



Job Title:	Play Therapist
Salary:	£30,000 - £36,000 Actual Salary
Location:	Group Role – Great Manchester
Hours of Work:	Monday – Friday 8:30-16:00 (Term Time Only)
Line Manager:	Head of Inclusion
How to apply:	Request an application pack from recruitment@fstmanagement.uk
Contact Details:	0330 118 0974

About First Steps Together

First Steps Together is committed to supporting the emotional wellbeing, mental health, and personal development of children and young people. We provide early intervention and therapeutic support that enables children to thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

We are seeking a compassionate, qualified Play Therapist to join our multidisciplinary team, delivering therapeutic interventions for children aged 5–11 years across educational and community settings.

Job Purpose

To provide high-quality, child-centred play therapy interventions for children experiencing emotional, behavioural, social, developmental, or trauma-related difficulties. The Play Therapist will work collaboratively with schools, families, and external professionals to support positive outcomes for children and promote emotional wellbeing.

Key Responsibilities

Therapeutic Practice

- Deliver individual play therapy sessions to children aged 5–16 years.
- Assess children's emotional, behavioural and developmental needs and formulate appropriate therapeutic plans.
- Create and maintain a safe, therapeutic environment that supports children to express thoughts, feelings and experiences through play.
- Utilise a range of therapeutic approaches and creative media appropriate to the child's needs.
- Monitor progress and evaluate therapeutic outcomes using recognised assessment tools.
- Prepare therapeutic reports, summaries and recommendations where appropriate.

Partnership Working

- Liaise effectively with parents, carers, school staff and external agencies.
- Attend review meetings, Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings, EHCP reviews and safeguarding meetings where required.
- Provide consultation and guidance to school staff regarding emotional wellbeing and therapeutic support strategies.
- Support the development of whole-school approaches to emotional wellbeing and

mental health.

Safeguarding

- Maintain the highest standards of safeguarding and child protection.
- Recognise, respond to and report safeguarding concerns in accordance with First Steps Together policies and statutory guidance.
- Maintain professional boundaries and work within ethical frameworks at all times.

Record Keeping and Administration

- Maintain accurate, confidential and timely records of all therapeutic work.
- Complete assessments, session notes, outcome measures and reports within agreed timescales.
- Ensure compliance with GDPR and data protection requirements.

Professional Development

- Participate in regular clinical supervision.
- Maintain professional registration and accreditation requirements.
- Engage in continuing professional development (CPD).
- Contribute to service development and quality improvement initiatives.

Person Specification

Essential Qualifications

- Postgraduate qualification in Play Therapy recognised by:
 - British Association of Play Therapists (BAPT) or
 - Play Therapy UK (PTUK).
- Current registration/accreditation with BAPT or PTUK. (bapt.info)
- Enhanced DBS clearance (or willingness to obtain).

Essential Experience

- Experience working therapeutically with children aged 5–16 years.
- Experience working within schools, educational settings, or children's services.
- Experience supporting children presenting with:
 - Anxiety
 - Trauma
 - Bereavement and loss
 - Attachment difficulties
 - Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs
 - Behavioural and emotional regulation difficulties.
- Experience writing professional reports and maintaining confidential records.

Essential Knowledge

- Child development and attachment theory.
- Safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance.
- Trauma-informed practice.
- SEND and neurodiversity awareness.
- Professional ethical frameworks and standards for play therapy practice. ([Skills England](https://www.skillsengland.gov.uk/))

Essential Skills

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to build positive therapeutic relationships with children.
- Strong organisational and case management skills.

- Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Effective report writing and record-keeping skills.

Desirable

- Experience contributing to EHCP assessments and reviews.
- Additional therapeutic training (e.g., filial therapy, creative arts therapy, trauma-informed approaches).
- Experience delivering group therapeutic interventions.
- Full UK driving licence and access to a vehicle.

What We Offer

- Ongoing CPD opportunities.
- Supportive multidisciplinary team environment.
- Flexible working arrangements where possible.
- Opportunity to contribute to innovative therapeutic services for children and families.