

CHILDCARE VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION

Make a difference in a child's life: Become a Childcare Volunteer!

Title: Childcare Volunteer

Responsible to: Program Director and Group Therapist or Service Advocates

Primary Objective: Offer support and respect to the children of clients (all ages) during support groups, group counseling, or as respite care inside the shelter. Provide children with safe, positive and nurturing play experiences while modeling non-violence.

Essential Functions:

- Play with, care for and talk to children of clients during support group, group counseling and/or as respite care for families inside the Shelter, offering them support and respect.
- Maintain a safe environment for the children – one that includes no violent play.
- Communicate with the Group Therapist / Advocates regarding on-going facility, program, and client needs or concerns.
- Keep the playroom and childcare areas clean and organized.
- Act as a positive role model, particularly modeling and promoting non-violence and healthy interpersonal behaviors.
- Must be able to understand and follow Solutions Center confidentiality policy and other policies and procedures.
- Document any behavioral or accidental incidents.

Qualification:

- Good listening and communication skills.
- Childcare experience is necessary.
- Experience in childhood education and activity planning a plus.
- Basic knowledge of domestic violence and sexual violence is helpful.
- Ability to maintain a regular schedule, including a commitment of 2-3 hours per week or as needed.
- Must be at least 18 years of age or older.
- Must pass a criminal background check; any crime against a person may disqualify you from consideration.

Time Commitment:

- Childcare Volunteers are asked to make a four- six month commitment, or until the support group is completed.
- Support groups generally run once a week for approximately 90 minutes. Childcare volunteers working in the shelter must commit to 2-3 hours per week.

Initial Impact:

- Childcare Volunteers play and do activities, help with homework, and provide other support to children while their parents participates in group counseling or need respite. Childcare Volunteers create a positive and safe place to play and learn.

Sustainable Outcome:

- Childcare volunteers act as healthy adult role models to children from abusive homes. Through play, attention, age-appropriate learning, and emotional support, childcare volunteers have a large positive impact on children.

If you are interested in becoming a Childcare Volunteer, please complete and return a Volunteer Application. A link to the Volunteer Application can be found on the 'Volunteer Opportunities' home page.

A background and reference check will be completed. Before beginning work, volunteers will attend a training session to learn the policies and procedures of the agency, to understand the special issues that the children may face as a result of living with domestic violence in their homes and how to work effectively with children who have been subject to or witnessed abuse.

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