

Play Support Volunteer role description

Under the guidance of the play specialist the Play Support volunteer provides basic and diversionary play activities for patients and their siblings on the ward - working closely with the Play Specialist 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 socialising. Play allows freedom of choice, fosters creativity, diverts patients from stress and worry, and normalises their environment. On occasion, volunteers will assist with escorting patients to other locations of the hospital for special programmes, or perhaps interact with patients at bedside.

Time Commitment:

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

Key Tasks:

- To be guided by the play specialist on appropriate play activities for patients and their siblings
- Helping to maintain a clean safe environment in which children can play
- Setting up and tidying/cleaning/locking away toys and equipment
- Monitor playroom environment and all visitors ensuring appropriate usage of equipment
- Supervises, instructs, encourages and interacts with patients/siblings as they participate in play
- Alerts Play Workers/Specialists to any issues of concern
- Welcomes any patients/visitors to play room
- Provide bedside play activities and support where necessary

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Experience of working with young people/children (including babysitting, volunteering)
- Listening skills
- Sensitive and tactful nature
- Emotionally mature
- Understanding of loss and bereavement issues
- Compassion
- Reliable and trustworthy
- Understanding of (ability to learn) personal/professional boundaries

We will provide:

- Supervision and support from a dedicated member of staff at Great Ormond Street Hospital (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