

Weekend Activities Club Support 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 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 normalizes their environment. Weekend Activities Club volunteers provide a mix of fun arts and crafts, games and sports to patients and siblings.

Time Commitment:

Minimum 5 hour session per fortnight for 6 months. Between midday and 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

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
- Setting up and tidying/cleaning/locking away toys and equipment
- Monitor Activity Centre 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
- 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 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