

## Markfield Volunteer Role Description

<b>Volunteer title:</b>	Family Befriender
<b>Purpose:</b>	To offer support on a regular basis to families with disabled children, enabling them to lead less stressful, more enjoyable and fuller lives
<b>Responsible to:</b>	The Volunteer Coordinator
<b>Hours of work:</b>	We ask for a minimum of 2 hours a week, with a commitment of at least 6 months.

### Roles and responsibilities

- To volunteer alongside parents/carers to support families with Disabled children. What you do will vary, but may include: helping with stressful situations like going shopping or using public transport when this is difficult for families; supporting families to use leisure resources and other services; spending time at home with families to help keep children happy and occupied; breaking down isolation by chatting to parents about their experiences; helping with children's development by encouraging play and other stimulating activities.
- To offer a consistent and reliable service to the families.
- To think up or find out about creative, enjoyable, inclusive and innovative play activities
- In coordination with the family and Markfield's Volunteer Coordinator, identify how to work in a way that meets the family's needs.
- To offer emotional support and listen.
- To be aware of the specific needs of families from different cultural, religious and racial backgrounds.
- To attend all relevant training courses as requested by Markfield.
- To prepare for and attend regular supervision sessions and annual reviews with Markfield's Volunteer Co-ordinator.
- To maintain confidentiality about families, in line with Markfield's Child Protection policies.

- To follow Markfield's policies and procedures in your volunteering practice.

### **Qualities and skills you will need**

- Some experience of providing care for other people
- Real enjoyment from the company of children and young people
- A sensitive, clear and friendly communication style
- Ability to work independently on your own initiative
- Understanding of the support needs of Disabled people and their families
- Reliability
- Good listening skills
- A warm and patient personality
- An open-minded and non-judgemental approach to other people's lifestyles
- The ability to work flexibly
- Enthusiasm and willingness to learn new skills

### **Other relevant skills for the role**

**(These are not essential for your application)**

- An ability to speak a local community language other than English
- Skills in non-verbal communication systems such as BSL, PECS etc