

Do you want to get paid to change the world?

Lighthouse International - an Acton Academy is now hiring!

Position: Spark Play Guide

Start Date: September 2023

Lighthouse International, founded in 2019, is an independent affiliate of the Acton Academy, a celebrated network of learner-driven micro-schools, and the fastest-growing independent school network in the world. We combine Montessori elements with Socratic guiding, experiential quests, and adaptive technology. Underlying our method is an application of the Hero's Journey, creating a lively learning environment that feels more like an adventure than school.

What is Acton Academy?

At Acton Academy, we believe children are on a journey—what we call the hero's journey—to discover their calling. As part of this journey, children ask themselves: “Who am I? Where am I going? How do my passions and talents connect with the world around me? How can I serve a great need and one day change the world?”

We have mixed-aged classrooms called studios with a self-paced learning design as opposed to grade levels and public exhibitions of learning as opposed to test scores and report cards. In all areas of Acton, our learners are empowered to be in the driver's seat of their education.

Spark Studio

Like Maria Montessori, we believe even the youngest children have important work to do, even if the work is imaginary play or working together with wood scraps, ladders, and old tires to build a castle. The Spark Studio is best imagined as a garden where learners (ages 5-7) embrace Montessori work and outdoor Spark Play to learn real-life skills and develop the independence, focus, and kindness needed to enter the LIA Explorer Studio (ages 8-12) — each prepared to discover a calling that will change the world.

Spark Play

Spark Play works well alongside the Montessori philosophy within the Acton model. Because Spark Play is more collaborative in nature, this part of the learning design increases focus on equipping learners with conflict-resolution skills and tools, as well as developing clear communication, both of which are strong foundational skills for the processes in the Explorer Studio. Although the learning and medium shift slightly, the role of a guide remains the same.

Job Type: Part-time position

Hours: Mon - Thurs 12:15pm - 4:15pm (September-June, 6 session breaks)

Pay: \$15/hour

Qualifications:

- Experience managing mixed-aged groups of children preferred
- Deeply respects children & their ability to learn without heavy adult intervention
- Warm-hearted, tough-minded and even-keeled
- Flexible problem-solver
- Quick learner, independent worker, needs little direct guidance
- Enjoy the outdoors in various weather conditions
- CPR & First Aid Certification required
- Background check required
- Be able to lift up to 60 lbs when necessary

GUIDE Position Responsibilities:

- **Be there for Safety.** Spark Play encourages natural risk assessment, both consciously and subconsciously in children. A guide is there, always watching and ready, for any safety concerns.
- **Observe.** In their prepared outdoor environment, the guide only has presence for safety. A guide's role is **not to step in, instigate or even ask questions to trigger creativity.** Our role is to allow the environment and materials to do that naturally. There is no rush to have children using the materials in any prescribed or predicted way. Observation allows a guide to understand and improve on the space and materials over time.
- Be **particular** and **intentional** use of **word choice**. The vocabulary we use, and the tone with which we use it have a powerful impact on the learner.
- Step in **only** for safety. A great deal of the experience in Spark Play is for children to go through conscious and subconscious risk assessment. A guide allows for the greatest risk assessment until safety is at stake.
- In that vein, a Guide's role is to **establish boundaries** and guardrails for safe play with and alongside the learners.
- Facilitate and **model** language for **conflict resolution**.
- **Facilitate Spark Play**, including the **planning** and **reflections** by taking photos/videos during Spark Play to reflect upon at the end of the same day.

Sound like a good fit?

Please explore our website: <https://www.mylighthouseinternational.org/index.html>, then submit your resume to erivas@mylighthouseinternational.org