



Opal Beginning School Teacher
Opal School

Status: Full-Time/Exempt (August 2019 - June 2020)
Schedule: 8am – 4pm, Monday-Friday (Occasional evenings/weekends, as scheduled)
Reports to: Opal Beginning School Teacher-Administrator

MISSION

We collaborate to create transformative learning experiences through the arts and sciences. The mission of the Opal School is to strengthen education by provoking fresh ideas concerning environments where creativity, imagination, and the wonder of learning thrive.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Portland Children's Museum consists of three aligned entities: (1) the Museum, where exhibits and programs serve the public both on- and off-site, (2) Opal School, an independent preschool and K-5 public elementary school, and (3) the Museum Center for Learning, which documents and disseminates fresh approaches to education and provides professional development for educators.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

In the Portland metro area, 47% of students are children of color. At Portland Children's Museum, we strive to have our guest and school families reflect that diversity, and for our staff and board to be equally diverse. We are committed to *eliminating barriers to access and equity* and see a diverse workforce as a key step toward this goal. We actively seek to recruit, hire, promote, and retain a diverse workforce—one that welcomes and engages people from every background. We value our staff members, volunteers, and board members and their individual backgrounds, which further our ability to serve and learn from the diverse families that enrich our community. We invite you to join us on our journey.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Opal Beginning School Teacher values and practices our inquiry-based approaches to teaching and learning. They co-teach in a community of children (ages 3-6), engage in daily collaboration and reflection with other faculty, and make learning visible through documentation, publishing, and presenting to the public. The Opal Beginning School Teacher employs excellent interpersonal skills, strong organizational skills, cultural competency, a commitment to the rights of all learners, and the passion to realize the school's mission of transforming the field of education.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

CREATE INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (75% OF TIME)

- Approach work through a growth-mindset as a teacher-researcher and engaged collaborator who is curious, eager to learn, joyful, and kind.
- Develop and deliver vigorous and challenging inquiry-based experiences rich in multiple languages and framed by our learning structures (such as Story Workshop, Explore, Math Workshop, Story Theater, etc.), guided by our Goals and Expectations for students and reflective of principles of teaching and learning practiced by Opal School.
- Value and practice nurturing the social and emotional intelligences of young children through listening, asking questions, seeing conflicts as learning opportunities, offering strategies, and supporting them to repair relationships through problem solving.
- Arrange physical environments and materials in ways that reflect Opal School's principles of teaching and learning.

- Effectively organize time, space, materials and research data (dialogues, photographs, videos, etc.).
- Use research, documentation, and assessment to inform teaching practice and curriculum decisions.

COLLABORATE & REFLECT WITH TEACHING TEAM (15%)

- Participate as an engaged member of the teaching team in which collaboration, dialogue, risk taking, honesty, and reflection are practiced values.
- Develop and utilize frameworks to understand and assess individual growth and learning.
- Demonstrate an eagerness to continue to learn and grow as a teacher and researcher by practicing inquiry, actively digging into current research related to this work, and regularly journaling and sharing reflections with others.
- Participate as a member of the community and collaborative teaching team through dialogue, analysis of student work, sharing observations and questions, planning and capturing thinking.

MAKE LEARNING VISIBLE TO FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS (10%)

- Employ strategies for making adult and children's learning visible in a variety of ways, including blog posts, presentations, documentation panels, etc.
- Communicate with parents/guardians about children's experiences, gifts, learning edges and growth toward Opal School Goals and Expectations via informal conversations, and conferences.
- Contribute to weekly classroom or community updates for parents/guardians.
- Model our teaching and learning approaches to educators who participate in workshops; engage in dialogue with them (in person and online) about our values and practices.
- Present research and participate in public forums to influence the field of education.
- Integrate technology to support learning and documentation including digital photographs, audio recordings, scanned work, and video; organize and catalog the experiences of children and adults each week.
- Ensure compliance with State regulatory agencies' guidelines.
- Fulfill all other responsibilities as assigned by supervisor and defined by annual work plan.

QUALIFICATIONS

Skills

- Degree in child development (preferred) or equivalent in relevant discipline.
- Three years of successful experience co-teaching young children in a social constructivist learning environment, or equivalent experience.
- Demonstrated understanding of the developmental stages, needs, and interests of children ages 3-6 years.
- Demonstrated understanding of the mission, philosophy, values, and teaching principles of Opal School and Portland Children's Museum.
- General digital literacy.
- Demonstrated excellent writing skills.
- Knowledgeable about the experiences and practices of the early childhood schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy.

Competencies

- Keen interest and curiosity about the nature of learning and teaching.
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice and educational equity.
- Attentive to the many ways that children make meaning of the world.
- Finds joy in working with children and adults.
- Values learning from mistakes.
- Values families as important partners in the life of the school.
- Embraces reflection as a tool for growth and learning.

- Ability to see, hear, and speak with children, families, and groups of all sizes.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Ability to pass a background check.
- Standing and sitting in classrooms designed for children ages 3-6.
- Moving quickly during evacuations or emergency situations.
- Playing outside every day with children in all weather conditions.
- Lifting, up to 50 pounds.

REQUIRED CREDENTIALS/TRAINING

- Current enrollment in the Oregon Criminal Registry (required at start of contract).
- Current CPR/First Aid certificate and Food Handlers card (required at start of contract).
- Completion of Introduction to Child Care Health & Safety training and Recognizing & Reporting Child Abuse & Neglect training (required at start of contract).

Interview Process: Candidates selected for interviews will be asked to complete an application and consent to a background check. The hiring process requires finalists to participate in up to two interviews and provide one writing sample.

To apply, please send resume, three professional references and salary requirement to resumes@portlandcm.org Apply early, since resumes are reviews as received. No phone calls, please.