



Lead Preschool Teacher

About Us:

The Powerhouse is Southwest Colorado's STEAM engine, empowering curious young learners through interactive experiences, discovery, and play. Launched as the Children's Museum of Durango in 1994 in a small attic space above the Durango Arts Center, the museum expanded to its current riverfront location and has welcomed 300,000 visitors since its opening in 2011. The Powerhouse has expanded to include WonderLab, a licensed Early Childhood Center for approximately 40 toddler and preschool-aged children that will open August 31st, 2026. The mission of The Powerhouse is to spark curiosity, ignite imagination, and power exploration.

WonderLab Early Learning seeks to embody this mission by engaging children and families in the **Art of curiosity**. WonderLab accomplishes this by creating safe, inviting, inspiring spaces for wonderment and creativity, empowering community and connection, and supporting young learners with diverse needs and interests.

Job Title: Lead Preschool Teacher

Reports To: Associate Director of Education

Hours and Term: Full-time, non-exempt, hourly

Start Date: Onboarding begins April, 2026 with flexible part time hours as needed for the onboarding process. Full time hours begin July, 2026

Compensation: \$23-25 an hour

Travel: Less than 10%

Benefits: Flexible PTO, ICHRA health plan insurance plan, SIMPLE IRA with 3% employer match, allocated spot for child/children in the center if applicable

Roles and Responsibilities:

The **Lead Preschool Teacher** serves in a preschool classroom to provide a play-based learning environment that supports children in their social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and academic growth, and expands children's ability to learn, grow, and build trusting relationships. This role works in a classroom-based setting with typically and atypically developing children and provides daily supervision and support for children's developmental needs. Lead teachers develop age-appropriate curricula, manage classroom operations, and supervise assistant teachers.

Key Responsibilities

- **Curriculum & Instruction:** Design and implement engaging lesson plans using evidence-based practices (e.g., Creative Curriculum, Montessori, or STEM-focused approaches) to promote social, cognitive, and physical development.
- **Team Leadership:** Supervise and mentor assistant teachers, aides, and volunteers, ensuring consistent implementation of classroom routines and safety standards.
- **Assessment & Documentation:** Observe and document student progress using tools adopted by the program to guide curriculum planning and report outcomes to parents and administrators.

Use the data from assessments to help inform teaching practice and provide individual learning opportunities for toddlers in the classroom.

- Family Partnership: Build trusting relationships through daily communication, progress updates, and formal parent-teacher conferences.
- Classroom Management: Maintain a safe, healthy, and organized environment that meets all Colorado licensing, health, and safety requirements
- Be a supportive and communicative team member, providing care, compassion, and professionalism in program meetings, events, and daily activities.
- Be willing to support other classrooms and program activities as needed.
- Report suspected abuse and/or neglect to the Center Director, and if need be, to the appropriate agency.
- Maintain at least 15 hours of professional development annually.

Requirements:

- A Bachelor's degree or Associates degree in early childhood or related field. A CDA will also be considered, along with other educational credentials alongside significant relevant experience
- Minimum of a Level 2 Lead Teacher credential with Colorado Shines Early Childhood Credential, or the ability to demonstrate equivalency while obtaining credential.
- Obtain all required Colorado Large Child Care Center PDIS training within 30 days of hiring.
- Minimum of two years' experience working in toddler and/or preschool-age classrooms preferred
- Must pass criminal history, Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and TRAILS/Central Registry child protection background check.
- Be willing to drive a 12 passenger van if needed, have a valid driver's license and clean driving record
- First Aid/CPR certified through a PDIS vendor, or the ability to obtain prior to program opening
- Ability to multitask with ease on a variety of projects
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds, walk, bend, stand, squat or sit on the floor (with children) throughout an 8-hour day , and physically respond quickly in an emergency

Email resume and cover letter to elanor@powsci.org