EASTER SEALS ONTARIO - RECREATION DEPARTMENT
JOB DESCRIPTION

Life Skills Counsellor

Number of Positions: 2
Reports to: Program Coordinator
Locations: Camp Merrywood (Perth, ON); Camp Woodeden (London, ON)
Employment Dates and Compensation:
June 4, 2027 – August 30, 2027. $110.00/day + meals and accommodation

At Easter Seals Ontario, we provide overnight camping opportunities for kids and young adults with physical disabilities. Each summer we welcome staff from all over the world and pride ourselves on providing an awesome pre-camp training, so our staff are equipped with all the skills they need to give our campers a great experience. Our camps make many traditional summer camp activities accessible and inclusive, such as swimming, boating, archery, high ropes, and more! Check out our website to learn more about our locations in Perth, Ontario and London, Ontario.

Reporting to the Program Coordinator, the Life Skills Counsellor is responsible for designing and facilitating a high quality, accessible Life Skills program including personal advocacy, baking, cooking, gardening/plant care, and laundry/cleaning.

Summary of Essential Job Functions:

- Design and implement engaging, hands-on life skills programming that aligns with Easter Seals Ontario's mission and camp goals, focusing on building independence, confidence, and transferable daily living skills for campers.
- Plan and facilitate hands-on, age-appropriate life skills sessions (e.g., cooking, meal prep, cleaning routines, budgeting basics, communication skills, social interaction, time management).
- Adapt activities to meet a range of physical, cognitive, and sensory abilities, ensuring every camper can meaningfully participate and achieve success.
- Design progressive skill-building opportunities that increase in complexity over the session, allowing campers to develop confidence and independence.
- Integrate camper choice into activities, encouraging self-determination and decision-making.
- Develop and follow a risk management plan specific to life skills programming, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for campers to practice daily living tasks.
- Maintain and organize an inventory of all life skills materials, equipment, and adaptive tools at the start and end of the season to ensure readiness and accessibility.
- Introduce and educate all staff on the goals, purpose, and expectations of the life skills program, including how to support camper participation and skill-building.
- Ensure all life skills materials, adaptive tools, and kitchen or activity equipment are maintained, accessible, and safe to use, promptly reporting repairs or replacements as needed.

- Support counsellors in actively engaging campers in hands-on life skills activities, adapting tasks and providing individualized support to promote independence and confidence.
- Support campers with activities of daily living as needed, including safe lifting, transfers, and hygiene routines, while maintaining dignity, safety, and independence.
- Participate as a member of the program staff team to deliver and supervise evening programs, special events and other all-camp activities.
- Adhere to and support all camp policies, procedures and guidelines as detailed in the Camp Resource Manual.
- Participate in camper care including bathing, showering, brushing teeth, hair care, dressing, toileting (changing incontinence pads), feeding, lifting and transferring, and any other activities of daily living. *Personal care training will be provided during orientation
- Perform any other duties as assigned by the Program Coordinator.

Physical Aspects of the Job

- Ability to observe camper and staff behaviour, identify potential safety risks, and apply appropriate behaviour support, intervention, and safety techniques.
- Physical ability to respond appropriately to situations requiring first aid. Must be able to assist campers in an emergency (fire, evacuation, illness, or injury) and possess strength and endurance required to maintain supervision of campers.
- Be able to manage physical activities such as running, standing, some bending, stooping, and stretching. Requirement for eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity to assist campers.

Minimum Requirements

Minimum Age: 18 years

- Preference given to those with life skills and adaptive program education or experience.
- Previous camp experience an asset.
- Safe Food Handling Course required.
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills.
- Current Standard First Aid/CPR-C desirable.
- Must provide clear background check completed within 1 year of the start date of the contract.

Other Considerations

- Easter Seals Ontario camps are fully accessible and provide camping experiences to kids and young adults with disabilities.
- It is recommended that all staff be fully vaccinated against communicable illnesses including Covid19 and Measles. Easter Seals Ontario staff will follow the health and safety recommendations provided by Provincial and Regional Health Units.
- Model active participation in camp life by engaging in activities where possible, while balancing leadership responsibilities and program oversight.
- Onsite housing provided for camping season; meals provided during camp sessions.
- June – August up to eight-day work period, 24 hours/day on call with scheduled breaks throughout the session and a minimum of 3 days off between sessions.

Easter Seals Ontario welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. Easter Seals Ontario fosters an environment of inclusivity, empowerment, and safety for

participants and staff alike. Easter Seals Ontario is committed to the principle of equal employment opportunity for all employees and to providing employees with a work environment free of discrimination and harassment. All employment decisions are based on job requirements and individual qualifications, without regard to race, colour, religion or belief, national, social or ethnic origin, sex, age, physical, mental or sensory ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital, civil union or domestic partnership status, past or present military service, family medical history or genetic information, family or parental status, or any other status protected by the laws of Ontario.