

Deputy Manager – Preschool with Onsite Forest School

Start Date: September 2026 | Term-Time Role

We are seeking a passionate and dedicated **Deputy Manager** to support the daily running of our preschool and onsite Forest School. This is a rewarding opportunity for an enthusiastic early year's professional committed to delivering exceptional learning experiences across both indoor and outdoor environments.

Working closely with the Manager, you will help lead a nurturing, stimulating and safe setting where children aged 2-5 grow socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively through play and exploration making full use of our cosy indoor space, well-equipped garden and attached Forest School.

As Deputy Manager, you will:

- Support the Manager and SENCO in delivering high-quality early years provision
- Lead and motivate a team of practitioners, fostering a positive and collaborative culture
- Promote and implement the EYFS statutory framework
- Maintain safeguarding, health & safety, and hygiene standards at all times
- Act as a Key Person and work within ratios
- Support and enhance outdoor learning experiences
- Maintain accurate records, including observations and assessments
- Build strong partnerships with parents, carers, schools and external agencies
- Assist with administrative duties and demonstrate competent IT skills
- Support the Manager with correspondence and day-to-day organisation
- Act as Manager in their absence

You will play a vital role in ensuring every child maximises their potential within a safe, happy and inspiring learning environment.

Our ideal Deputy Manager will have:

- A minimum Level 3 Early Years qualification (NNEB / NVQ3 / Diploma Level 3 or equivalent - full and relevant)

- Level 3 Forest School Leader qualification **or** experience in outdoor education (or a keen interest in CPD to develop in this area)
- Strong leadership and team management skills
- Sound knowledge of EYFS, safeguarding, and childcare legislation
- Excellent organisational and communication skills
- Confidence in supervising staff and leading in the Manager's absence
- An Enhanced DBS check
- SEND experience (desirable)

Most importantly, you will be passionate about early years education and outdoor learning, be a motivated team-player who leads by example.

Pay range £14.05 - £17.96 per hour, depending on experience/qualifications.

St. Michael's offers a 4% pension contribution through 'The Peoples Pension'.

For more information, or to request an application form, please email stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com or call 01372 361021