



EARLY LEARNING SPECIALIST

Organization Description:

Young Audiences/Arts for Learning (YA), founded in Baltimore in 1950, is the country's foremost arts-in-education non-profit organization. The Maryland chapter of Young Audiences provides more than 9,000 arts education opportunities to nearly 200,000 students, artists, and educators throughout the state each year. The staff, board, and teaching artists of YA work tirelessly to generate opportunities for all students to imagine, create, and realize their full potential through the arts.

Job Description:

We are looking for an Early Learning Specialist. This is a new position at Young Audiences and is the result of an increased commitment to and investment in using the arts to nurture all the areas we know to be important to preparing young children to enter school "ready." This is a full-time position that reports to the Program Director.

The Early Learning Specialist has a unique opportunity to shape the content, ongoing development, and implementation of our early learning programs. Much of this work will be conducted in partnership with Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts. Additionally, the Early Learning Specialist will need to pursue this work through a racial and ethnic equity lens, as we launch a new partnership with five of Baltimore City's Judy Centers, helping to extend our reach to children ages 0-3 and their families.

Responsibilities Include:

Launching a new partnership with Baltimore City Judy Centers (50%)

- Conduct a program needs assessment with partner Judy Centers.
- Develop a customized early learning through the arts program for each Judy Center.
- Work in partnership with Wolf Trap Institute of Early Learning to coordinate YA staff and artist training to deliver Wolf Trap model programs at Judy Centers.
- Match artists specializing in early childhood with Judy Centers to develop and deliver programs for children, parents, and practitioners.
- Attend planning sessions with Judy Centers, providers, and artists.
- Schedule programs for each Judy Center, serving as the primary contact for artists and Judy Center representative.
- Observe YA/Wolf Trap programs/artists and provide feedback and coaching.
- Consult with YA's data manager and outside evaluator to design an evaluation and handle some aspects of data collection.

- Work with the Maryland State Department of Education to ensure the professional development offered meets the Core of Knowledge credit requirements.
- Maintain files, records and project budget.

Consulting and supporting our partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools (40%)

- Serve as a thought partner and content expert to YA's Program Director and Director of Summer Learning for our existing early learning programs.
- Participate in planning and evaluation meetings with our team and BCPSS to ensure that the early learning programs we provide are aligned with the Office of Early Learning priorities and our core values.
- Advise Director of Summer Learning and the Education Director, Baltimore City Initiatives on early childhood components of the Summer Arts & Learning Academy (SALA), including:
 - Developing curriculum and instructional resources for SALA early childhood classrooms;
 - Ensuring that all aspects of the SALA early childhood program are age appropriate, affirming, inclusionary, and aligned with best practices and research;
 - Leading Professional Development for early childhood staff prior to the SALA program and supporting staff as they collaboratively plan literacy and math lessons; and
 - Providing in-classroom support in early childhood classrooms during the SALA program as needed.
- Represent YA at BCPSS early learning convenings and professional developments.
- Work in partnership with BCPSS and YA artists to design professional development for pre-K and K teachers.
- Work in partnership with YA's leadership to submit program proposals to BCPSS.
- Support marketing the opportunities we provide to pre-K and K teachers.
- Match artists with participating school teachers.
- As needed, schedule the programs (contracts).
- Consult with YA's data manager and the Office of Early Learning to design an evaluation and handle some aspects of data collection.

Supporting the expansion of YA's Early Learning Programs Statewide (10%)

- Serve as a strategic advisor for the YA leadership team to understand the landscape of early learning and identify opportunities where YA can play a unique role in advancing equitable outcomes for school readiness.
- Partner with the YA development department to submit grant proposals that will create new opportunities for school systems and YA to use the arts to advance equitable outcomes for school readiness.
- Support the Program Team in developing relationships with Early Learning Supervisors across the state.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education or related field, with specific educational and professional experience with inclusion classrooms.
- Training and experience in areas that include: the theories and principles of child growth and development, early childhood education, and family support.
- At least three years of overall professional experience in early learning educational settings.
- Experience designing and delivering professional development for early learning educators.

- Knowledge of and passion for play-based learning and the critical role it plays in developing executive function skills.
- Experience working directly with people from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- An understanding of the concepts of institutional and structural racism and bias, and its impact on policies and practices, especially related to the administration of public education.
- General knowledge of the principles and best practices in early childhood education as well as Maryland State Department of Education's programs and policies that support the field.
- We are seeking someone who is passionate, collaborative, community-oriented, innovative and persistent, with strong written and verbal communication skills.

To apply:

For consideration, please send your resume, cover letter, and salary requirements to jobs@yamd.org with "Early Learning Specialist" in the subject line. Applications will be accepted through **Friday, November 16th**. Please do not send applications that include headshots or photos of yourself. No phone calls or recruiters, please.

Young Audiences/Arts for Learning Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to cultivating a diverse workforce and equitable workplace. We encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, national origin, veteran status, and disability. All qualified applications will be given equal opportunity.