

Mother Infant Group Assistant

April 2018

Camcare was established in 1976 to meet the needs of people in the local area who sought community support.

Camcare is a community-based organisation that operates from two sites at:

- Ashburton
- Camberwell

Camcare delivers support services principally to individuals and families living in the City of Boroondara, and in addition the Integrated Family Services team provides family services support as part of Inner East Integrated Family Services Alliance. We seek to ensure the provision of high quality services, which will bring about significant improvements in the life and experience of the children, young people and families with whom we work.

Camcare receives funding from local, state and federal governments. It also attracts funds through the support of private donations, philanthropic trusts and the community sector.

General Information:

Position title:	Mother-Infant Group Assistant
Reports to:	Parenting Outreach Support Worker
Organisation:	Camcare Inc.
Rate of Pay:	Voluntary Position
Hours of work:	One rostered session of 4 hours per week on Monday afternoons during school terms plus attendance at relevant ongoing training.

Position Objective:

The Mother-Infant Group Assistant provides quality and empathic support in caring for infants during a group run for new mothers who are struggling.

Key Responsibilities:

Infant supervision and care:

- To work in partnership with other volunteers in providing high quality care and supervision of infants (and occasionally older siblings) whose mothers are attending the PND Group (Duration approx. 1 ½ hours).
- To assist in the running of a playgroup following this Groupwork (30 minutes).

Preparation, clean up and debrief:

- To help with the setting up of rooms involved in Groupwork, preparation of food and care of infants.
- To assist Group facilitators to tidy up at the end of the sessions.
- To debrief with facilitators as needed about infant care and how mothers coped with separation.

Professional Development and Training:

- To maintain an up-to-date knowledge of issues and developments that impact on infants and mothers.
- To attend relevant training sessions as required by the agency.

Generic:

- All staff are required to participate in a range of continuous improvement and quality assurance processes, as required. This includes the annual appraisal process and on-going supervision.
- To work co-operatively with other staff members, providing support and assistance where necessary and appropriate
- To have an understanding of the relevant acts, laws and legislation that impact on the role of the worker and the agency. E.g. the Information Privacy Legislation and the Occupational Health and Safety Legislation (as signed in policy documents).

Qualifications Required:

- Experience in care of infants either as a parent, in professional work, or babysitting.

Selection Criteria:

- Ability to see the mother as the expert of her baby and defer to her wishes about care, understanding that anxiety will often be a strong part of the mother's psychological profile.
- Ability to find opportunities to feedback positively to the parent, both about her parenting and how well her baby is doing.
- Understanding of ages and stages of development for a young infant and appropriate care
- Ability to work co-operatively with other staff as part of a team.
- Demonstrated empathy and a non-judgmental attitude to clients at all times.
- Capacity to exercise independent judgment and work autonomously.
- Ability to effectively work with people from various socio-economic levels and cultural backgrounds demonstrating an inclusive attitude.
- Capacity to be flexible and accommodate change.
- Willingness to learn on the job and to develop new skills as required.
- Commitment to attend training sessions as required by the agency.

Relevant Personal Characteristics:

- Reliability and integrity
- Empathy and understanding for mothers who struggle to cope with parenting
- Independent and proactive approach to work responsibilities
- Ability to work as an effective member of a team
- Compassionate with an orientation for social justice

Police Check and Working with Children Check:

All staff working in the Mother-Infant Group will be asked to undertake a Police Check and Working with Children Check before commencing duties with the agency.

Tenure:

A minimum commitment of one year followed by annual review.

Ethical Requirements:

All Camcare employees are required to adhere to Camcare’s Code of Ethics.

- **Policy**
All staff will abide by Camcare’s policies and practices.
- **Philosophy of Camcare’s work**
All staff will work within the philosophical guidelines set out in the Aims and Objectives in the Constitution.

Signature of Incumbent _____ Date _____

Signature of CEO: _____ Date _____