

Ideas for a Volunteer

Your efforts as a volunteer and advocate for young children can make a big difference for the children and families of this community. Below are some ideas for getting involved.

As an individual, you can...

VOLUNTEER

- Share a hobby, craft, or personal collection with children
- Read stories to children
- Provide clerical assistance to early childhood organizations
- Teach children and adults who work with children how to use a computer
- Offer to substitute teach so an early childhood teacher can attend professional development or continuing education classes
- Serve on committees or boards affecting early childhood programs and services
- Become a Guardian Ad Litem (court-appointed volunteer for an abused or neglected juvenile) to protect the best interests of the child in court
- Tutor parents of young children in adult literacy
- Assist in a summer program for young children
- Staff registration tables at children's fairs or events
- Provide translation to Spanish-speaking parents and children
- Serve as a guest speaker about early childhood development
- Provide, prepare and distribute snacks at children's events and fairs
- Provide free child care during committee meetings, community forums and other events
- Become a Big Brother or Big Sister to a young child
- Volunteer at a Women's Shelter for mothers with young children
- Consider becoming a foster parent or adopting a child
- Mentor young families

DONATE

- Children's books or magazine subscriptions
- Children's toys or games
- Infant/toddler equipment and toys
- Educational programs for young children
- Professional magazine subscriptions covering child-related topics

ADVOCATE

- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about young children's issues in your community
- Contact local media and ask them to explore programs supporting early childhood development
- Find out where elected officials stand on early childhood services and programs
- Educate elected officials about the importance of early childhood development
- Ask elected officials to support programs that provide services for young children and their families

Ideas for a Volunteer

Your efforts as a volunteer and advocate for young children can make a big difference for the children and families of this community. Below are some ideas for getting involved.

As an organization or business, you can...

VOLUNTEER

- Repair or renovate children's playgrounds
- Renovate facilities for young children and their families
- Mentor young children
- Read stories to young children
- Adopt a local early childhood program and offer volunteers, the use of facilities, financial support and other resources
- Share expertise with early childhood development and family support programs
- Serve on committees or boards affecting early childhood programs

CREATE/DONATE

- Build early care, education and family center facilities
- Create areas for mothers to nurse their infants
- Donate items that support early childhood development
- Donate space for parenting, family support, health care, and early care and education programs
- Provide in-kind support such as copying, faxing, mailing or printing, for organizations providing programs and services for young children
- Make facilities safe and inviting for young children
- Provide free child care for parents attending parenting or family support meetings

ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE

- Initiate or participate in partnerships with community sectors to improve programs and services for young children and their families
- Host community forums on early childhood topics such as brain development, parenting programs, quality childcare or access to health care
- Work with media outlets to publicize local programs that offer parent education, family support, early care and education and health services
- Form family support groups
- Sponsor family literacy classes
- Promote the importance of early care and education within your organization and the community
- Invite local speakers to offer parenting seminars
- Promote and provide immunizations and health exams for young children
- Encourage families to read to their children from birth

SUPPORT

- Fund public awareness efforts about the importance of early childhood development
- Honor community leaders or organizations that are making a difference for young children and their families
- Honor and reward volunteers who provide or improve early childhood programs and services
- Provide long-term financial support for early childhood development efforts