



Museum Education: Early Childhood Education Internship Position Description

POSITION SUMMARY:

Museum Education interns are in the halls and labs of OMSI where they facilitate hands-on science experiences and inspire museum guests to make amazing connections with science through activities, demonstrations, and informal interactions. Interns assist Museum Education staff in the regular maintenance, upkeep, and development of the museum halls and labs.

This position is for the Early Childhood Education program and reports to the Early Childhood Education Coordinator/Assistant Manager. The Science Playground and Discovery Lab are OMSI's areas where young children ages 0-6 learn and explore in fun, developmentally appropriate settings. The Early Childhood Education Intern assists Museum Education staff in maintaining the physical spaces, supporting parents and children while they experience activities and exhibits, and ensuring the safety of our youngest visitors and their families.

EXPERIENCES THE INTERNSHIP WILL PROVIDE:

- Facilitating hands-on early science learning activities and interactions with museum guests of all ages
- Working in a collaborative environment with paid and unpaid staff of a variety of ages, experiences, and backgrounds
- Assist in the development, presentation and resetting of daily activities in Science Playground.
- Interact with a wide age range of visitors to help them explore and learn from exhibits and lab activities.
- Learn and practice informal education approaches.
- Share accurate science and museum information with guests.
- Work alongside Science Playground volunteers.
- Maintain ongoing safety and cleanliness procedures.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

What we are looking for:

- Strong communication, customer service, and problem-solving skills.
- Interest and/or experience in early childhood education and child development.
- Must be able to bend and stoop as needed to maintain integrity, appearance, and safety of the area.
- Ability to take initiative.
- Eager to present science process and content in an engaging way to young children.
- Interest in early childhood education and child development; ability to learn and communicate these topics to adult audiences.
- Must be dependable, punctual, and willing to commit to a regular schedule.
- Must present a professional personal appearance.
- Working toward a degree in early childhood education, child development, psychology, education, or science with college coursework in early childhood education.
- Experience working with the public and/or young children highly desirable.
- Experience working with the public in formal or informal educational settings highly desired

Training you will receive:

- General informal science education philosophies and pedagogy
- Facilitation best practices, including how to facilitate intergenerational communication, frame questions, gauge and respond to guests' social and educational goals, and cultivate learner-driven investigations
- Culturally responsive facilitation strategies
- Museum safety and emergency response

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- Best practices in Informal Education
- Best practices in early childhood education in an informal setting.

SCHEDULE:

- Schedule depends on needs of the lab or hall, but will be regular and predictable week to week.
- Minimum of 16 hours per week for at least 12 weeks.
- Since the museum is open 7 days per week in the summer, our preference is for both weekend and weekday availability.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Gaining knowledge of museum processes and procedures
- Ability to teach and to model adult-child interactions for positive early learning experiences.
- Exposure to foundational and cutting-edge developmental research to inform educational knowledge and practice.
- Working knowledge of best practices in early childhood education in an informal setting.
- Increased comfort and ability in assessing young visitors' developmental level and adapting interactions to meet them.
- Opportunity to practice cross-cultural communication with both OMSI guests and staff.
- Gain knowledge of museum culture and practices.

PHOTOS OF THE WORK AREA:

