



# PLAYWORKER

*(School Age Childcare Practitioner)*

Job Description





## ORGANISATIONAL BACKGROUND

For over 175 years, YMCA Dublin has been building safer, stronger, and more inclusive communities. Through affordable childcare, youth and family programmes, and community support services, we empower young people, support individuals and families, and create safe spaces where everyone can thrive.

## OUR PURPOSE

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to belong to healthy, confident, secure and connected communities.

## OUR VALUES

Welcoming, Inclusive, Empowering, Caring, Responsible







## CONTEXT FOR APPOINTMENT

This is an exciting time to join YMCA Dublin as we deliver on our ambitious strategic plan to expand our reach and deepen our impact by opening new Community Hubs across Dublin. These hubs will provide vital services, including affordable childcare, youth and family programmes, and community support initiatives.

The first of these new Community Hubs will launch in North Dublin in Spring/Summer 2025, spanning two locations: De Verdon Place (Malahide Road, Dublin 17) and Parkside (Belmayne, Dublin 13). Both facilities will offer School Age Childcare (after school services) and youth work programmes.

To support this expansion, we are recruiting Playworkers to help deliver these services. This is a key role in creating an inclusive, play-inspired environment where children and young people can thrive. The role would suit a warm, enthusiastic individual who enjoys working as part of a team and is passionate about supporting children through play in a community setting.





# Terms & Conditions

<b>Title</b>	Playworker (School Age Childcare Practitioner)
<b>Reporting To</b>	Play & Youth Work Supervisor
<b>Place of Work</b>	De Verdon Place, Malahide Road, Dublin and/or Parkside, Belmayne, Dublin 13
<b>Working Hours</b>	Part-time – 20 hours per week during term-time (with option for full time – 40 hours per week during school holidays)
<b>Nature of Post</b>	Permanent
<b>Rate of Pay</b>	€15.40 per hour
<b>Start Date</b>	23rd June 2025

## ROLE SUMMARY

- Under the supervision of the Play & Youth Work Supervisor
- Assist in the organisation & running of after schools provision for primary school aged children on weekday afternoons during term time (5 sessions per week).
  - Assist in the organisation & running of all day provision for primary school aged children during school holiday periods (5 sessions per week).
  - Assist in the support of European Solidarity Corps (ESC) & Community Employment (CE) volunteers



# PRINCIPAL DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Engaging with Children:** Build positive, supportive relationships with children during playwork sessions, and encourage and motivate children to actively participate in activities and discussions.
- **Planning and Development:** Plan play-focused activities tailored to the needs and interests of the children.
- **Facilitating Activities:** Lead and assist with age-appropriate activities, such as arts and crafts, music, and sports, to stimulate creativity, teamwork, and personal development.
- **Role Model Behaviour:** Serve as a positive role model by demonstrating respectful behaviour, kindness, and responsibility.
- **Supervision:** Collecting children from local school/s and escorting them safely back to the service.
- **Set-Up and Preparation:** Preparation of spaces, materials and resources for activities, and basic snacks for snack times. Organise and clean equipment before and after use to ensure a safe and clean environment.
- **Administration:** Assist with the completion of daily checklists, attendance and work records, and observations of children's progress.
- **Teamwork:** Attend regular team meetings and contribute to discussions around development, challenges, and improvements.
- **Parental Engagement:** Provide updates on children's play experiences, and address any concerns raised by parents/carers.
- **Training and Development:** Undertake practical training related to playwork, safeguarding, and other relevant fields.
- **Compliance:** Follow YMCA policies and procedures, especially those related to safeguarding, child protection, and health & safety, and contribute to adherence with Tusla's National Quality Guidelines for SAC Services.
- **Any Other Duties:** Be flexible and willing to take on additional tasks related to the delivery of YMCA services, as required.

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## Essential

### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Minimum 2 years' experience of working with school-aged children in a regulated environment

### KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

- Knowledge of child development & playwork approaches
- Good interpersonal & communication skills
- Knowledge of safeguarding and health & safety
- Ability to actively engage children in play activities
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Ability to positively engage with parents/carers

### QUALITIES & CIRCUMSTANCES

- Fluent in spoken & written English
- Ability to participate in activities with children
- Reliable, enthusiastic & compassionate
- Willingness to undertake further training

## Desirable

### QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Recognised qualification in Youth Work, Childcare or equivalent
- Relevant first aid / food safety qualifications

### KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

- Knowledge of relevant regulations & legislation
- Good organisational & administrative skills
- Proficient in the use of ICT

### QUALITIES & CIRCUMSTANCES

- Self-motivated & able to work on own initiative
- Ability to work flexible and extended hours, including mornings during holiday periods