primarily outdoor classroom setting encompassing student-maintained gardens, an outdoor art studio, and chicken and rabbit habitats. The program seeks to foster a learning community, employ the best aspects of progressive educational approaches including Montessori, Reggio Emilia, Waldorf and others in a constructivist curriculum that inspires creative thought, critical reasoning and the development of skills in a nature-based context.

The Verdi EcoSchool is seeking a dynamic, energetic and forward thinking lead teacher with proven experience in inquiry and student-directed learning to facilitate a nature- and place-based education. The lead educator will be responsible for all aspects of the students' experience and for developing strong partnerships with parents. This educator must be eager to spend their days teaching children outdoors without hesitation to get dirty, hot, and wet.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate has a love and knowledge of nature and the outdoors and enjoys educating children ages 3 to 5 in a mixed group learning community. The candidate will embrace the mission of the school, possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, function very effectively as a member of a collaborative teaching team, engage enthusiastically with families and other members of the school community, and embrace the opportunities and challenges of teaching in an innovative start-up school. Organization, reliability, flexibility, composure, strong work ethic, and a love of being in nature are key to the role.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

PLANNING:

- Develop nature-based activities that reflect the needs of the children, the standards of early childhood education, and the mission of the Verdi EcoSchool.
- Implement policies and procedures.

- Design and set up the classroom space.
- Obtain necessary supplies and materials.
- Manage and adjust the annual early childhood program budget
- Work with Marketing & Development staff to promote the Nature Immersion program.
- Work toward growing and expanding the scope of early childhood offerings.
- Oversee and improve the Nature Immersion program currently offered by the school.

TEACHING AND EVALUATING:

- Serve as Lead Teacher for the Nature Immersion program.
- Generate weekly lesson plans that focus on students' interests and submit to administration per accreditation requirements.
- Assess and evaluate the effectiveness and success of early childhood programs.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant governmental rules and regulations.
- Train and apply positive skills in managing behaviors in line with Conscious Discipline.
- Lead workshops for parents in best practices in early childhood education.
- Design and teach early childhood summer experiences.

REPORTING

- This position reports to the administration of the Verdi EcoSchool.
- This position meets weekly with their program team, weekly 1:1 with a member of the administration, monthly with the core educators of the school's other programs, monthly with all school staff, and monthly with all parents.

SUPERVISING

- Interview, train, direct, schedule, supervise, and evaluate Interns, or Volunteers as needed to infuse program with art, music, dance, etc.
- Draft and oversee the nature school budget.

CREATING COMMUNITY

- Plan and facilitate parent and volunteer involvement in programs.
- Participate in Verdi EcoSchool staff meetings and special events to ensure connection with the rest of the staff and members.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Early Childhood Education, Environmental Education, or Place-Based Education (Master's preferred).
- Working knowledge of basic natural history/ecology concepts.
- Experience teaching children ages three to five for two or more years at an accredited preschool, preferably using Emergent Curriculum, Creative Curriculum, Reggio Emilia, play-based, and/or place-based learning.
- Experienced and comfortable immersing children in nature.
- Strong planning, organizing, and management skills.
- Experience supervising staff and volunteers.
- Demonstrated verbal and written skills.

OTHER SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for young children in both indoor and outdoor settings.
- Able to identify local natural hazards such as poison ivy, wasps, fire ants, dangerous snakes, etc.
- Demonstrate positive and proactive communication and interpersonal skills.
- Spend three or more hours outdoors with students each day during all seasons, except in extreme/dangerous weather- such as high winds, extreme cold, etc.

Successful candidates will need to pass a background check and remain current on First Aid/CPR certifications.

SALARY RANGE

\$40,000 to \$50,000 commensurate with experience.

TO APPLY

Send a cover letter, resume, and letters of recommendation to info@verdiecoschool.org and fill out an application at www.verdiecoschool.org/workwithus