

Stories, Rhymes and Songs 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 deliver our popular story and rhyme time sessions.

Stories, rhymes and songs are fun and engaging sessions for children under five and their families or carers. Babies love books and it's never too early to bring them to the library. On these weekly sessions everybody is encouraged to join in the playful actions of easy-to-follow stories and sing along to catchy nursery songs. These sessions aim to develop the babies' rhyming skills to get them ready to read and hopefully help them to grow into lifelong readers. Your task will be to assist the staff in creating these amazing experiences for our younger members and help them to fully enjoy and participate in this activity.

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 not shy and willing to perform in front of large groups of people.
- You are a good listener, able and willing to follow directions.
- You are patient and flexible.
- You are literate and have a genuine enjoyment for reading, singing and performing.
- You have a good command of written and spoken English and possibly a community language.
- 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 young children and their parents / carers.
- 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 aged 16 or over. There is no upper age limit for volunteering.

A position you will love!

As a Stories, Rhymes and Songs Volunteer Assistant, you will:

- Set up the space in the library where the session will be delivered, and clear it up afterwards
- Welcome parents and children making them feel at ease
- Hand out stickers and other marketing materials as appropriate
- Talk to families joining in for the first time and explaining what the sessions are about
- Help monitor audience capacity as on occasions it may be necessary to close sessions, when full, for health and safety reasons
- Answer questions regarding the library and promote other appropriate services we offer

- Join in the fun
- If appropriate and willing, deliver some of the stories, songs and rhymes.

Do you have what it takes?

- Confidence
- Have a few hours a month to spare
- Are an energetic person with loads of enthusiasm
- Full of creative and fun 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 families and children to learn together

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.

Where and when you would be volunteering

- You will volunteer at a Redbridge Library running Stories, Rhymes and Songs and offering this volunteering opportunity. Please ask staff for details about the programme in your chosen branch.
- The sessions are run weekly throughout the year and last for half an hour. Volunteers will be required to arrive 30 mins before the session starts to help set up and stay 30 minutes after the session has ended to help clear up. Sessions also take place through school holiday periods so 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.