

Job Description

Position Title:	Horticultural Therapist
Classification:	Nonexempt
Reports To:	Melinda Carter, Director of Children's Programs
Date of opening:	January 2021
Compensation:	\$25+/hour, dependent upon education and experience

Summary/Objective:

Working as a member of Anchor Center's transdisciplinary team, the Horticultural Therapist helps meet the early intervention, education, and developmental goals of the children served by Anchor Center.

The Therapist is responsible for: 1) planning and leading the Center's seasonal horticultural programs for toddler and preschool children; 2) engaging staff, families, volunteers and professional groups in the Center's horticultural programs; 3) caring for, and advising the Center's management on, the maintenance of the Center's gardens, greenhouse and horticultural equipment; and 4) supporting the daily program activities of Anchor Center.

Essential Functions:

- Implementing the Horticultural Therapy (HT) program
- Coordinating HT activities which support the Center's programs and in partnership with the interdisciplinary team
- Planning and implementing seasonal and weekly HT activities to meet children's therapeutic goals
- Facilitating the design and plans for the garden areas planted by children and families, as well as other garden areas on the Center's grounds
- Overseeing the greenhouse, including the plantings and maintenance schedule
- Coordinating center's composting program
- Purchasing supplies for the HT program; assisting with yearly inventory and budgeting for the program and gardens
- Teaming with the Center's Volunteer Program Manager to recruit, train and manage the HT and garden volunteers, including serving as the Center's representative with Master Gardner and other horticultural groups
- Educating staff and families about HT and engaging them in HT activities
- Coordinating community field trips to Botanic Gardens, Urban Farm or other related destinations
- Consulting with the Center's fundraising staff regarding grant or funding requests to support the Center's HT program
- Consulting with the Center's Operations Director and contracted grounds-keeping crews on landscaping, plant, and greenhouse maintenance needs
- Attending staff meetings and training as well as curriculum planning meetings
- Serving as an ambassadors for Anchor Center's mission, programs and services

- Providing other support as may be assigned to support the programs, services and operations of Anchor Center, including providing assistance to classroom teachers

Work Environment:

- Indoor temperature-controlled classroom environment and outdoor settings
- Occasionally lift or move up to 40 pounds
- Must be able to sustain the bending, kneeling and lifting activities inherent in gardening activities

Competencies:

- Compassionate and empathetic toward children and families
- Passion for working with young children who have special needs
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Highly organized
- Able to adapt and flex with the daily needs of children and/or demands of program operations
- Interest in learning and willingness to gain new skills specific to working with young children who are blind or visually impaired
- Ability to work independently, as well as with a team

Education and Experience:**Required**

- Bachelors or Master's degree in Horticultural Therapy, Early Childhood Education, Social Work, Recreational Therapy, Occupational Therapy or other related profession.
- Outstanding communication skills with the ability to inspire, engage and educate children, families, staff and volunteers
- Ability to read, write, speak and understand the English language fluently, and communicate verbally and in writing at a professional level

Preferred

- Horticultural Therapy Certificate or Horticultural Therapy Registration (HTR) approved by the American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA)
- Experience creating and implementing horticultural and other therapeutic activities for young children with a range of vision, developmental and motor abilities
- Master Gardener experience
- At least two years of experience working with young children with special needs
- Experience working with young children who are blind or visually impaired
- CPR/ First Aid Certification

Expected Hours of Work:

This is a part-time, 28 hours per week position, funded for 42 weeks annually and is exempt from overtime. Hours, workdays, and work weeks are flexible in accordance with program scheduling and seasonality.

Please send cover letter and resume to Melinda Carter. Mcarter@anchorcenter.org

The above is intended to describe the general content of and requirements for the performance of this job. It is not to be construed as an exhaustive statement of essential functions, responsibilities or requirements. The Anchor Center for Blind Children is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE), M/F/H/V.