

Job Description: Attachment-based Play Therapist

Ascent is a growing children's therapeutic organisation that is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across our children services, including the fostering agency and residential home. This role is to offer therapeutic support to children and young people in both types of resource as appropriate to the need of the organisation.

This is not a permanent role. We are looking for someone who would like to join the wider therapeutic team in offering contracted pieces of work to our children and young people.

Skills and Knowledge

The post holder must possess:

- Astute assessment and report writing skills and be able to produce analytical and well evidenced reports for internal and external use as required.
- Good interpersonal skills, establishing effective working relationships through which one to one supervision and support is offered to foster carers
- Group work skills, facilitating support groups
- Working knowledge of existing agency Policies and Procedures and their application.
- A good knowledge of the needs of children and young people, youth work experience or a track record in social care.

Purpose

- To support the agency in carrying out its responsibilities towards looked after children.
- To assess the emotional needs of children in consultation with other professionals
- To assess children for their suitability for play therapy and provide it when appropriate
- To provide support to children as individuals and in groups

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To attend review/progress meetings with children’s residential staff/foster carers and multi-agency meetings as required; making recommendations and implementing support strategies To provide advice, consultation, training and support to others working with the client groups as appropriate
<p><u>Key Tasks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To undertake Assessment and Play Therapy with children in response to referrals To liaise with the therapeutic consultants and senior management team at Ascent regarding referrals To produce and maintain accurate records and complete the agency’s reports To attend and inform review/progress meetings with children residential staff/foster carers and multi-agency meetings as required To participate in the development of clinical services Where appropriate, to deliver in house training/consultation To maintain high standards of professional practice, complying at all times to codes of practice (as applicable and PTUK ethical framework)
<p><u>Decisions Making</u></p> <p>The post holder will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any safeguarding issues to their manager and work in partnership with the local authority as appropriate to ensure that Safeguarding and procedures are followed. Be responsible for their own decision making in relation to the supervision, training, and provision of information to foster carers, and carers involved in alternative care arrangements.

Person Specification: Attachment-based play therapist

Criteria	Standard
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MA or MSC in Play Therapy and registered with the British Association of Play Therapist (BAPT)
Knowledge	Applicants are expected to having a sound working knowledge of:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Child Protection Procedures and Safeguarding Children and Young People 2014. • Children Act and its context • National Minimum Standards Fostering Service 2011 • Children’s homes regulations 2015 • Policy and procedures in relation to Looked after children.
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent verbal and written communication skills i.e. ability to communicate effectively and express complex concepts and information. • Excellent time-management skills; ability to plan, organise and prioritise a demanding workload and meet deadlines, in order to maintain the delivery of multiple, competing short and long term objectives. • assessment and report writing skills and be able to produce analytical and well evidenced reports for internal and external use as required. • Good interpersonal skills, establishing effective working relationships though which one to one supervision and support is offered to foster carers and promote good customer care. • Ability to effectively work as a team with the professional network within and external to the agency • Good group work skills, facilitating support groups and foster carer team meetings. • Competent IT skills; ability to use electronic systems for storing data and producing reports and presentations.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working with looked after children or young people, and providing play therapy to this cohort • Experience in working with children and families in assessing needs, setting tasks and reviewing the progress of agreed targets and plans. • Experience of working with other professionals in a formal setting. • Competence in working with information technology and electronic information systems
Personal style and behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work as a member of a team.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good organisational skills, including effective time management, reliability, decision making, motivating and enabling others. • Ability to develop collaborative relationships. • A partnership/holistic approach to problem solving. • Develops good relationships with others by behaving with integrity, treating people with respect and leading by example • Commitment to personal and professional development • A flexible approach - willing to accept responsibility and work on own initiative • Commitment to equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice
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We will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that no disabled applicant is placed at a substantial disadvantage. This person-specification includes what we believe are fully justifiable essential and desirable selection criteria. Provided that the selection criteria unconnected with the disability are met, we will make ALL reasonable adjustments in order that someone with a disability can undertake the duties involved.