

Sennie (SEN SPECIALIST/NANNY) for B7

Additional needs present: Autism, PDA, ARFID	Location: London, SE4	Wage / Salary: From £18 per hour gross	Driver: Non-essential
Live in/out: Live out	Pets: None	Days & Hours: Approx 12 hours per week - Monday: 9.30am -1.30pm - Wednesday: 9.30am - 1.30pm - Thursday: 9.30am -1.30pm <i>Occasional evenings available too, to be agreed between family and Sennie in advance.</i> <i>Potential for more hours in the future, also to be discussed and agreed in advance.</i>	Start Date: ASAP

Essential Skills/Traits:

- 2+ years of SEN childcare experience
- Experience with Autism/PDA
- Ability to Support Learning
- Fun and Creative Approach
- Flexible and Child-Led
- Encouraging and Patient
- Proactive and Adaptable

About the role/family: **SENNIES** is excited to support a Franco-American family based in London, with a wonderful, bright, and artistic 7-year-old son. He is highly verbal, incredibly funny, and deeply creative, with a natural talent for drawing and storytelling. While the family is still determining the best educational path for him next academic year, both parents work full-time, and need a compassionate and experienced caregiver who can provide the right support for him during this transitional period.

B7 has a diagnosis of Autism and Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), meaning that traditional teaching methods and high-pressure expectations can be counterproductive. The family prioritises a low-demand home environment to balance the challenges he experiences in structured settings. The right Sennie for this role will understand how to engage with a child who thrives on autonomy, choice, and playful interactions rather than rigid instructions or direct demands. He benefits from Occupational Therapy (OT) and play therapy to further support his development. He responds best to a relaxed, relationship-based approach that fosters trust, collaboration, and intrinsic motivation.

The ideal Sennie will be able to gently encourage learning, particularly in reading and maths, in a way that aligns with his interests and natural curiosity. They should be creative and adaptable, finding ways to incorporate learning into play, art, storytelling, and exploration. A fun, engaging presence is essential, as is the ability to follow his lead and support his independence while helping him navigate daily routines in a way that feels manageable for him. This role is a unique opportunity to work closely with a bright and talented child, providing support that truly makes a difference in his daily life. The right person will not only help him build confidence and emotional well-being but also give our family the reassurance that he is in capable and understanding hands while we navigate this important phase of his education and development.

About the child/children: B7 is a charismatic, intelligent, and highly creative child with a natural talent for performance and humor. He thrives on making people laugh, enjoys pratfalls and practical jokes, and finds great delight when things go unexpectedly wrong in a playful way. He has an incredible mind—he was reading and writing fluently by the age of three, has a strong affinity for numbers, and is bilingual in English and French. His greatest passion is drawing, where his exceptional talent and remarkable attention to detail shine.

B7 has diagnoses of Autism, Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), and Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID). These challenges mean he struggles with demand avoidance and can become dysregulated very quickly when faced with pressure, expectations, or tasks that feel imposed on him. Traditional approaches to learning and daily routines often lead to resistance, so he requires a caregiver who understands how to work with, rather than against, his need for autonomy. Eating and toileting are particular areas of difficulty, and he will need patient, non-confrontational support in these aspects of daily life. Social communication can also be challenging for him, and he benefits from an approach that allows him to engage on his terms, in a way that feels safe and enjoyable. B7 is happiest when he feels in control and when activities are presented as open-ended, exploratory, and playful rather than structured or goal-oriented.

Sensory and safety checklist: *The family have identified that B7:*

- *Is attracted to lights; Is fascinated by shiny objects and bright colours; Touches the walls of rooms; Enjoys certain patterns (e.g. brickwork, stripes); Smells, licks, taps objects and people; Finds it easier to listen when not looking at person; Remembers routes and places extremely well; Can memorise large amounts of information on certain topics; Finds crowded areas very difficult; Prefers to sit at back of group or front of group; Covers ears when hears certain sounds; Can hear sounds which others do not hear; Is very distressed by certain sounds; Bangs objects and doors; Is attracted by sounds and noises; Likes a hug if chosen to do this; Repeats exactly what others have said; Very good auditory memory for songs and rhymes; Dislikes the feel of certain fabrics and substances; Seems unaware of pain and temperature; Dislikes certain foods and drinks; Seeks pressure by crawling under heavy objects; Hugs very tightly; Likes to have food presented in a certain way on the plate; Finds it hard to ride a bike; Has extremely good balance*

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide compassionate, patient, and flexible care for B7, supporting his daily routines, including meals, in a non-confrontational and low-pressure manner.
- Engage B7 in playful, creative, and exploratory activities that align with his interests in art, storytelling, performance, and mathematics, fostering learning in a natural, enjoyable way.
- Support B7's independence by following his lead and offering choices, balancing guidance with autonomy to reduce demand avoidance.
- Implement strategies recommended by his Occupational Therapy (OT) and play therapist and collaborate with the family to support his sensory, communication, and executive function needs.
- Encourage reading, writing, and numeracy skills through playful, interest-led approaches rather than structured tasks or direct demands.
- Support emotional regulation by recognising early signs of dysregulation, offering reassurance, and using strategies to prevent or de-escalate distress.
- Foster social communication skills by creating opportunities for B7 to interact in safe, enjoyable, and low-pressure ways, respecting his need for control and choice.
- Plan and facilitate activities that integrate learning and development naturally into play, art, and exploration.
- Liaise with parents to maintain consistency, share observations, and contribute to strategies that support B7's overall well-being and development.
- Maintain a positive, engaging, and fun presence, helping B7 feel confident, secure, and motivated in his daily routines and learning experiences.

Lead Recruiter: Anita - Anita@sennies.co.uk

To apply for this amazing role and see the full job description and family preferences, please head to the SENNIIES website and fill in our [online application form](#).

If you are already registered, please [log in to your online SENNIIES account](#), where you will see if you are a good match for the family/client based on your matching preferences. Please click 'like' for any roles you want to be sent forward for, so we can qualify your application.

REF: PPH 036

Check out our other open roles: <https://www.sennies.co.uk/current-vacancies>

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