

Job Description – Play/Youth Worker or Volunteer

You will receive a formal job description once you have successfully completed an interview, for now below is a general description of what the role involves, please contact our HR team for more information if you require it.

The role of play/youth worker or volunteer requires an individual who can engage and enthuse children and young people in a fun but safe manner. This requires both physical and emotional energy and you should expect to be tired at the end of a shift at Challengers. You need to be able to keep up with children and young people who are full of energy and need varying levels of support. You will have to be prepared to be their playmate as well as keeping them safe from harm and providing personal care where necessary.

You need to be able to communicate with all sorts of different people – children and young people, with and without communication difficulties, their parents and carers, your colleagues and senior staff, other professionals as well as members of the general public. This takes confidence and at times some assertiveness.

There are housekeeping elements of the role as well such as cleaning and health and safety tasks. We will expect you to attend a variety of training and to take responsibility for reporting safeguarding concerns – you will find out more about this later.

If you have experience working with children and young people or disabled people that's welcome but it isn't necessary, a positive attitude and approach is however essential.

The differences between the roles of paid and volunteer workers are in the level of commitment (see below) that we require and the roles that you will be expected to complete. Paid workers must have the confidence and capacity to provide 1:1 care for a child or young person who requires it due to behaviour or impairment. As a volunteer you won't be expected to carry out these tasks but that doesn't mean you can't!

Commitment for paid staff:

You must be able to commit to working the following – AT LEAST:

- ★ During term time - 3 Saturdays per month
- ★ and/or 2 evenings per week
- ★ and/or during holidays - 3 days per week

Commitment for volunteers:

You must be able to commit to at least one of the following:

- ★ 2 Saturdays per month for a reasonable period of 6 months
- ★ 1 evening (or more) per week during term time (After School Club from 3.30pm prompt) for a reasonable period of 6 months
- ★ At least 2 days every week over the summer /Easter holidays and two half term breaks
- ★ Swim Club – Every Saturday for 2 hours (4pm-6pm) for a minimum of 3 months