

CARE TEAM

Play/Therapies Support Volunteer

Background to service:

Our Specialist Play and Therapies team offer support to Noah's Ark families, children and young people providing a confidential, safe space where they feel supported, valued, respected and heard. The sessions are focused to meet the individual needs of the child or young person and the team listen to what they hope to achieve through their sessions.

Purpose of Role:

Under the guidance of our Play Worker or Therapies Team, Play/Therapies Support Volunteers deliver structured and guided play activities to Children with Life-limited or Life-threatened conditions or their siblings. Volunteers act as a step-down service from the Play/Therapies service and aim to continue the positive work the team have achieved with the children and young people. Through Music, Drama and Play, volunteers will provide children and young people with a safe space to continue developing social, communication or play skills.

All Play/Therapies plans are created to meet the individual needs of the child or young person and are created with a holistic approach to enable positive outcomes. All Play/Therapies volunteers receive ongoing support and guidance from their assigned Play/Therapies team member.

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 rewarding experience of working directly with children, young people and their families
- Build knowledge of following a play/therapies plan and delivering structured and guided activities
- Develop communication sensitivity skills with children and young people in challenging circumstances

The needs of individual will differ, but each Play/Therapies Support Volunteering role will be agreed in advance between the family, Noah's Ark and the volunteer.

Examples of activities include:

- Sensory play
- Developmental play
- Songs/Music
- Stories & writing
- Arts and Crafts

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:

Volunteers commit to visiting a family once a week/ fortnight for approx. 1-2 hours, however the frequency and times will vary dependent on an individual's needs and a volunteer's availability. Play/Therapies Support Volunteer roles are available 7 days per week, between 8am-8pm.

Home Support Volunteers are required to complete and return written Support Records following a visit and to attend Supervision (support groups) every 3 months.

It is hoped that volunteers can commit to supporting a child or young person for a minimum of 12 months.

Location:

Noah's Ark supports families living in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Islington & Hertsmere. Volunteers will be matched geographically as much as is possible.

Minimum Age: 18 years

To apply for the Play/Therapies Support Volunteer role, please contact Helen or Anna at: fsadmin@noahsarkhospice.org.uk / 0208 449 8877.