

## **School Assistant at the Activity Centre and Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) School Volunteer role description**

Under the guidance of the GOSH staff the volunteer provides basic and diversionary play activities for patients and their siblings in the Activity Centre, in the school and on the ward - ensuring that the highest standards of play care are available for the children. Play offers an opportunity for patients and families to engage in developmentally appropriate activities, while providing an opportunity for socialisation. Play allows freedom of choice, fosters creativity, diverts patients from stress and worry, and normalises their environment.

### **Time commitment:**

Minimum four hour session per week. Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.

### **Key tasks:**

- To be guided by the GOSH staff member on appropriate play activities for patients and their siblings
- Helping to maintain a clean safe environment in which children can play and learn
- Setting up and tidying/cleaning/locking away toys and equipment
- Monitor Activity Centre/school environment and all visitors ensuring appropriate usage of equipment
- Supervises, instructs, encourages and interacts with patients/siblings as they participate in play
- Alerts GOSH staff to any issues of concern
- Welcomes any patients/visitors to Activity Centre/school
- Provide bedside play activities and support where necessary
- Support Activity Centre/school staff in their daily work
- With guidance provide additional literacy support in the Activity Centre/school eg reading speaking and listening activities.
- Help promote Activity Centre with parents and children

### **Desired skills and experience:**

- Experience of working with young people/children (including babysitting, volunteering, work experience in a school)
- Listening skills
- Sensitive and tactful nature
- Emotionally mature
- Compassion
- Reliable and trustworthy
- Understanding of (ability to learn) personal/professional boundaries
- Cheerful, fun and outgoing
- Energetic and enthusiastic
- Can share a skill (artists, musicians etc)

### **We will provide:**

- Supervision and support from a dedicated member of staff at GOSH
- Induction to GOSH
- Specific training for the role
- Local induction to the ward or department
- On-going up-dates and information
- Reimbursement of travel expenses (maximum of zone 6 return journey)
- A meal allowance of £2.50
- References can be provided after six months of volunteering