



Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts

For more than 30 years, the Wolf Trap Institute has supported the learning of young children—from three months through Kindergarten—by providing professional development for arts-integrated learning to early childhood teachers. The Institute, a program of Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, accomplishes this by training early childhood educators in their own classrooms as well as other professional development programs to infuse the performing arts into their standard lesson plans, helping young children:

- Develop their emergent literacy skills and language acquisition
- Learn math and science concepts, vocabulary, and habits of mind
- Engage in arts learning in accordance with developmentally appropriate practices as outlined in the National Performing Arts Standards
- Practice and experience 21st century skills such as communication, creativity, collaboration, cooperation, and flexible thinking which are key to future success
- Achieve pre-K and Kindergarten learning outcomes as defined by national education organizations and local education districts.

Wolf Trap Institute Teaching Artists:

Professional performing artists who are comprehensively trained in the Wolf Trap model provide professional development in partnership with early childhood educators through classroom residencies designed to integrate the arts with curriculum standards in developmentally appropriate practices. Through a coaching and mentoring process for the teachers, Teaching Artists develop and implement lessons that strengthen the understanding and practice of arts-integrated experiences and strategies.

Wolf Trap Institute Classroom Residencies:

During a 16-Session Classroom Residency, a Teaching Artist and teacher work together to integrate arts strategies designed to meet the instructional goals of the teacher and the classroom curriculum. This collaborative approach provides teachers a unique opportunity to explore the interrelationship between various art forms and quality arts-based education experiences to foster important early childhood skills and concepts.

Each classroom session includes a 30-minute lesson followed by a 15-minute debrief discussion with the classroom teacher. Residency lesson plans are developed based on goals/objectives agreed upon in the initial planning meeting. The Teaching Artist must complete a lesson plan for each session and submit them to Wolf Trap prior to the visit.

Benefits of becoming a Wolf Trap Teaching Artist:

- Become part of a national network of Wolf Trap Teaching Artists working with a nationally respected program which has been a leader in the field of arts-integrated early childhood education and professional development since 1981.
- Receive intensive training in the Wolf Trap model to become knowledgeable in the areas of developmentally appropriate practice, emergent literacy, developmental domains, and early childhood curriculum and arts standards.
- Create meaningful partnerships with early childhood educators in our community.
- Engage children's imagination in the learning process and increase their enthusiasm for learning and the arts.
- Receive continuing professional development as a member of a select group of Teaching Artists.

Teaching Artist FAQ:

- Teaching Artists are independent contractors. Annual amount of work is not guaranteed.
- Teaching Artists are placed in 16-Session Classroom Residencies partnering with preschool and Kindergarten teachers. Classroom sessions are held twice a week, usually in the morning, during the school year.
- Teaching Artists are required to write and submit paperwork associated with each residency including lesson plans and evaluations.
- The number of residencies assigned in the metro Washington DC area varies.
- New Teaching Artists are paid \$1,000 for each 16-Session Classroom Residency.

Criteria for becoming a Wolf Trap Teaching Artist:

- A minimum of three years experience as a professional performing or teaching artist in the disciplines of music, dance, or drama including puppetry and storytelling
- Possess a thorough knowledge of the elements, forms, processes, and skills for their art form
- Able to articulate the creative process in or through their art discipline
- Practice reflection and self-assessment in the processes of art form
- Classroom experience working with young children
- Respect and appreciation for children of all cultures and from all backgrounds
- Possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrate a professional manner with teacher collaborator: be respectful of and inspire trust with partner, which includes but is not limited to being organized, well-prepared, punctual, reliable, and professionally dressed
- Be adaptable, flexible, and a good problem solver in variety of situations and spaces
- Must have reliable transportation and be willing to travel within DC/MD/VA metro area
- Complete successful personal interview, classroom audition, and background check
- Must attend full week of training, **October 16-October 20, 2017**, and complete one Classroom Residency, one classroom observation and a mid-year meeting within the first year.

Application Requirements:

Complete and sign Artist Application. Email all materials as Word document or pdf files. Only complete applications will be considered.

- Send a cover letter with summary of why you want to be a Wolf Trap Teaching Artist and work with early childhood educators and young children.
- Résumé that describes:
 - Professional experience as an artist
 - Education and training
 - Relevant work experience (not covered above)
 - Experience working with children
 - Recent employment
 - Languages/Other relevant skills
- Include a sample lesson plan for young children that includes an objective, introductory or warm-up experience, main body of lesson, and closing or review experience
- Complete successful personal interview, classroom audition, and background check
- Must attend all five full days of training week, **October 16-October 20, 2017**, and complete one Classroom Residency, one classroom observation and a mid-year meeting within the first year.
- Must sign a letter of intent for a minimum commitment of one year

APPLICATION DEADLINE – June 30, 2017

Send all of the required application materials to Nicole Escudero at: nicolee@wolftrap.org or 1645 Trap Rd, Vienna, VA 22182. Only complete applications will be considered. Questions? 703.937.6306
wolftrap.org/education



ARTIST APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

_____ I have enclosed a cover letter with summary of why I want to be a Wolf Trap Teaching Artist and work with early childhood educators and young children.

_____ I have enclosed a résumé that describes:

- Professional experience as an artist
- Education and training
- Relevant work experience (not covered above)
- Experience working in educational settings
- Recent employment
- Languages/Other relevant skills including ELL, Special Needs

_____ I have enclosed a sample lesson plan for young children that includes an objective, introductory or warm-up experience, main body of lesson, and closing or review experience.

_____ I have enclosed three professional references with their complete contact information.

_____ I will attend all five full days of training the week of **October 16-October 20, 2017** and complete one Classroom Residency, one classroom observation and a mid-year meeting within the first year.

_____ I understand Wolf Trap Teaching Artists are independent contractors and not employees of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts.

(Artist Signature)

(Artist Printed Name)

(Date)