

Associate Director, Tompkins Hall Nursery

Columbia University

New York, NY

Program Director

Full-time

Onsite

\$80,000 - \$90,000 a year

Posted on April 9, 2025

Job Description

Reporting to the Director of Tompkins Hall Nursery and Childcare Center, the Associate Director is a key member of the leadership team and supports all daily operations as well as pedagogical and administrative aspects of the school. Exhibiting professionalism, patience, and "people first" in all interactions, the Associate Director assists in maintaining an environment that is compliant with all relevant regulations and policies and responsive to the needs of the school's internal and external communities. As one of only two full-time administrators at the Center, the Associate Director must be flexible, dedicated to teaching children and developing teachers, a leader in both demeanor and behavior, and a creative problem-solver and thought partner to the Director, as well as the lead administrator in the absence of the Director.

The ideal candidate has experience as a progressive educator, demonstrated/emergent leadership qualities, and a detail-oriented ability to create and maintain records and systems for DOH compliance, admissions, accounting, and teaching materials.

Tompkins Hall Nursery and Childcare Center is a unit within the Office of the Provost at Columbia University and located close to Columbia's Morningside campus. Founded by faculty in the 1930s, Tompkins Hall is a progressive learning environment for children aged three months through five years, with deep roots in constructivist curricular approaches and influenced by the philosophy of Reggio Emilia, both of which center on children and childhood. Its students grow and learn through interaction with the prepared environment, the teachers, and peers. Teachers guide, nurture, and thoughtfully facilitate children's learning and growth. The Center's offerings include art, music, science, block-building, books, and open-ended periods of play as well as extensive outdoor explorations.

Responsibilities

Day to Day Operations

- Partner with the Director to ensure school-wide compliance with NYS, NYC, and University policies and procedures, including developing Standard Operating Procedures to support compliance
- Order and maintain school-wide supplies and student snacks
- Liaise with University central staff to meet the school's needs: Facilities and Operations, Information Technology, Finance, Vendor Management, and others
- Provide educational leadership, training, and supervision to Variable Hours Workers (VHOs) and student workers (may include interns, work study candidates, volunteers, and student teachers), including developing and implementing training and a curriculum for VHOs, under the supervision of the Director
- Under the supervision of the Director, identify substitute teachers in the instance of teacher absences, ensuring maintenance of supervisory ratios in each classroom
- Assist in classrooms as needed, including for occasional coverage in the instance of teacher absence or illness
- With the Director, co-lead professional development sessions, orientation modules, and other teacher training opportunities
- Manage communications infrastructure for the school, including contact information for parents and teachers, email templates, and directories
- In partnership with the Director, manage communications with parents and teachers as needed
- Facilitate and support families' and teachers' annual orientations with summer mailings and other communications and activities
- Collaborate with the Director in organizing and communicating about school-wide events
- Create, update, and maintain forms and organizational systems as required for efficient operation and to support compliance and annual processes such as admissions and enrollment
- Support all aspects of the admissions and enrollment process, including applicant tours and other admissions events
- Support Director in maintenance of the school's rooftop garden
- When Director is not present at the Center, manage all details pertinent to the school's operation and ensure compliance as supervisory lead

Contracts and Financial Management

- Manage family billing and monitor incoming tuition payments
- Process payroll, including submitting timesheet records for temporary employees, VHOs, and student workers
- Manage finance operations of the school in compliance with all relevant University policies, including processing reimbursements and invoices
- Maintain contracts and other billing documents relative to tuition and ensure collections are in compliance with University policy
- Serve as liaison with key finance and operations personnel and units in the University system including in the Provost's Office, Accounts Payable, Purchasing Department, and Controller's Office
- Support and partner with the Director on budget planning, financial projections, and updates
- Prepare financial analyses as needed
- Create, disburse, and monitor the return of family contracts
- Provide formal and structured periodic updates on tuition payments and other financial and operational matters to the Director; create reports as needed and/or requested by the Director

Regulatory Compliance

- Administer onboarding of new teachers and other staff, including IT and HR-related needs, and oversee onboarding and completion of all new teacher (fulltime and VHO) records according to NYS and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOH) and University requirements
- Create and maintain complete student files, including administrative onboarding of new students and outreach to families for file update needs
- Maintain all records for students and staff in compliance with DOH requirements, including all necessary teacher certifications and renewals, to ensure 100% compliance. Create and maintain systems to ensure timely updates and renewals as needed and aligned with all requirements.
- Ensure full compliance with DOH and University background check policies, ensuring timely completion by all Center staff of both sets of requirements
- Provide guidance, support, and regular communication to teachers to ensure compliance with University and DOH procedural and documentation requirements.
- Report immunization survey annually to DOH
- Maintain up-to-date lists of allergies and medical conditions for all students in all classrooms at all times; communicate updates and changes as needed with teachers and conduct period

checks to ensure full awareness

- Review DOH protocol regarding allergies and medical conditions annually.
- Monitor all related NYS, NYC, and University policies and share changes in policy with the Director, staff, and parents as needed

Performs other related duties and roles as assigned.

Qualifications

- Master's Degree in Education or related field
- NYS N-2 Professional License or equivalent, or NYS N-2 Initial License with on-time progress toward N-2 Professional License with continued employment contingent on evidence of progress towards Professional License and a continued requirement of the role until License is acquired
- 3-5 years' classroom teaching experience, including lead teacher experience, in an early childhood general or special education setting
- Fluency in early childhood development, along with the ability to interact with children in a developmentally appropriate practice
- Detail-oriented, with demonstrated ability maintaining records or tracking systems
- Experience with DOH's regulatory requirements for early childhood centers (Article 47)
- Excellent interpersonal, analytical, and organizational skills
- Demonstrated excellence at follow-through
- Ability to identify priorities and to think and work independently, balancing and completing multiple tasks and projects, in a rapidly changing environment
- Flexibility, diplomacy, collegiality
- Consistent professionalism in interactions with all stakeholders
- Absolute discretion and the ability to maintain confidentiality of all parties at all times
- Demonstrated excellence at understanding of administrative and operational services
- Passion for excellent customer service and commitment to exceptional quality
- Comfort navigating digital and online systems; knowledge of Google Workspace and/or Microsoft 365
- Availability on evenings and weekends for special events or other operational needs and to respond to time-sensitive needs

Preferred Qualifications

- Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, or related field
- 1 year leadership experience in addition to minimum teaching experience
- Experience navigating a large, complex organization to meet workplace needs
- Comprehensive knowledge of DOH's regulatory requirements for early childhood center

Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample that showcases their communication experience with either a peer or parent audience.

- **Minimum Education Level:** NYS Teacher Certification
- **Preferred Education Level:** NYS Teacher Certification

Application Instructions

Please apply using this link - <https://opportunities.columbia.edu/jobs/assoc-director-tompkins-hall-morningside-new-york-united-states?ApplicationSubSourceID=>