

Volunteer Role Profile

Role: Early Years Book Buddy (Little Listeners project)

Supervised by: Sarah Ginn

Barnet Libraries have secured funding to run an Early Years literacy project with three Barnet Schools. The project aims to inspire parents to read with their children and to develop a regular reading and library habit. At each school 12 families (child and parent/carer) will attend a series of eight workshops. Each Workshop will focus on a children's picture book which will be read and explored during the session and then borrowed by each family for the week to read at home. The families will be required to join the library service and they will be introduced to their local library and the resources and facilities available within it. At the end of the series of workshops we plan to run some regular volunteer led drop-in sessions at the library to encourage parents to maintain their library habit in the longer term. It is anticipated that the project will commence in early 2014

The role of the volunteer

Volunteers are required to support this project by

- helping the project tutors with the workshops in the schools, preparing and supporting craft activities and joining in with group activities
- promoting the library service
- running drop-in's at specified times for families at the library. The drop in's will involve discussing books with the families, reading to and with the families and supporting them to choose books to read together at home.

Skills required for this role

- high standard of literacy in English
- good communication skills
- ability to read with a family on a one to one basis as well as to small groups of children aged three-four with their parents.

The following attributes are required for this role

- an interest in working with children and families
- some knowledge of children's books and nursery rhymes.

Potential Outcomes for the Volunteer

- the Volunteer will gain experience of working with children and families in a school and library setting
- the volunteer will gain an understanding of how library services work and the role they can play in child development
- the Volunteer will gain experience of working alongside an early years library specialist
- after an agreed period of volunteering, the library service will provide the volunteer with a reference.