

## **Lead Teacher & Education Coordinator** **Mountain Bluebells Preschool & Nursery Center**

Fulfill your professional calling and discover your new hometown in the charming mountain town of Red Lodge, Montana. Mountain Bluebells Preschool & Nursery Center is seeking a Lead Teacher to guide our mixed-age Bluebells (aged 3 months to 6 years) in a nature-rich inspired environment.

This leadership role combines hands-on teaching and caregiving with curriculum planning, staff leadership, and family engagement. The ideal candidate has their heart in early childhood education, 3 or more years of experience working in childcare or preschool programs, a commitment to outdoor, play-based learning, and strong collaborative skills. A combination of education and experience will be considered. Mountain Bluebells actively supports ongoing professional development and encourages creative expression in teaching and caregiving.

Our 501(c)(3) program was founded in 2015 with the hope of being a “child’s home away from home.” Our school is located in a residential house, and is full of warmth, sunlight, and cozy smells of homemade food. We have a large, woodsy yard to play in and with a short walk our students can explore the shores of Rock Creek and the community of Red Lodge, MT. Red Lodge is a welcoming community that values culture, outdoor recreation, and history, with a charming downtown, a ski mountain, a brewery, and more. It’s the kind of town that actually wins the designation of “Most Charming Small Town in America.” [Travel and Leisure’s Most Charming Small Town](#)

Beginning pay for this position is \$\$45-\$55,000, negotiable based on education and experience. The Board of Directors is dedicated to recognizing the important and challenging work of caregiving with appropriate compensation and regular raises. After 6 months of employment, this position includes three weeks of paid time off. Ideally, this position would begin training in April and would then help implement our Summer program.

Candidates should have a degree in Early Child Education or related field, at least 3 years of experience working with children ages 0 to 7, and experience designing early childhood curriculum. However, the Board of Directors will consider a mix of education and experience. The ideal candidate has a love for spending time in nature, and would endeavor to incorporate Waldorf and LifeWays, or a similar pedagogy into a curriculum that speaks to the candidate’s heart. To learn more about our program, visit us online at <https://www.mtbluebells.org/>

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to [mtbluebells@gmail.com](mailto:mtbluebells@gmail.com).

Join us and engage your head, heart, and hands at Mountain Bluebells Preschool & Nursery Center.

**Position Title:** Lead Teacher & Education Coordinator

**Reports to & receives supervision from:** Board of Directors

**Hours:** 36-40 hours/week

**Pay & Benefits:** Starting between \$45,000-\$55,000, dependent upon education and experience

## **About the Position**

Mountain Bluebells Preschool and Nursery Center is seeking a full-time Lead Teacher to guide a mixed-age group of children (3 months to 7 years) in a nature-rich, home-based environment incorporating a blend of Waldorf and LifeWays pedagogy into the curriculum. This leadership role combines hands-on teaching with curriculum planning, staff mentorship, and family engagement. The ideal candidate has experience with early childhood education, a commitment to outdoor, play-based learning, and possesses strong collaborative skills. Responsibilities include daily caregiving, leading seasonal activities, and participating in school events. Mountain Bluebells actively supports ongoing professional development and encourages creative expression in teaching and caregiving.

## **About our School**

Mountain Bluebells is a licensed, nonprofit childcare center. Inspired by Waldorf and Forest School philosophies, we provide holistic, relationship-based care for children ages 3 months to 6 years in a nature-rich, mixed-age setting. Despite the fluctuating Montana weather, we strive to spend much of our days outside. We value rhythm, simplicity, play, and deep connection—with each other and the natural world.

Our school is open weekdays from 8:30am-5pm. Our School Year program runs from late August/early September to late May. The Summer Care program runs from early June to mid-August. The school observes breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas/New Year's, and the 4th of July. As well as week-long breaks for spring break and between the school year and summer programs. Our facility can care for up to 15 children at a time, and our child to adult ratio never exceeds 6:1.

## **Qualifications**

### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field
- At least 3 years of experience working with children ages 0 to 7
- Experience designing and implementing early childhood curriculum and programs

**\*\*A combination of experience and education may be considered\*\***

### **Other Preferred and Desired Qualities:**

- Some familiarity with LifeWays, Waldorf, or Forest School or similar pedagogies
- Commitment to ongoing study and professional development
- Strong communication and collaboration skills
- Enthusiasm for working outdoors year-round in all weather
- Musical, artistic, gardening, or handwork talents are a bonus

## **Key Responsibilities**

- Plan and deliver seasonal curriculum and activities
- Lead daily circle time with stories, songs, movement, and connection
- Guide and supervise a mixed-age group of up to 15 children
- Plan, facilitate, and participate in staff meetings
- Mentor and collaborate with classroom aides and other staff
- Communicate consistently with parents through meetings, emails, conferences, and newsletters
- Create a nurturing, respectful, and developmentally appropriate classroom environment
- Model warmth, positivity, and professional integrity in all interactions
- Maintain a rhythm of practical work and joyful caregiving (diapering, feeding, dressing, etc.)
- Engage in regular school and community events including festivals, parent nights, and fundraisers
- Perform daily household tasks that may include cooking, cleaning, and organizing the classroom

## **Weekly Hours Breakdown (Full-Time, 36-40 Hours)**

- Classroom Teaching & Childcare: 35 hours/week
- Planning, Communication & Administration: 2-5 hours/week

## **Annual Training & Professional Development**

- 16+ hours of training annually (per licensing)
- Completion of other trainings that may be required by licensing or other programs
- CPR & First Aid certification (renewed every two years)
- Registered and active MTECP profile