



## Nature Immersion Assistant

*We teach that, no matter how small you are, from the tiniest barnacle to the busiest bee, you can have a meaningful and positive impact in your community.*

Barnacles & Bees is a nonprofit organization in Kitsap and North Mason Counties in Washington focused on outdoor education, nature and families. Our goal is to cultivate leaders and creative thinkers, playful families and connected communities. Learning through observation and immersion in nature is at the heart of our organization, our programs, and our values. Find out more about our programs through our website: <https://www.barnaclesandbees.com/>.

### Job duties include:

#### 1- Responsibilities to Children:

- Be a positive, playful, and patient nature curiosity mentor.
- Support the development of children through risky play.
- Ensure the health, safety and well-being of students through site surveys, risk and hazard assessments of the outdoor classroom, and daily connections with students.
- Step in when necessary to help resolve conflict amongst children with the intent of finding clarity and strengthening relationships. (Training here will be provided upon hiring.)
- Maintain clear communications with fellow staff, interns, volunteers, students, and families to achieve common goals and avoid potential conflicts.
- Promote a relationship with parents through regular communications during drop-off and pick-up.
- Ensure families feel that their traditions, experiences, and individual needs are reflected through all aspects of the program.

#### 2- Nature Mentor

- Get dirty as you follow the curiosity of the children as they explore nature.
- Collaborate in creating activities, games that are consistent with emergent curriculum and individual child goals.
- Create an inviting and emotionally safe environment that empowers children as individuals and as members of a team.
- Research and learn alongside the children. Not knowing something is an opportunity.
- Be responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of all children. This includes helping children stay warm and dry in chilly weather, and assessing risk in an outdoor setting.

#### 3- Team Responsibilities:

- Work as a teaching team to coordinate curriculum and in implementing the daily routines, activities, and provide a child with one on one support when needed.
- Create a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere for families to foster our Barnacles & Bees community. Connect with caregivers at pick up and drop off to continuously build relationships with families.
- Follow all established policies, procedures and protocols related to internal guidelines.
- Support Educators with external communications for child safety, crisis and risk management.
- Responsible for timely response to emails and attending monthly staff meetings.
- Act as an ambassador for Barnacles & Bees by explaining what our program is and/or talking to the curious public in the parks where our classes take place.



### **Professional Qualifications**

Barnacles & Bees is seeking candidates with 1-3 years in Early Childhood Education and/or Outdoor and Environmental Education and who:

- Are excited to get dirty and laugh a lot while teaching outside in all types of weather.
- Are knowledgeable about the natural world and enjoy sharing that knowledge with children in the field.
- Are comfortable with not knowing the answer to questions about nature, and provide opportunities for children to wonder.
- Are dedicated to nurturing young children and have experience with positive guidance discipline.
- Are dedicated to helping children resolve their own conflicts. They are comfortable with standing off to the side, watching the conflict unfold, and only giving input to help support the purpose of conflict resolution.
- Understand the benefits, tangible and intangible, of a deeply felt connection to nature at a young age.
- Are dedicated to empowering children to believe in themselves, their strengths and their weaknesses, their differences and their similarities.
- Can stand behind Barnacles & Bees values of: Community & Inclusion, Confidence, Curiosity, Creativity, Conservation.
- Are engaging and able to communicate with students, families, volunteers, and peers.
- Have an understanding of cultural competency in the context of early childhood education.
- Are able to pass background checks, have their own transportation and cell phone.
- Are able to work occasional weekends and evenings (open houses, etc.)
- Can move, play and carry weight for 3 hours continuously.
- Have current or be willing to acquire CPR/First Aid Training.

### **Desired Team Qualities:**

- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- A demonstrated ability to collaborate and work as a teaching team, as well as with other staff and volunteers.
- A willingness to listen, speak their mind, practice integrity and transparency, and respect others at all times and who are willing to work in a collaborative group setting.
- A willingness to share in the learnings, growth and leadership that comes with working with a developing and values-driven organization.

**Hours:** ON CALL - Part time: 3 hours of teaching time per scheduled substitute day + 1 hour setup/cleanup

**Location:** Illahee State Park, Bremerton, WA or Belfair State Park, Belfair, WA

**Compensation:** beginning rate of \$18/hour

**Benefits:** Paid sick leave as per WA State law

**Apply to:** [hello@barnaclesandbees.com](mailto:hello@barnaclesandbees.com) with Resume, Cover Letter and 2 Employer References

Barnacles & Bees programs run from September to June. Barnacles & Bees aligns with current health messages provided by WA State Department of Health and the CDC. Barnacles & Bees is an Equal Opportunity Employer.