



Position title: School Support Specialist

Hours: 22 hours/week

Salary: Non-exempt position. \$28,000 – 30,000 annually, depending on experience, plus benefits

Location: Port Townsend, WA

Purpose of Position: To support educators and school staff in providing a safe and compassionate school environment where all children can thrive.

Note: Jumping Mouse prioritizes the safety of our staff, clients, and community and is following all state and local health guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. This position will be adapted to the school model for the upcoming school year and is likely to include a hybrid of in-person and remote work.

Our mission: Jumping Mouse transforms children's lives by providing expressive mental health therapy for as long as necessary. We nurture each child's healthy development and supportive relationships at home and in the community.

Jumping Mouse Children's Center is a Port Townsend nonprofit agency that provides mental health services for the children of Jefferson County, ages 2 ½ to 12. The organization's name is derived from a Native American myth and reflects the healing and hope possible through long-term creative therapy. Children receive therapy at Jumping Mouse for a variety of reasons, generally when the family has experienced trauma and the young child is deeply affected. Jumping Mouse works with children referred from teachers, healthcare providers, domestic violence/sexual assault advocates, and child protection workers, as well as families. More than 80% of Jumping Mouse clients live in low-income households. No child is ever turned away because his or her family cannot pay for services.

To support the whole health and well-being of each child, our program utilizes an integrated approach. First we offer in-depth therapy that addresses the root causes of childhood trauma, as well as its symptoms, to bring about positive, lasting change. Second, we include education and support for our children's parents and caregivers to help them respond appropriately to their children's unique needs. Additionally, we advocate for our children in schools, the courts, and the wider community, coordinating between the educational, social, and family environments of each child. From our twenty-one years in working with children and families, we know children must have a support system in order to sustain their health and well-being. Developing a safer and more supportive school community through trauma-informed training and support directly aligns with this mission. Jumping Mouse's approach trauma-informed care in the school setting focuses on the importance of having attuned, positive relationships with children where they feel seen, safe and valued.

Each employee of Jumping Mouse Children's Center is integral to carrying out the organization's mission and transforming lives in our community.



The **School Support Specialist** is primarily responsible for 1) providing trauma-informed training and support to primary and elementary educators and school staff 2) consulting with school staff on specific strategies to use to support the needs of students who have experienced trauma. 3) developing relationships with other local schools to explore expansion of this program.

School Support Specialist specific duties include:

- Coordinate and facilitate weekly small groups for teachers and school staff in local school districts. The purpose of the group is to share ideas for supporting students and families affected by trauma, discuss barriers to implementing supports, and build compassion for themselves, their students, and students' families.
- Consult with school staff on specific strategies to use to support the needs of students who have experienced trauma.
- Work with administrative and school leadership staff to ensure that school policies and procedures reflect an understanding of the role of trauma in student behaviors.
- Attend training in trauma-informed practices in schools.
- Reach out to additional schools in East Jefferson County to assess their need for trauma-informed support and training and develop a plan for expanding this program.

Other specific duties include:

- Attend monthly staff meetings and clinic meetings
- Attend regular supervision and consultation as agreed upon with Clinical Director, assuring congruency of the therapeutic model
- Occasionally attend supervisors meeting or other meetings as requested
- Participate in networking and public relations in the community, as requested.

Qualifications and qualities needed:

- Licensed graduate degree in counseling, psychology, education, or social work
- Demonstrated knowledge of trauma-informed practices in a school setting
- Demonstrated knowledge of child development and the effects of childhood trauma
- Experience in facilitating groups
- Ability to plan and coordinate in partnership with our schools a trauma-informed program
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, and child and family advocacy skills
- Excellent writing skills
- Standard information technology skills; competence in Microsoft Office required