**Practice Lead**

**Job Purpose**: Reporting directly to the Head of Nursery you will provide hands-on leadership to the team of practitioners to provide high quality Early Learning and Childcare in the outdoors. Predominantly working directly with children the role encompasses support to the Head of Nursery in the management of the nursery enabling the service to develop and grow, meeting both local and national needs.

**Tasks and Responsibilities:**

1. Oversee and manage the care and learning on the field by delivering quality early learning and childcare (ages 2 to 5), holiday programmes (ages 2 to 7) and family work.

2. Provide hands-on leadership to the Stramash team and model good practice during service delivery, taking opportunities to train and teach colleagues as appropriate. Support staff to develop their written work, working with the Head of Nursery to spot check observations etc.

3. Build positive relationships with children and families and support key workers. Promote a happy, caring and welcoming atmosphere for children, parents, staff, volunteers and visitors. Provide effective and regular feedback to parents.

4. Support the Head of Nursery in the running of the nursery operations. Take on responsibilities delegated by the Head of Nursery. Assist the Head with service quality and improvement as well as health and safety of the nursery site.

5. Be responsible for the services, site and staff in the absence of the Head of Nursery. Feel confident to facilitate visits from regulators and from other professionals alongside the Head of Nursery or in their absence.

6. Engage with other professionals within and outwith Stramash

7. Implement all Stramash policies and procedures.

8. Record and report on the work, progress and development of the children, including daily recording. Maintain portfolios, files and records, ensuring they are always up to date and accurate. As part of this, assist Nursery Head with the nursery management system and support other staff to use it.

9. Plan quality activities and sessions, when appropriate in line with the Early Stage within the Curriculum for Excellence, ensuring that the children’s developmental needs are central. Lead planning as delegated by the Team Leader

10. Undertake CPD, develop leadership skills as a practice lead and work flexibly to develop in the role over time.

11. Contribute to and lead parts of the on-going development of the work including the development of the outdoor site, and continue to develop the ethos of outdoor learning in all the work of the team.

12. Actively and fully participate in self-assessment and review processes, leading areas as directed by the Head of Nursery. Work with the Head of Nursery to prepare for inspections and visits.