

Chatterbooks Volunteer Assistant

Description

Do you love working with children and young people? Do you want to create magical and transformative experiences for our young customers? We are looking for inspirational individuals to help young people to read adventurously and to develop confidence in expressing their opinions

Chatterbooks are our fun reading groups for youngsters. We chat about books, play games, do quizzes and generally have a fabulous time. Your task will be to assist the staff in creating amazing experiences for our younger members and help them to fully enjoy and participate in this activity. You are the go-to person who can do smaller tasks, while seeing the bigger picture. You will support your branch library with a variety of duties outlined below. Are you ready to join in a bold opportunity to help us take your local library to an entirely new dynamic level?

Who you are

- You enjoy working with children and young people.
- You engage well with others and are passionate about libraries.
- You are responsible and dependable, taking pride in your work.
- Warm and friendly with our customers, assisting them with your skills, knowledge and approachable personality.
- You are a good listener, able and willing to follow directions.
- You are literate and have a genuine enjoyment for reading.
- You are self-sufficient and can work independently, but feel confident to ask questions should the need arise.
- You inspire fun in the people around you.
- You are able to engage in a positive way with the children regarding their opinions concerning reading and books.
- You have a good command of spoken and written English and possibly a community language.
- You love your library, wanting to expand and enhance the activities that happen there as well as being an informal advocate of the library within your community.
- You're excited about the opportunity of growing and learning in a fast changing environment.
- You are a lifelong learner and are eager to learn new skills and embrace transformative experiences.
- You are 16 years old. There is no upper age limit for volunteering.

A position you will love!

As a Chatterbooks Volunteer, you will:

- Set up a creative learning space in the library where the activity takes place.
- Prepare and organise all the materials needed for the activity.
- Welcome children and parents as they arrive making sure that first time participants are at ease.
- Engage children in an informal discussion about their favourite stories and books.
- Chat to children about the books that they are currently reading and the characters in them.
- Support children to participate in the games and quizzes so that they have plenty of fun.
- Help to clear at the end of the event.

Do you have what it takes?

- Able to read and write in English.
- Have a few hours a month to spare.
- Are an energetic person with loads of enthusiasm.
- Full of creative ideas.

We are guided by these shared values:

Community Improvement

Pride in Service

Optimistic attitude – We believe that anything is possible!

Why you should volunteer with Redbridge Libraries?

- You'll have a fabulous time!
- You will increase your confidence dealing with public, and children in particular, in a professional setting.
- You will learn skills around customer care, confidentiality and health and safety.
- You will gain valuable experience for your CV and a reference if you volunteer for more than 35 hours.
- Personal satisfaction of helping a young person realise their potential.

Anything else you should know?

- You will need to have a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau check carried out. This is something we will arrange for you.
- You will need to provide the contact details of two referees who are over 18, know you well but are not a member of your family.
- You will be required for at least 30 minutes before a session starts to help set up and 30 minutes after the session ends to help clear up.

Where and when you would be volunteering

- You will volunteer at a Redbridge Library running a Chatterbooks session and offering this volunteering opportunity. Please ask staff for details about the programme taking place in individual branches.
- Chatterbooks takes place for an hour, once a month all year round, including school holiday periods. If you are a parent you will need to consider child-care arrangements.
- All volunteers are placed initially on a one-month trial basis. Volunteers and activities are reviewed every six months.