

Family Activities Volunteer

Purpose of Role:

Noah's Ark provides regular Family Activities including Family Days, Parent Groups, Siblings Groups and Noah's Ark Children's Groups. These activities are designed to provide fun and free days out, allowing children and families the opportunity to meet others in similar situations and to take part in new activities in an accessible environment.

Becoming a Family Activities Volunteer is a serious commitment but it provides a rewarding opportunity to directly support children with life-limiting or life threatening conditions and their families.

Noah's Ark take their responsibility for safeguarding the wellbeing of children seriously. This role is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Application. 2 references are also required.

Opportunities of the role:

- Gain experience working with children
- Gain experience working with people with disabilities
- Build social skills through a variety of interactions
- Develop ability to work as part of a team

Family Days Main activities/tasks include:

- Setting up the room
- Greeting and directing families
- Running activities for family members
- Supporting individual families
- Assisting with refreshments
- Tidying up

Parent Groups Main activities/tasks of this role:

- Assisting with the crèche by playing and reading with babies and toddlers

Sibling Groups Main activities/tasks include:

- Escorting siblings in taxis or on public transport
- Befriending siblings throughout the activities
- Assisting siblings to take part in the activities

These groups are for the brothers and sisters of the children we support. There are two age groups: 6-10 & 11-18.

Noah's Ark Children's Groups Main activities/tasks can include:

- Working 1:1 with a child to support them to engage in the activity
- Working alongside our team of Specialist Carers

These groups are for the children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and are divided based on the children's ages and conditions

Qualities/experience/skills needed:

- Ability to work well with others
- A good understanding of the role and of Noah's Ark's expectations of volunteers
- Good communication skills
- Reliability, commitment and engagement
- Initiative and problem-solving skills
- A good level of self-awareness

Experience of working with children, young people or families is desirable but not essential. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds with all sorts of skills.

PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers will not have sole responsibility for a child with a life limiting or life-threatening condition and will not be expected to undertake any personal care or administer medication.

Interviews and Training:

At Noah's Ark we value volunteer support, but we are also aware that not all roles are suitable for everyone. The interview and training process is in place to ensure that the Noah's Ark staff get to know more about you, to ensure that you are given the correct training for the role and so that you can find out if this is a role you would like to undertake. The training process is as follows:

- **Volunteer Induction** All potential volunteers have to attend one of these sessions before they are able to get involved in any capacity.
- **1st Interview** This will take place at the Noah's Ark Office at a mutually agreeable time.
- **Core Module Training** Any volunteers wanting to work directly with Noah's Ark families are required to attend the training spread across 1 weekday evening and 1 weekend day.
- **2nd Interview** A chance to recap on the training and discuss if both parties feel the role is suitable.
- **Activities Module Training** 1 weekday evening to prepare volunteers for the specific requirements of the Family Activities Volunteer role
- **Safeguarding Module Training** 1 morning or 1 evening, depending on the schedule, this helps to ensure the safety of our service.

Training programmes are run at regular intervals throughout the year.

Availability:

Most Family Activities take place either at weekends or during the school holidays and usually last around 6 hours. Parent Groups and occasional Noah's Ark Children's Groups take place on weekdays during school hours and are shorter (about 3 hours). We ask that a Family Activities Volunteer commits to at least one Family Activity per quarter. There is no upper limit to the number of Activities at which a volunteer can support.

Family Activities Volunteers are required to complete and return written Support Records following an Activity and to attend Supervision (support groups) every 3 months.

It is hoped that volunteers can commit to supporting at activities for a minimum of 12 months.

Location:

Noah's Ark supports families living in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Islington & Hertsmere. Most Family Activities take place within these boroughs but occasionally may be held outside this area, in Hertfordshire or Central London.

Minimum Age: 16 years

To apply for the Family Activities Volunteer role, please return a completed Volunteer Recruitment Form to the People Development Team: volunteering@noahsarkhospice.org.uk