



## As a Home Reading Volunteer YOU WILL

### Enrich the lives of children

- Inspire children to experience the joy of stories and books, and to become better readers
- Empower their parents to take an active role in their children's education

### Build friendlier communities

- Break social barriers by interacting with and befriending diverse families from a variety of backgrounds and cultures

### Acquire new skills

- Useful for careers in education, social work, child care, children's literature, and others.

## What does Doorstep Library Network do?

Doorstep Library Network runs Doorstep Libraries on five estates in Hammersmith & Fulham. Each Doorstep Library has a team of Home Reading Volunteers who pay weekly visits to families. Volunteers read stories to the youngest children, help budding readers to practice their reading, and read and discuss books with older ones (up to 11). They bring a selection of books for each child to borrow for the week.

Home Reading Volunteers seek to involve parents in the reading sessions to encourage them to take a more active role in their children's education. In addition, volunteers befriend parents who often feel isolated and in need of additional support. Volunteers regularly pass on information about local activities and services which can support them in their parenting.

Volunteers work in pairs. They visit the same 6 to 8 families each week. Arriving to the project's base at 3.45pm, they select books for each of the children they visit. After the visits, all the volunteers return to base to put away books and complete record sheets which ensure continuity and enable an evaluation of the project's impact.

***To get the most out of your volunteer experience, we need volunteers to make a sustainable weekly commitment of at least NINE MONTHS from 3.45pm to 6.30pm during school term time on Mondays, Tuesday OR Thursdays***

- ❖ A Stand-in Volunteer option may be available if a weekly commitment is unsustainable, please get in touch.

## Skills and attitudes required

- ✓ **Enjoy spending time with children** and believe in education for all
- ✓ **Fluency** in English
- ✓ **Non-judgemental and tolerant** of a variety of lifestyles
- ✓ **Excellent communication skills** – listening to families and communicating efficiently with Team Leaders (including via text/emails/calls with Doorstep Library staff)

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- ✓ **Note taking** – ability to accurately and regularly complete record sheets and write reports
- ✓ **Organised** - multi-tasking in a multi-faceted role comprising of much more than solely reading to children
- ✓ **Time management** – when managing your visits and attending the project
- ✓ **Reliable** – *always* attending a pre-agreed session and giving plenty of notice in advance of absences
- ✓ **Physical fitness** – able to walk between houses, up and down flights of stairs, carry backpacks, lift and carry boxes of books
- ✓ **Friendly** – to build good relationships with families, your volunteer partner and the rest of the team
- ✓ **Confident** – to lead the round or mentor a new volunteer
- ✓ **Patience, persistence and flexibility** – tailoring your approach to each family's needs

### **Prior to a placement, applicants must:**

- Attend a mandatory 1.5 hour information evening (dates given on enquiry)
- Fill in an application form and email or post it back
- Provide two references (at least one professional)
- Meet with a member of staff for an interview
- Shadow an experienced volunteer during 3-4 trial sessions
- File a DBS application
- Complete a further 4 hour training session

### **Information Evening**

You'll be given details of the next Induction Evening when you first make an enquiry. The evening will provide an introduction to Doorstep Library, and give you a clearer idea of what being a Home Reading Volunteer entails. The session must be booked in advance through [enquiries@doorsteplibrary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@doorsteplibrary.org.uk)

### **Training Session**

Providing your application and interview is successful, you'll be invited to 3-4 trial sessions on a project. If successful, we provide further training session which includes:

- Engaging hard to reach families
- Personal safety, child safeguarding, confidentiality and information sharing policies
- Local service provision and signposting activities and services to families

If successful at all stages of the recruitment process, the Team Leader will provide final confirmation of your long term placement as a Home Reading Volunteer. Doorstep Library will support every volunteer personally and strive to ensure that each has a positive and rewarding experience throughout their placement. We look forward to welcoming you!

**Please contact: [enquiries@doorsteplibrary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@doorsteplibrary.org.uk) or 020 8870 1476**

**Watch our short video on volunteering at [www.doorsteplibrary.org.uk](http://www.doorsteplibrary.org.uk)**

*Doorstep Library Network is registered with the Charity Commission: 1158197.*