



Family Activities Volunteer [SCHOOL HOLIDAY AVAILABILITY ONLY]

Noah's Ark provides regular Family Activities including Family Days, Parent Groups, Siblings' Groups and Noah's Ark (referred) 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 accessible environments.

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

Noah's Ark takes 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.

What the role involves:

Family Days

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

Parent Groups

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

Siblings' Groups

These groups are for the brothers and sisters of the children we support. There are three groups, ages 5-9, ages 10-13, and a youth group for siblings aged 14+. Main activities / tasks include:

- Escorting siblings in taxis or on public transport
- Supporting and befriending siblings throughout the activities
- Assisting and encouraging siblings to take part in the activities



Noah's Ark Children's Groups

These groups are for the children referred to us with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and are divided based on the children and young people's ages and conditions. Main activities / tasks include:

- Working 1:1 with a child, alongside our team of Specialist Carers and Nurses, to support them engaging in activities

Family Activities Volunteers have the option of supporting with one off requests for help in the home: from packing boxes for a house move, to decorating for Christmas, cleaning a home for a child to return from hospital or painting a garden fence. Working alongside our Home Support Team to support families at short notice. One additional training module is required.

PLEASE NOTE: You will not have 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.

Qualities/ experience/ skills needed:

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

Opportunities of the role:

- An opportunity to make a difference and support families within your local community



- Training and support to build new skills
- Gain experience of supporting families, children and young people directly
- You are entitled to claim travelling expenses at the current mileage rate

Interviews, training and assessment process:

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 Information Session:** All potential volunteers have to attend one of these sessions before they are able to get involved in any capacity.
- **Interview:** This will take place at the Noah's Ark Office at a mutually agreeable time.
- **Core Module:** Any volunteers wanting to work directly with Noah's Ark families are required to attend a 3-hour training module on a weekend day morning.
- **Home Module Training:** A weekend day afternoon session to prepare volunteers for the specific requirements of the Home Support Volunteer role. This training takes place immediately after the Core Module.
- **Safeguarding 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.

Time commitment: Events are usually 6-7 hours. **We are currently only recruiting volunteers who are available for events held during school holidays** but will consider those with alternative availability.

We ask that Family Activities Volunteers commit to supporting us for a minimum of 12 months, volunteering for at least one activity per quarter – there is no upper limit on 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) run by Noah's Ark Care Team staff every three 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: 18 years

To apply, please return a completed Volunteer Interest Form to the Volunteering

Team: volunteering@noahsarkhospice.org.uk