

Job Description	
Job Title:	Therapeutic Play Practitioner
Grade:	Grade: 9 Advanced Practitioner
Name of Employer:	Northside Family Resource Centre

Northside Family Resource Centre, since its establishment in 1987, has sought to respond to the needs of the local community by providing:

- structures which facilitate local people to support each other and search for ways to improve the quality of life in the area
- services in answer to the needs of families and family members
- support for those most disadvantaged and socially excluded

The role of the Practitioner of Therapeutic Play is to support the work of Northside Family Resource Centre across its services, particularly with families who require specialised therapeutic services. The Practitioner of Therapeutic Play will coordinate the running and development of the project and will prioritise the parent/child relationship building in long-term resilience into the family home.

Key areas of work:

Generalised Supports

The Practitioner of Therapeutic Play will:

- Support parents and children to avail of current provision such as individual therapy and Circles of Security Attachment Based Parenting Programme.
- Ensure children and parents are offered additional support where appropriate, for example, the support of a family support worker or speech and language therapist.

Multi-disciplinary Practice

The Practitioner of Therapeutic Play will:

- Create and support the Multi-disciplinary Team (family support and community workers, creative therapists, early years practitioners and speech and language therapists).

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- Work closely with Early Years Coordinators and Team Leaders to identify children and families in need of support and interventions.
- Embed trauma informed practices into the existing team by cascading the unique learning from the Project.

Needs assessment and Intervention:

- Become familiar with local families and their needs through embedding into the relevant children's services.
- Prioritise need and devise intervention plans. Perform reviews with the parent and child to celebrate the positive outcomes and adjust the plan if required.
- Facilitate individual and group interventions in a skilled manner.
- Identify opportunities for service development to meet the needs of children and families.
- Facilitate a family centred approach.
- Provide ongoing individual support to parents and children, linking them with other services as required.
- Design and deliver CPD for staff.
- Devise and run information sessions for parents.
- Make referrals to other services where appropriate.
- Keep detailed records of all interventions with children and parents.
- Ensure the process is empowering where the child and parent are central in all decision making.

Networking:

- Work in partnership with local agencies to ensure an integrated approach.
- Liaise with relevant agencies at citywide and national level in the voluntary and statutory sector.

Administration

- Devise a clear project action plan with targets, measurements and outcomes for Board approval.
- Monitor and evaluate all work of the project with monthly activity and achievement reports for Board of Management along with final evaluation for the purpose of funding proposals and applications.

General

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- Undertake other relevant duties as requested from time to time by the Head of Early Years Services and CEO.
- Take responsibility with other staff for the general work of the Centre.

Other Relevant Information This is a new role at the Family Resource Centre and as such requires flexibility. It also requires a clear protocol and record of activity and achievement.

Hours of Work

- The post will be full-time – 39 hours per week initially for a 12-month fixed-term contract.
- Part-time/3/4 time and fulltime working arrangements will be considered.
- The Practitioner of Therapeutic Play will be expected to be flexible about hours of work which will include morning; afternoon; evening and limited weekend work. Where working additional hours is required, overtime will not be paid but time-off-in-lieu will be granted.
- A ten-month probation period will apply.
- Flexibility regarding the location of work is required.

Accountability

The Practitioner of Therapeutic Play will be responsible to the Voluntary Management Committee through the Head of Early Years Services and the CEO.

Confidentiality

The Practitioner of Therapeutic Play will always observe confidentiality in relation to Centre business.

Salary

The salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and will not be less than €35,690 per annum pro rata.

Pension

The Company will make a provision for pension, at the rate of double your contribution and subject to a maximum of five percent of the gross salary, subject to funding.

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Holidays

You are entitled to twenty-five days annual leave (pro-rata for part-time positions) with an additional 2 Company days for Good Friday and Christmas Eve.

Travel Expenses

Travel expenses will be paid, and subsistence will be paid on production of receipts as per travel expense policy.

Person Specification.

Job Title: Practitioner of Therapeutic Play

Name of Employer: Northside Family Resource Centre

This Person Specification is a description of the skills, knowledge and experience required for the position of **Practitioner of Therapeutic Play** with Northside Family Resource Centre

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relevant level 8 academic / educational qualification (play/creative art therapy or related field). • Experience in conducting needs assessments and generating care plans. • Experience of providing mental health supports to children and their families. • 2 Year post qualification experience of working with vulnerable families. • Experience of working in partnership with families and carers. • Experience of team working and collaborating with other professionals. • Experience and skills in writing effective reports. • Computer skills and knowledge of computer packages. • Excellent communication and presentation skills. • Full driving licence and access to own transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A relevant level 9 academic / educational qualification (play/creative art therapy or related field). ▪ Experience in facilitating parent programs such as Sunshine Circles and/or Circles of Security. ▪ Knowledge and experience of the Family Resource Centre Programme. ▪ Experience and skills in group facilitation. ▪ Knowledge and experience of the community and voluntary sector.