

**South Central Community Action Program, Inc.**  
**Position Description**

**Position Title:** Teacher Assistant

**Department:** Head Start

**Pay Grade:** 16

**Reports To:** Lead Teacher

**Position Status:** Program Year

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**Purpose of Position**

Under supervision of the Lead Teacher, the Teacher Assistant assists in implementing a developmentally appropriate plan for a group of three to five year old children and providing quality early childhood experiences. The Teacher Assistant will treat all individuals with dignity and respect, make necessary referrals for clients, and exemplify the South Central Community Action Program, Inc. (SCCAP) commitment to empowering people to reach their potential.

<b>Essential Duties and Responsibilities</b>
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*The following duties are normal for this position. These are not to be construed as exclusive or all-inclusive. Other duties may be required and assigned.*

- Provides and maintains appropriate welcoming classroom environment and atmosphere where children are accepted and respected as individuals.
- Will not leave children unattended or unsupervised, in accordance with SCCAP policies and procedures, while children are in the care of SCCAP employees. Failure to comply with this would be considered child neglect and endangerment.
- Ensures that the reporting of any and all suspected cases of child abuse and neglect; as required by law, is done in the accordance with SCCAP policies and procedures.
- Supports the planning and implementation of daily lessons; prepares room and materials for activities; communicates positively with children; uses appropriate child development methods.
- Assists Lead Teacher in providing individual and group learning activities with parent input, based on children's skills, interests, and temperament. Assist in all aspects in maintaining a well-balanced classroom.
- Acts as a positive role model and resource for parents and children.
- Assists families and maintains open communication.
- Carries out positive discipline practices in accordance with South Central Community Action, Inc. policies and procedures.
- Visually observes and supervises children's activities, moving quickly to prevent dangerous situations.
- Prepares attendance records, first aid/injury reports, food service records, meal participation records, family contact reports, memos, correspondence, and other job related documents using prescribed format and conforming to all rules of punctuation, grammar, diction, and style.
- Interacts and provides feedback to supervisors and appropriate staff.

- Attends various training sessions, meetings, parent activities, seminars, and workshops.
- Follows all regulations and requirements as dictated by SCCAP policy, State Childcare Licensing Requirements, and Head Start Performance Standards.
- Plans, implements, and coordinates (with the Lead Teacher) the Education and Disabilities Components of Head Start to maintain or exceed Head Start Performance Standards, federal and state laws, and local grant goals and objectives.
- Prepares and/or serves meals and snacks; sitting with children to encourage social interaction, performs housekeeping tasks.
- Provides guidance to Substitute Teachers; provides example and direction to classroom volunteers.
- Plans and implements at least two lessons per week that are developmentally appropriate for the group and individual; and adapts activities for children with disabilities.
- Provides training for new Teacher Aides/Assistant and Substitute Teachers, as assigned.
- Participates in and supports at least four events annually hosted or sponsored by SCCAP; including parent events, parent committee, open houses, and community fairs.
- Actively participates in securing in-kind contributions from families, professionals and community members.
- Engages parents in volunteering, community service, and other ways of contributing to program activities and services.
- Provides opportunities for children and families to participate in family literacy services.
- Makes decisions and act based on family support principals, theories, practices, and code of ethics.

### **Minimum Training and Experience Required to Perform Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

- Bachelor's or Associates degree in Early Childhood Education, Child Development Associate (CDA) or any Bachelor's degree; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities.
- Skilled in the use of computers for email, creation, and manipulation of databases, and Microsoft Office.

### **Special Requirements**

- Must be able to obtain CPR and First Aid Certification within 60 days of hiring. (SCCAP will provide the training).
- Ability to travel locally, regionally, and nationally to attend to daily work demands, meetings, workshops, and conferences.

### **Minimum Physical and Mental Abilities required to Perform Essential Job Functions**

#### **Physical Requirements**

- Ability to exert physical effort in light to moderate work involving lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling; ability to stoop, kneel, crouch, and crawl; ability to climb and balance; tasks require visual perception and discrimination.

### **Mathematical Ability**

- Requires the ability to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; ability to calculate decimals and percentages; ability to perform mathematical operations with fractions; ability to measure data and use/utilizes descriptive statistics and statistical theory.

### **Language Ability and Interpersonal Communication**

- Ability to comprehend and correctly use a variety of informational documents including family action plans, DIAL screenings, parent contact reports, home visit reports, teacher notes, time sheets, lesson plans, developmental screenings, purchase requisitions, inventory lists, Quarterly In-kind Reports, field trip requests, billing invoices, budget reports, mileage reports, and other reports and records.,
- Ability to comprehend a variety of reference books and manuals including Head Start Performance Standards, Regulations, DIAL screening book, parent contact reports, home visit reports, teacher notes, time sheets, lesson developmental screening books, curriculum guides, training guides, personnel policies, staff handbook, CPR/first aid manual, etc.
- Ability to communicate positively and effectively with staff, government officials, parents, children, supervisor, Board of Directors, and the general public verbally and in writing; while conforming to all rules of punctuation, grammar, diction and style.
- Ability to respond competently and positively to the culture, traditions, lifestyles, language, and values of each individual, family, and community.
- Ability to use and interpret Head Start and early childhood terminology and language.
- Ability to maintain the integrity of confidential employment, client, and business information.
- Ability to accurately record and deliver information, meet deadlines, and maintain confidentiality of restricted information.
- Ability to use independent judgment and principles of rational systems in the performance of tasks.
- Ability to work under stressful conditions, to respond immediately to crisis situations, and to balance priorities within and between offices/departments.
- Ability to maintain personal composure, tactfully handle difficult situations, and interpret questions correctly; ability to behave in a friendly, understanding, helpful, and professional manner with clients and staff.
- Ability to maintain complete, organized, and accurate files for all assigned tasks and program areas, ensuring that the files are in compliance with all Federal, State, and Agency guidelines and requirements.
- Ability to counsel, supervise, and mediate and to persuade, convince, and influence others.
- Ability to advise and interpret the application of policies, procedures, and standards to specific situations. The ability to explain, demonstrate and clarify to others, the understanding of the well-established policies, procedures and standards.

### **Environmental Adaptability**

- Ability to work effectively in an office/school environment and at client in-home settings being exposed to a variety of potential hazards including, dust, unsanitary conditions, odors, disease, etc.

- Essential functions are regularly performed without exposure to adverse environmental conditions.
- Ability to protect self and others when dealing with aggravated, irate, upset, unstable, violent, and intoxicated persons/clients.

This job description describes the general nature and level of work performed by employee assigned to this position. It does not state or imply that these are the only duties and responsibilities assigned to the job. The employee may be required to perform other job-related duties as requested by the Executive Director, their Department Head, and/or their immediate Supervisor. All requirements are subject to change over time and to possible modifications in

The employee has read the above job description and understands the duties and requirements expected of them. The employee will ask for clarification of those areas that they did not clearly understand. The employee also understands that if he/she continues to have questions or new questions arise, they are immediately to discuss these questions with their supervisor.

Employee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Human Resources Manager's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date