

VOLUNTEER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

PURPOSE:

To provide regular support, friendship and practical help to families who have at least one child under 5 at home, who going through a difficult or stressful time in their lives.

TASK:

To visit families in their own homes on a regular basis in order to offer one of the following, or a combination:

- Friendship
- Practical help
- A listening ear
- Support for outings or appointments
- The opportunity to develop a new relationship, new ideas or skills, leading to increased confidence
- Links into community resources and support systems

PERSONAL QUALITIES ATTITUDES & EXPERIENCE NEEDED

- Ability to communicate effectively and sensitively
- Good listening skills
- Non-judgmental and caring approach to others
- Parenting or child-rearing experience
- Ability to empathise with others
- An awareness of and sensitivity to different life-styles and child-rearing practices and attitudes
- Flexibility in responding to a variety of family situations, and ability to get on well with adults and children
- Reliability & punctuality
- An understanding of the need for boundaries with families, including the occasional need to say "no"
- Commitment to HOME-START CAMDEN's Equal Opportunities & Confidentiality Policies
- Sufficient command of English to be able to participate in our Vol training and to fully understand HSC Policies & Procedures.
- Willingness to learn and attend all HOME-START CAMDEN'S Volunteer Training and Support Sessions, and to receive supervision by your Co-ordinator on a regular basis.

NO FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED

TIME COMMITMENT

Regular 3-4 hour weekly visits. On occasion this could vary if unexpected circumstances occur within the family. Volunteers are asked to commit to HSC for a minimum of **one year** visiting upon completion of the Preparation Course. Volunteers will be subject to probationary period of 6 months on being matched with a family.

TRAINING & SUPPORT

All Volunteers are required to attend the 8 Preparation Course sessions before starting to visit families. Should you miss more than two sessions due to exceptional circumstances a certificate will only be awarded at the discretion of the co-ordinators. In addition to other training volunteers are required to remain in regular contact with the Co-ordinator and to attend Volunteer Support Group meetings.

EXPENSES

All agreed out-of-pocket expenses are paid.

INSURANCE

Volunteers are covered by HOME-START Camden's Insurance policy