Job Description

Basic Information

Position: Lead – Early Years for 7 months with possibility of longer or full employment

Team: Knowledge for Policy (K4P)

Reports to: Director, Knowledge for Policy

Based in: The Hague, the Netherlands

Start Date: February 2022

Salary range: from EUR 4100 – EUR 5600 gross per month excluding benefits

About the Bernard van Leer Foundation

The Bernard van Leer Foundation is an independent Dutch organisation working worldwide to ensure that all babies and toddlers have a good start in life. We inspire and inform large-scale action that improves the health and wellbeing of young children – especially the most vulnerable – and the people who care for them.

The Position

The Bernard van Leer Foundation is seeking a passion-driven and motivated Lead - Early Years to join our Knowledge for Policy team. The Lead - Early Years will provide advice, support and technical assistance to our partners implementing scaling partnerships, build capacity on ECD both internally and external, and help establish and nurture strong relations with our networks.

Principal Responsibilities and Tasks

Early childhood development technical assistance

• Identify, provide and facilitate the appropriate technical assistance on early childhood development to strategic partners and teams in our portfolio countries and in our learning partnerships. A particular focus on parenting and early childhood development policies and programmes, urban systems, indicators, monitoring and evaluation.

• Support knowledge exchange and building capacity both internally within the Bernard van Leer Foundation and externally with existing and new partners.

• Lead and support production of new editions of the Bernard van Leer
Foundation's early childhood development training/knowledge products and resource materials.

- Support development and management of knowledge uptake activities such as executive education courses, study tours, convenings and events to build capacity on the field across different sectors.
- Line-manage one direct report with complementary expertise working on all the above.

**Review investments with ECD lens**

- Review and provide early childhood development-related feedback to all Bernard van Leer Foundation proposals above agreed threshold.
- Provide advice and support on activities within the Bernard van Leer Foundation's strategic pillars Parents+, Urban95 and Early Years Thought Leadership

**Scanning and innovation**

- Work with Knowledge for Policy, Programme and Management teams to define the areas of a scale-up process where the Foundation can add the most value and help to facilitate support for the partners.
- Support the Foundation to define our research agenda to best support, innovate and lead in the field of early childhood development.
- Support and ideate for ongoing efforts to integrate Parents+ and Urban95 objectives in our grants.
- Providing general and specific support to any administrative work or projects assigned by supervisor.

**PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS**

- **Inside the Foundation:** Knowledge for Policy Director, K4P team, Programme team, and Management team.
- **Outside the Foundation:** Global partners, Grantees, Funder Groups and Regional networks

**QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES**

**Early childhood:**

- Early childhood expertise in a relevant discipline (health, nutrition, education, development, psychology, public policy or another relevant field) with a particular expertise in the period of a child’s life from conception to age three.
- Seven or more years of relevant experience, including considerable experience in the implementation of health, nutrition and early childhood related projects in the field, and (ideally) experience of taking a programme to scale (e.g. a national programme).
• Excellent knowledge of the health, nutrition and early childhood development landscape: able to navigate early childhood-related networks and early childhood specialists (government, academia, foundations, international organisations, etc.).

• Of particular interest for our work are knowledge of early childhood health and nutrition, brain development, parenting education, mental health, urban and place-based approaches to early childhood development

New ideas:
• Aptitude for applying an early childhood lens to other cross-cutting issues, particularly urban planning and humanitarian assistance.

• Interest and ability in thinking strategically and innovatively about how the Bernard van Leer Foundation can enact its mission and continue to contribute in unique ways to the early childhood field.

Analytical and management skills:
• Strong analytical and communication skills: can extract/synthesize and structure information for different audiences and develop materials to deliver key messages.

• Strong project management skills: able to manage multiple projects and meet deadlines.

• Strong communication, networking and partner management skills with proven experience in negotiating contracts and managing specific outcomes according to contract.

• Well-developed emotional intelligence, including self-awareness, self-management, and empathy.

Languages:
• Fluent in English.

• Proficiency in other languages used in the Foundation's programmes is a plus (Arabic, Dutch, French, Hebrew, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish).

Organizational competencies:
• Teamwork

• Learning ability

• Result orientedness

Job specific competencies:
• Problem analysis

• Market-orientedness

• Client-orientedness

• Written communication
APPLICATION

Please complete your application online through Applied, an online recruitment platform whose mission is to help organisations hire the best person regardless of their background, before 23 November 11:59 hrs pm CET.

https://app.beapplied.com/apply/ilkt8kigew

You will be asked to submit 250-word answers in English to 4 questions related to the work of this role.