



## Forest School Leader

### My Little Explorers Forest Nursery

**Location:** Romsey, Hampshire

**Hours:** 32 - 40 hours per week

**Working Days:** 4 or 5 days a week, Monday - Friday

**Salary:** Based on experience

**Reports to:** Sam Victoria - Director

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### About My Little Explorers

My Little Explorers was first established in 2013 with a Forest School in Farley Mount, and in 2022 opened its second setting—a Forest Nursery in Romsey. Both settings are secure natural spaces where children can develop their imagination, take risks, and build on social skills.

What makes us different? Our children don't just visit nature—they learn in it, every single day. With the support of qualified Early Years and Forest School practitioners, children have the freedom and space to be themselves: to run and hide, climb and build dens, tell stories and cook on the campfire. Every day brings new discoveries as our outdoor settings transform from season to season, creating unique learning opportunities that simply can't be replicated indoors.

### The Role

As a Forest School Leader, you'll be a key member of our team, working together to deliver our unique outdoor learning ethos. You'll work directly with children, facilitating Forest School experiences and supporting them to explore, take appropriate risks, and develop confidence through hands-on experiences with the natural world.

You'll be joining a team of dedicated Forest School practitioners who share your passion for outdoor learning. Together, you'll create exceptional experiences around the fire circle, facilitate bushcraft activities, and support children in their natural curiosity about the world around them.

This isn't a traditional nursery role—it requires someone who is comfortable working outdoors in all weathers and truly passionate about Forest School principles. You'll need to be an excellent team player who can work collaboratively with colleagues, while also being confident to contribute your own ideas and take initiative when needed.

We're looking for someone who is dedicated, enthusiastic, and adaptable, with a natural ability to build happy, strong relationships with the children. You'll thrive in a supportive team environment where everyone works together to create something truly special for our children.

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## **Key Responsibilities**

### **Forest School Programme Delivery**

- Work collaboratively with the team to implement the daily Forest School programme, providing activities for children aged 3-5 years old.
- Facilitate Forest School activities, including fire circle sessions, bushcraft activities, tool use, nature crafts, and outdoor exploration
- Support children to engage with nature through hands-on learning experiences
- Promote outdoor learning and the ethos of Forest School principles in your daily practice
- Contribute ideas and suggestions to team planning sessions and reflective practice

### **Quality & Standards**

- Provide a high standard of care and education in line with Forest School principles and EYFS requirements
- Be active and reflective in your practice to improve outcomes for all children
- Conduct observations and assessments of children's learning and development
- Support in identifying children with additional needs or vulnerabilities
- Maintain accurate records in accordance with My Little Explorers' policies and procedures

### **Health, Safety & Risk Management**

- Support daily site checks and conduct dynamic risk assessments of the outdoor environment
- Work safely with campfire activities, tool use, and outdoor equipment
- Bring to the immediate attention of the manager any incidents or accidents, any child's failure to thrive, and any equipment that may be a danger
- Arrange for any individual to receive immediate first aid when needed
- Maintain awareness of seasonal hazards and respond appropriately to weather conditions

### **Team Collaboration & Partnerships**

- Work cooperatively with your team of dedicated and passionate Forest School practitioners
- Contribute positively to team meetings, planning sessions, and discussions
- Share ideas and best practices with colleagues
- Build positive, collaborative relationships with parents and carers
- Communicate effectively with families about children's progress and daily experiences
- Build strong, positive relationships with children as their key person

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## Person Specification

### Essential Requirements

#### Qualifications & Experience:

- **Level 3 Forest School qualification**
- Experience facilitating Forest School activities, including fire circle, bushcraft, tool use, and outdoor play
- Experience working with children from babies to preschool age
- Understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Welfare Requirements
- Good working knowledge of Ofsted requirements
- Valid Paediatric First Aid certificate (or willingness to obtain before start date)
- Enhanced DBS check (we will support with the application)

#### Personal Qualities:

- **Genuine passion for working outdoors and deep commitment to Forest School philosophy**
- **Enthusiasm for working outside in all weather conditions**
- **Dedicated, enthusiastic, and adaptable approach to work**
- **Excellent team player who works well collaboratively with colleagues**
- Ability to facilitate engaging Forest School and outdoor activities
- Strong communication skills and ability to engage positively with children, families, and colleagues
- Natural ability to build happy, strong relationships with children
- Creative and flexible approach with good initiative
- Self-motivated with a positive, can-do attitude
- Physical fitness suitable for outdoor work (bending, lifting, kneeling, extended periods outdoors)

### Desirable Requirements

- Early Years qualification (NVQ Level 3 in Childcare and Education or equivalent)
- Experience with risk-benefit assessment in outdoor settings
- Experience supporting children with SEND
- Experience in planning and implementing EYFS activities

### What We Offer

- Competitive salary, negotiable based on experience
- The opportunity to work with a team of dedicated and passionate Forest School practitioners
- Discounted childcare for staff families
- Birthday day off—celebrate your special day!
- Unique working environment unlike any traditional nursery
- Staff family events throughout the year
- Onsite parking

- Ongoing professional development and training opportunities
- Supportive team environment where everyone's voice is valued

## A Day in the Life

Every day is different at My Little Explorers, but as a Forest School Leader, you might find yourself:

- Gathering with your team and children around the fire circle for morning songs and stories
- Facilitating bushcraft activities and supporting children to use real tools safely
- Supporting children as they climb, explore, and test their boundaries through risk-benefit assessment
- Cooking snacks over the campfire with small groups of children
- Joining in mud kitchen investigations and mini beast hunts
- Observing and documenting children's learning moments
- Planning activities with your colleagues based on children's interests and development
- Collaborating with team members during planning and reflection time
- Building meaningful relationships with your key children and their families

## How to Apply

To apply for this role, please send a copy of your CV and a covering letter to  
**[sam@mylittleexplorers.co.uk](mailto:sam@mylittleexplorers.co.uk)**

### In your covering letter, please tell us:

- What draws you to Forest School and outdoor learning
- Your relevant experience in facilitating Forest School activities and working with young children
- What you would bring to our team and why you'd thrive working collaboratively with our passionate practitioners

*My Little Explorers is committed to safeguarding children and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks, along with other relevant employment checks.*

*My Little Explorers aims to be an equal opportunity employer and select staff on merit, irrespective of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion or belief.*

## Contact Us

### My Little Explorers

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