

 **Job Title:** Therapeutic Farm Practitioner

Location: Apple Tree Farm Services CIC, High Bickington, EX37 9BJ

Hours: Part-time (14-21hrs a week, term-time only)

Contract: 12-month fixed term (subject to successful DBS check and probation period)

Salary: £14–£17 per hour (depending on experience)

Reports to: Farm Manager



About Apple Tree Farm Services CIC

Apple Tree Farm is a therapeutic care farm in North Devon supporting children and young people with special educational needs, disabilities, and social, emotional, or mental health (SEMH) challenges. Our unique approach combines animal care, nature-based learning, and therapeutic practice to help young people build confidence, resilience, and emotional wellbeing.

We believe that meaningful connections—with nature, animals, and trusted adults—help children and young people flourish.

Role Overview

We are seeking a caring, proactive, and reliable Therapeutic Farm Practitioner to join our friendly, multidisciplinary team.

You'll support children and young people with additional needs through 1:1 and small-group sessions on the farm, helping them to engage in animal care, outdoor learning, and creative nature-based activities. This role is ideal for someone who is passionate about making a difference, enjoys working outdoors, and values relational, person-centred practice.

Main Responsibilities

- Provide 1:1 and small-group support for children and young people with diverse and complex needs.
- Plan and deliver engaging, therapeutic farm-based sessions that promote learning, wellbeing, and personal development.
- Support emotional regulation and positive behaviour through nurturing, nature-led interactions.
- Ensure high standards of safeguarding, welfare, and health and safety across all activities.

- Work collaboratively with colleagues, parents, and carers to ensure consistent, holistic support.
 - Participate in general farm duties including animal care, cleaning, and maintaining safe, tidy environments.
 - Contribute ideas to help develop the farm's activity areas and learning programmes.
 - Attend supervision, team meetings, and training for ongoing professional development.
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Person Specification

Essential:

- A kind, patient, and empathetic approach with a genuine desire to support children and young people.
- Ability to build trusting, professional relationships with individuals who may have experienced trauma or anxiety.
- Experience (or a strong interest in developing skills) in working with people with SEND, SEMH, or additional needs.
- Practical skills or enthusiasm for working with animals, horticulture, or outdoor environments.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Resilience and willingness to work outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Reliable, adaptable, and able to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Commitment to safeguarding, equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Ability to commute to our rural location.

Desirable:

- Previous experience in a care, education, or therapeutic environment.
 - Training or qualifications in SEND, mental health, outdoor learning, or therapeutic practice.
 - Valid First Aid or Safeguarding training (can be provided on appointment).
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Safeguarding and Recruitment

Apple Tree Farm Services CIC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All applicants will undergo a robust safer recruitment process,

including an enhanced DBS check, reference verification, and confirmation of the right to work in the UK.

How to Apply

To apply, please email a short letter explaining why you'd like to join our team to:

 contact@appletreefarmsservices.co.uk

An application form will be emailed to you in response.

Closing date: 24th November 2025

Interviews: Week commencing 1st December 2025 (flexible arrangements available)
