



Special Educator of Adult Programs

GiGi's Playhouse NYC is the only nonprofit organization in New York City solely dedicated to the development of individuals with Down syndrome of all ages, from birth through adulthood and at every phase of life. We provide therapeutic, educational, social, and creative arts programs and events year-round, at no cost to participants or their families, all while being completely funded by our generous donors and leveraging a 99% volunteer-led model.

Job Description:

GiGi's NYC is looking for a dedicated Special Educator to pilot and launch our vocational and non-vocational programs, starting with our career training programs. The Special Educator will lead/teach these programs for adults 18+ using an already devised curriculum.

The Special Educator facilitates the implementation of all adult career training programs at the playhouse (and possibly at an outside facility such as a community partner), which includes directly leading programs and supporting individuals participating in the GiGi Prep, GiGi University, and GiGi Professional programs, as well as those seeking job or volunteer placements in the community. The Special Educator ensures these programs operate effectively and engages with the community to increase acceptance, opportunities, and career success for adults with Down syndrome. Effective operation of the programs includes making sure they are properly staffed with skilled and trained volunteers and follow structured curriculums that provide a high quality, outcome-driven program according to the program model developed by the National Program Team.

The Special Educator will also facilitate the implementation of non-vocational programs once rolled out by the National Program Team to our older teen and adult population.

Goals of this role include:

- Continually increase the number of families served in GiGi Prep, GiGi University, and GiGi Professional for each session, as well as that of our non-vocational programs.
- Maximize measurable achievements and progressions through GiGi Prep and GiGi University as measured by participant progress trackers and assessments.
- Maximize progressions on the career certifications for individuals in GiGi Professional by supporting participants' development of skills and abilities.
- Showcase the skills and abilities of our adult participants in the community.
- Maximize opportunities for adults with Down syndrome to obtain and retain jobs and volunteer placements in the community.

Location: 106 W. 117th Street, New York, NY 10026. Role is 100% in person.

Schedule: 15-29 hours per week; Days & Times TBD. This is a semester-based position and will operate for all months except July and August. A flexible schedule is a must!

Compensation: \$25/per hour

Essential Job Functions:

- **GiGi Prep and GiGi University**
 - Recruit students for these application-based programs through job fairs and other community sources.
 - Assist parents, caregivers, and applicants in understanding the application and selection process, and guide families into the program most aligned with their skills and motivations.
 - Manage the interview and selection process for accepting new students into the program, providing feedback to applicants and insights into the decision process.
 - Facilitate and oversee the instruction of GiGi Prep and GiGi U programs, working directly with participants to build individual development plans and overseeing skill development throughout the program. Teach classes as needed.
 - Plan and execute end of session celebrations after every session, continually assessing students at the end of the sessions and placing them in the program that matches their skills and interests.
 - Build external partnerships with universities and other professional sources to draw skilled volunteers and college interns to teach core elements of the program. Interview and select interns and volunteers for the program.
- **GiGi Professional**
 - Provide transition coaching to graduates of GiGi University so they are prepared to enter an internship with GiGi Professional, including working with each of them to build an individualized development plan focused on their area(s) of interest.
 - Support GiGi Professional interns in continuously achieving certifications to advance their skills and abilities in areas such as customer service, retail, production, office skills, cleaning, etc.
 - Schedule interns according to their availability and the needs of each area.
 - Take interns to visits with various employers to help interns understand the types of jobs available and to help employers learn of interns' skills.
 - Work with each participant on a job readiness assessment, including the certifications achieved and resume development to articulate experiences and skills.
- **Job Placement and Job Coaching**
 - Build partnerships with local organizations for job and volunteer placement opportunities. Present qualified interns to employers.
 - Create standard working agreements with appropriate job accommodations to help individuals to be successful in their role.
 - Provide job coaching for all career placements, as determined for the roles.
- **Program Planning, Quality Control, and Continuous Improvement**
 - Train, manage, and support program volunteers to ensure they are executing the program with high fidelity and quality.
 - Define long term (6-12 months) program plan, including key dates, targeted attendance, and volunteer needs for each session of each career development program.
 - Build relationships with and communicate progress and expectations with participants' parents and caregivers regularly.
 - Help ensure the Playhouse operates per Standards of Execution for Programs, continually striving to achieve Center of Excellence status.
 - Properly maintain the Playhouse's career program resources in the portal and Playhouse drive.
- **Program Data and Impact**
 - Ensure proper documentation and tracking of all volunteer hours, program participation hours, and program impact results, progress trackers, and certifications, including reporting on trends.
 - Report on the impact of programs for donors, and marketing purposes, through aggregated participant progress data, success stories, and powerful pictures of programs in action.
- **Build Acceptance and Opportunities in the Community**

- Support advocacy and acceptance efforts by escorting program participants to community events and activities.
- Meet with donors and local community organizations to showcase the work of participants in the career programs at GiGi's Playhouse NYC while enabling the participants to express gratitude and practice ambassador skills.
- Support pop-up retail booth in various locations and events around the community.

Competencies:

The Special Educator must enjoy working within an entrepreneurial environment that is mission-driven, results-driven and community oriented. The following competencies describe the ideal candidate:

- **Teamwork:** Balances team and individual responsibilities; exhibits objectivity and openness to others' views; gives and welcomes feedback; contributes to building a positive team spirit; puts success of team above own interests; able to build morale and group commitments to goals and objectives; supports everyone's efforts to succeed.
- **People Management:** Includes staff and key volunteers in planning, decision-making, facilitating and process improvement; takes responsibility for subordinates' activities; makes self-available to staff; provides regular performance feedback; develops subordinates' skills and encourages growth; solicits and applies customer feedback (internal and external); fosters quality focus in others; Improves processes, products, and services; continually works to improve supervisory skills.
- **Collaboration:** Ability to work collaboratively and professionally with families, participants, local and national office staff, board members, committee members, volunteers, and donors. Ability to work collaboratively within the community; expand networking opportunities for GiGi's Playhouse NYC. Exhibits good listening and comprehension.
- **Communication:** Exceptionally strong written and oral communication skills with ability to express ideas and thoughts verbally; writes clearly and inspirationally; Edits work for spelling and grammar; Varies writing style to meet needs; keeps others adequately informed; selects and uses appropriate communication methods.
- **Customer Service:** Manages difficult or emotional customer situations; responds promptly to customer needs; solicits customer feedback to improve service; responds to requests for service and assistance; meets commitments.
- **Initiative:** Proactively anticipates needs and works to solve issues before they arise. Takes prompt action; is a total self-starter, taking independent actions and calculated risks to take advantage of opportunities.
- **Planning /Organizing:** Prioritizes and plans work activities; Uses time efficiently; Plans for additional resources; Sets goals and objectives; Organizes or schedules other people and their tasks; Develops realistic action plans.
- **Problem Solving:** Identifies and resolves problems in a timely manner; Resourceful; Gathers and analyzes information skillfully; Develops alternative solutions; Works well in group problem solving situations; Uses reason even when dealing with emotional topics.
- **Adaptability and Calm Under Pressure:** Adapts to changes in the work environment; Manages competing demands; Changes approach or method to best fit the situation; Able to deal with frequent change, delays, or unexpected events. Maintains stable performance when under heavy pressure or stress.
- **High Standards:** Expects personal performance to be exceptional; improves processes to continually improve operations.
- **Use of Technology:** Adapts to new technologies; Demonstrates required skills; Keeps technical skills up to date. Troubleshoots technological problems; Uses technology to increase productivity.

Qualifications

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- **Education and/or Experience:** Bachelor’s degree required from a four-year college or university in special education; or at least five years relevant program management experience and/or training.
- **Language Skills:** Ability to read, analyze, and interpret instructions and complex correspondence. Ability to respond to common inquiries or complaints. Ability to effectively present information to top management and/or boards of directors.
- **Computer Skills:** To perform this job successfully, an individual should be very comfortable using a broad array of programs, including advanced proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams, and OneNote). Ability to work proficiently in (or quickly learn) a database program (Salesforce) to manage interactions and transactions.
- **Work Environment:** The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally exposed to outside weather conditions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. This is an in-person position.

All interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to nyc@gigisplayhouse.org with the subject line: Special Educator of Adult Programs.

Note

This job description in no way states or implies that these are the only duties to be performed by the employee(s) incumbent in this position. Employees will be required to follow any other job-related instructions and to perform any other job-related duties requested by any person authorized to give instructions or assignments. All duties and responsibilities are essential functions and requirements and are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities. To perform this job successfully, the incumbents will possess the skills, aptitudes, and abilities to perform each duty proficiently. Some requirements may exclude individuals who pose a direct threat or significant risk to the health or safety of themselves or others. The requirements listed in this document are the minimum levels of knowledge, skills, or abilities. This document does not create an employment contract, implied or otherwise, other than an “at will” relationship.

ACKNOWLEDGED:

Employee Signature

Date

Print Name