

The Role of Volunteers at Step by Step

What do Volunteers DO at Step by Step?

- Provide support and assistance to staff Family Workers running groups for isolated parents and their young children aged from birth to 3 years old.
- Help to prepare and maintain a relaxed welcoming environment for group activities
- Initiate and sustain conversations with parents who may feel shy or inhibited in company
- Play with parents and children and provide encouragement for building connection between them
- Join in song and story time to provide role models and encouragement to reluctant parents
- Join in craft activities, messy play to enable parents to value creative activities
- Join in outdoor play sessions to enable parents to value play in nature and the benefits of fresh air
- Work with volunteers to prepare and serve nutritious snacks for groups
- Join in at snack time with parents and children to encourage family mealtimes
- Observe developments and any concerns and share these at the post-group observation session
- Assist with cleaning up after groups and other household tasks as necessary

What do Volunteers bring to Step by Step?

They are...

- Aged over 18 years
- Able to commit to a minimum of one 3 hour session each week
- Understanding of child development and the needs of children.
- Able to communicate sensitively and effectively with adults and children.
- Have non-judgmental approach.
- Able to motivate and support isolated and vulnerable parents.
- Able to build good working relationships with families who may initially be hostile.
- Able to stay calm under pressure and work on own initiative.
- Committed to confidentiality.
- Eligible for enhanced PVG Registration.
- Patient and have good listening skills.
- Caring and empathic with a sense of humour.
- Enthusiastic, flexible and creative with plenty of drive and initiative.
- Trustworthy and reliable; able to manage time effectively.
- Flexible and available.
- Able to communicate by email
- Willing to take part in training and development opportunities

Other useful but not essential qualities include...

- Appropriate qualifications eg in Child Care or Family Work
- Experience of organising activities for families.
- Knowledge of Step by Step in Moray and the work we do.
- Current First Aid certificate.
- Current Food Hygiene certificate.