



PLAYSKILL

supporting children with physical disabilities

Integrated SALT Assistant Practitioner Family Support Worker

Recruitment Pack 2026



Welcome

Playskill is a Hertfordshire-based charity supporting pre-school children with physical disabilities and their families. The charity relies entirely on voluntary donations to fund its vital services.

Using therapeutic play as a tool for development of key milestones, Playskill steps in during the crucial early intervention window when the brain is developing faster than at any other time. We do this through expert therapies, vital in-home support, specialist training and all important social and respite events for the whole family.

We stand alongside families throughout the challenges of living with disability, offering guidance, care, and community, helping them to build skills, resilience and networks to face the journey ahead.

About the role

We are looking for a compassionate and dedicated professional to support children aged 0–5 with physical disabilities and delays, alongside their families. This integrated role combines Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) support with holistic family assistance.

You will work closely with therapists to deliver therapy programmes and empower families to embed these approaches into daily routines. You will also provide practical and emotional support, helping families navigate health, education, and social care systems.

You will have experience working with children and families with SEND, strong communication skills, and the ability to work independently across multiple sites and home settings.

How to apply

Submit your CV by email to recruitment@playskil.org.

If you would like more information, or to discuss the role, please contact Karen Belmont, Head of Development/SALT, karen@playskill.org.

Integrated SALT Assistant Practitioner & Family Support Worker

Job description

Location

Hemel Hempstead, Watford, home and community settings, as required.

Reporting to

Head of Family Services, Head of Development

Key relationships

Head of Family Service and Operations, Head of Development, Head of Clinical Care, Family Support Lead, therapists, specialist workers, families, external professionals and partner agencies.

Hours

37.5 hours per week/full time

Salary

£27,1883 (increasing to £29,250 per annum upon successful completion of the SALTAP competencies)

Contract Type

12 months (with a view to extend)

Disclosure Level

Enhanced DBS clearance required

Deadline for applications: 8 July 2026

Interview date: 14 January 2026

Interview location: Hemel Hempstead

Duties & Responsibilities

Therapy Support

- Support Playskill speech and language therapists to deliver services for children aged 0–5 with physical disabilities and delays.
- Deliver speech and language therapy activities to individual children and groups attending Playskill sessions, under the direction of therapists.
- Use judgement to adapt activities appropriately to meet children's needs, recognising professional boundaries and seeking advice where required.
- Support family members and professionals to develop confidence in play and therapeutic activities and integrating therapy programmes into daily routines through modelling and guidance.
- Support the preparation, making, safe use, cleanliness and maintenance of therapy equipment and resources, reporting issues promptly.
- Keep accurate clinical records, contribute to termly reports and update therapists on children's progress.
- Complete role-specific competencies, identify learning needs and participate in supervision, appraisal and continuing professional development.

Family Support

- Work alongside the Family Support Lead to provide holistic support to families of children with physical disabilities and delays across Playskill locations, homes and community settings.
- Attend termly assessments, weekly group sessions, home visits and social events as and when required.
- Assess family needs within Playskill's caseload, maintaining strict adherence to safeguarding, confidentiality and data protection requirements.
- Encourage parent and carer engagement with Playskill services, activities and learning opportunities.
- Support and empower families to work effectively with external professionals across health, education and social care.
- Signpost families to relevant services and maintain knowledge of useful organisations, contacts and local early years support in Hertfordshire.
- Support families with the administration and practical challenges associated with raising a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.
- Develop and maintain knowledge of SEND legislation and use this to help families advocate effectively for their children.
- Identify, support and, where appropriate, deliver training relevant to families, in partnership with the Family Support Lead and Head of Development.

Duties & Responsibilities [continued]

Collaborative Working, Monitoring and Governance

- Work as part of the wider Playskill team to promote respect, inclusion and positive outcomes for children and families.
- Build positive working relationships with external stakeholders and partner agencies to maximise the effectiveness of Playskill's work and identify emerging challenges for families.
- Organise and prioritise own workload, planning weekly activity with relevant line managers to ensure timely and high-quality support across sites and in the community.
- Ensure all cases and relevant activity are logged and updated on Playskill systems in line with GDPR and safeguarding requirements.
- Provide feedback on outcomes, progress, unmet needs and family priorities to the Senior Management Team, Board of Trustees and fundraising colleagues as required.
- Support monitoring and reporting to funders by providing accurate information about activity, outcomes and impact.
- Contact parents or carers where children are not brought to group, in line with safeguarding requirements and to offer support.
- Adhere to all Playskill policies and procedures, including safeguarding, confidentiality, GDPR, health and safety and mandatory training requirements.

Skills & experience required

- At least two years' experience working with children and families with SEND.
- GCSE or equivalent in English and Maths.
- General knowledge of child development and an understanding of speech and language therapy principles.
- Strong understanding of safeguarding, confidentiality and GDPR.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to build rapport with children, families, and professionals.
- Confident IT skills, including Microsoft Office 365.
- Ability to work independently, prioritise workload and manage competing deadlines.
- Valid driving licence and access to own transport.
- Ability to meet physical demands, including moving and handling, kneeling, and floor-based work.
- Desirable: Level 4/5 Diploma in Healthcare/Assistant Practitioner; knowledge of SEND legislation; experience with Makaton; experience of working for a disability organisation.

Working Conditions

The post holder will be primarily based the Charity's office, with the opportunity to work from home, depending on the needs of the Charity.

Salary and Benefits

Salary: £27,1883 (increasing to £29,250 per annum upon successful completion of the SALTAP competencies)

Employee Assistance Programme

Enhanced sick pay

Team days

Personalised training programme

Annual leave, incremental increases with length of service

Pension contribution

Work phone provided

Free annual flu vaccination

Free eye test, every two years

Safeguarding Statement

Playskill is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of all children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment. Playskill has a full safeguarding policy and expect all staff to undergo safeguarding training to a minimum of level one.

Diversity Statement

Playskill is an equal opportunities employer and has a high number of team members with caring responsibilities and is keen to encourage applicants from a diverse number of backgrounds.



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