Baby Buddy
Volunteer role description

The purpose of this role is to provide specific one to one support for patients – cradling babies and young children, giving much needed nurture and support. Research shows that human contact helps calm babies, particularly those that have serious health issues, and aids in their early development. Baby Buddies help lower a baby's stress levels by holding and rocking them when nurses are busy and the infant's parents can't make it to the ward. The role, supervised by the ward sister, will be 'roaming' on a dedicated ward (Squirrel Ward) and the volunteer will be assigned to patients and parents that need additional emotional and practical support.

Time commitment:
Minimum of one four hour session per week. Shifts are usually either Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm, although this may be flexible and Saturday and Sunday 11am to 5pm.

Key tasks:
- Cradling and rocking babies
- Stroking and calming babies
- Reading/ talking to/ singing to/ entertaining patients
- Assisting with bottle feeding
- Escorting parents/carers and siblings to various locations in Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) (eg chapel, washing facilities, accommodation office, restaurant/cafe
- Providing new parents with *Welcome to GOSH* booklet (essentials)
- Providing new parents with information on how to access various support services

Desired skills and experience:
- Sensitive and tactful nature
- Emotionally mature
- Understanding of loss and bereavement issues
- Experience of working with children and babies
- Listening skills
- Compassion
- Reliable and trustworthy
- Ability to approach parents/confident nature
- Understanding of (ability to learn) personal/professional boundaries

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 (up to a maximum of zone 6 return journey)
- A meal allowance of £2.50
- References can be provided after six months of volunteering