



Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society
1004 North Park Street - Victoria, B.C. V8T 1C6
Telephone: (250) 361-9433 x.243 Fax: (250) 361-1914

JOB DESCRIPTION: ENABLE PROGRAM ARTS THERAPIST

Contract Position: Creative Arts Therapist
Reports to: Enable Program Coordinator
Status: Contract position with potential to extend
Term: January 7th, 2019 – December 31st, 2019
Compensation: \$165 per group session

Program Description:

The Arts Therapies program offers newcomer children an opportunity to increase their sense of connection and belonging while also improving their social-emotional skills. Children participate in a 10-week group process along with one-on-one or dyad sessions to process feelings about their immigration experiences, grief and loss, separation from family members, loneliness, isolation and trauma. Mind-body approaches, creative processes, and play are used as meaningful sources for communication, self-expression, and integration. Our Arts Therapies program rotates through different elementary and middle schools in greater Victoria.

Primary Accountability:

To provide a safe, fun, and welcoming group environment for 8-10 newcomer children in building their social-emotional capacity using arts therapies. To facilitate follow-up and one-on-one or dyad counseling sessions with children to further the integration of their experiences, in partnership with other counseling services.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Assist with the design and implementation of the objectives/outcomes of Creative Arts Therapies set out by the Enable Program
- Plan, lead, and facilitate weekly sessions for a group of 8-10 newcomer children to strengthen their sense of social and emotional well-being.
- Attend planning, check-in, and debriefing meetings with the Enable Coordinator and school administrator
- Develop and maintain a culturally sensitive and emotionally safe environment
- Provide children with opportunities for success using various forms of art
- Demonstrate a high level of creativity, imagination, and enthusiasm
- Demonstrate maturity, patience, and a calm, respectful manner
- Provide a trusting, open, kindhearted atmosphere that encourages participation from children
- Strong empathy, patience, and commitment to helping newcomer children from all walks of life
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, and listening skills

- A strong knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of psychotherapy and the role that arts therapies can play in children's adjustment and integration processes
- Collaborate with and report to Enable Program Coordinator
- Willingness to engage in clinical supervision and collaborate with research projects
- Assist with communications, liaise with school counselors, community based mental health service providers, and assist with appropriate referrals

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Document client information, maintain files, and ensure confidentiality
- Maintain detailed and current records of program services including client attendance, volunteer attendance/hours, session activities, and community partnerships
- Contribute to funding applications and reports as needed, under the direction of Program Coordinator
- Participate in clinical supervision and collaborate with research and evaluation team
- Attend agency staff meetings and community events

Required qualifications:

- Graduate level degree in art therapy with Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Child and youth Care, Social Work, or related field, or equivalent education
- Experience working with school age children, preferably in a group setting
- Excellent organizational, leadership, and group facilitation skills
- Ability to work effectively both independently and in a team
- Strong-cross cultural communication skills, previous experience working in diverse cross-cultural environments
- Understand the challenges faced by newcomer children and youth and their families
- Understanding of, respect for, and sensitivity to issues of culture, religion, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation
- Understanding of the culture of non-profit organizations
- Effective written and spoken English
- Standard First Aid and CPR
- Willingness to complete a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector
- Ability to work a flexible work schedule
- Previous experience with volunteer supervision as asset
- Second language an asset

Apply with cover letter and resume to:

**Brooke Shaughnessy
Enable Program Coordinator
Email: Brooke@vircs.bc.ca**

Application Deadline: Wednesday December 5th, 2018