



Home-Start Family Support Volunteer

With the support of the community, we provide practical and emotional support for families with pre-school age children when they are going through challenging times, to help them give their children the best possible start in life. Parenting can be overwhelming, especially in the early years. Some face added challenges like postnatal depression, a child's illness or disability, personal health issues, isolation, or the demands of multiple births. Home-Start Hillingdon is here for families with young children who need a little extra support, reassuring them that this is not unusual, many families experience difficulties in bringing up children.

Main purpose and overview of role

To visit families in their own homes (with at least one child under 5) offering practical help, support, befriending and a listening ear. You will be a regular, reliable presence in that family. The dignity and identity of each individual must be respected and protected. You may share parenting tips or simply just be there on the tough days. You will encourage the families to get out and about, widen their network of relationships and to use the services available within the community. This is an exciting and rewarding role which requires energy, commitment, reliability, creativity and a sense of humour.

Responsibilities and activities

To have a clear understanding of the confidential nature of the Home-Start service, committing to the ethos and policies
Keep and submit records as required
Undertake all training which will be provided
Attend group support meetings and ongoing refresher training
Attend supervision with the Co-ordinator every six weeks
Inform your car insurance company if your car is used within this role for which expenses are paid for (you must provide the requested vehicle details to Home-Start)

Qualities and experience required

Be a parent or have parenting experience to draw on (no formal qualifications required)
A knowledge of child development or willingness to undertake training
Understand why families may need support
Be positive, non-judgemental (you may be working with people of any gender, family status or sexual identity, from any ethnic origin, culture or religion, or persons with disabilities)
Possess a good standard and knowledge of the English language

Speakers of additional languages are encouraged
Be sensitive and caring
Be reliable, prompt and enthusiastic
Have good communication skills, a warm and open personality and a sense of humour
Be able to work as part of a team

Commitment

Be prepared to give a high level of commitment and reliability
Minimum commitment to the role is one year after completion of the preparation course
A minimum of 2-3 hours per week home-visiting
Weekdays only

Training and support given

Exceptional Home-Start 6-week preparation training course – normally lasting 40 hours over 10 sessions
Ongoing training and opportunities for self-development
Supervision and support from the Home-Start Co-ordinator
Support from other volunteers
Thorough safety plans enable you to feel safe and empowered
Expenses can be claimed for travel within L.B.Hillingdon
A reference can be issued after 12 months of volunteering

Other

You will be asked to complete additional Home-Start forms to the H4All Application form
An enhanced DBS check will be carried out by Home-Start
References will be required
There are twice yearly fun social events with other volunteers and the opportunity to get more involved in the scheme if you would like
This is a fantastic opportunity to develop your confidence, skills and knowledge within a supportive and welcoming team

To apply

A H4ALL application form must be completed. Please note we require two references.

To obtain an application form:

- Visit www.h4all.org.uk and download or print an application form
- Email volunteerhub@h4all.org.uk to request an application form to be sent to you by email or post
- Telephone 01895-676-111

Send your fully completed application form by:

- Email to volunteerhub@h4all.org.uk

Post to H4All, Volunteer Hub, Key House, 106 High Street, Yiewsley, UB7 9BQ