Substitute ECE 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: Substitute ECE Teacher
Reports To: The Director of Learning
Hours and Term: Part-time, non-exempt, hourly, on an as needed basis
Start Date: November 1st 2026, on-going as needed
Compensation: $21.00 an hour
Travel: Less than 10%
Benefits: Opportunities to grow into a more permanent role if available and desired

Roles and Responsibilities:

The **Substitute ECE Teacher** serves in a preschool and/or toddler classroom and assists the lead teacher to provide a play-based learning environment that supports children in their social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and academic growth, and to expand 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. This position also helps provide afternoon curriculum and child engagement.

Key Responsibilities

- Instructional Support: Implementing age-appropriate curriculum, preparing learning materials, and leading small group activities such as storytelling, arts and crafts, and music.
- Safety & Supervision: Maintaining constant "sight and sound" supervision of children at all times, including during transitions, outdoor play, and field trips.
- Physical Care: Assisting children with basic hygiene needs, including toileting, diapering, handwashing, and supervising meal and nap times.
- Classroom Management: Ensuring the environment remains clean, organized, and compliant with health and sanitation standards.

- Monitoring & Reporting: Observing children for developmental progress or signs of illness and communicating these findings to lead teachers and parents
- 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 lead teacher and center director, and if need be, the appropriate agency.
- Maintain at least 15 hours of professional development annually.

Requirements:

- A high school diploma or equivalent certificate. Completion of at least one ECE college course (such as Introduction to Early Childhood Education or Guidance Strategies) with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent training through the ECE council or PDIS platform
- Minimum of a Level 1 Colorado Shines Early Childhood Credential 3.0 or the ability to demonstrate equivalency while obtaining credential, preferably a level 2
- Obtain all required Colorado Large Child Care Center PDIS training required for substitutes by state licensing
- Minimum of one year' 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
- 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