

Will I Get Training?

Yes. Home-Start training is known as being amongst the best in the voluntary sector. You will receive training at induction, ongoing one-to-one support as well as training opportunities. Our induction is fun and informal; you will meet other new volunteers like you. There's tea, cake, biscuits (and potatoes! - An inside joke, you will soon understand).

What Kind of Families Would I Be Helping?

The families you support will have a child with a Special Educational Needs or Disability. They may have asked for help because they feel overwhelmed or alone or do not know where to find the information and access the services they need.

Remember your coordinator is here to support you every step of the way.

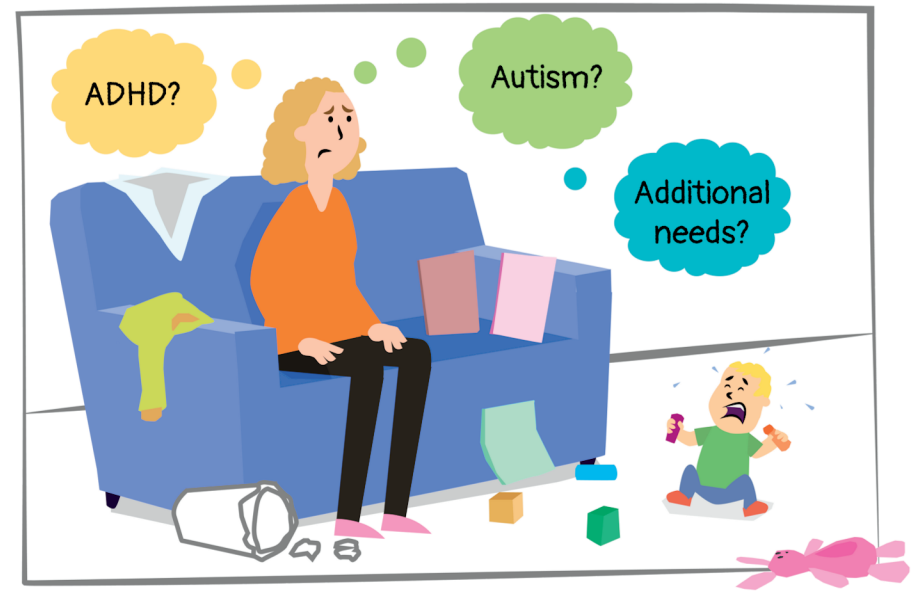


Be there for parents when they need help the most because childhood can't wait.

Email: office@home-startcentralbeds.org.uk | **Call:** 01582 660061

Visit: www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk

Home-Start Central Bedfordshire,
The Annexe, Downside Neighbourhood Centre,
Oakwood Avenue, Dunstable,
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Charity Registration no. 1109262



Do You Have SEND Parenting Experience?

Being a parent of a SEND child can be a rewarding but lonely place to be. Parents may not know where to get information about the condition, how to access further support or simply what to do. They may feel that their child is different and so are they.

By volunteering as a SEND Parent Mentor, you can show a struggling family that they are not alone and help them get the support they need.

Volunteer today because childhood can't wait.

Why Volunteer?

There are many reasons why you may want to volunteer with us:

- You want to help give young children and babies the best start in life.
- Like us, you feel it's right to support local parents who are in need and are asking for help. Perhaps you even wish you'd had someone there to listen and offer support.
- You enjoy learning new skills, gaining experience and growing in confidence. Voluntary work is valuable for your CV and for many can be stepping stone toward a career in a relevant field.
- You want a rewarding and interesting way to spend some free time.
- You'd like to invest in your community. Investing in the lives of local children is investing in your community's future.
- You would like to be part of our charity, meet like-minded people and make new friends.



The support you offer will depend on the family and could be:

- Being there to listen - someone to talk to who "gets it"
- Offering information about such things as how to navigate the various pathways to get Neurodevelopmental Services
- Information about other support services such as SENDIASS and specialist organisations
- Reassurance that they are not alone.



What Does A Home-Start Volunteer Do?

When you help the parent, you help the child. Parents supporting other parents; a simple idea that works.

After your induction, you will be matched with a family and will usually contact them weekly for six weeks. This is usually done by phone or online. The time is arranged between you and the parent, so it is flexible to fit around your life.

You are not expected to know everything and will be guided and supported by your Coordinator.

