

Home-Start Edinburgh

Who are we and what do we do?



The earliest years make the biggest impact, make sure those years count



Starting in the home, our approach is as individual as the people we help



We give compassionate, confidential help and expert support



Sharing local expertise can drive local, regional and national change



At Home-Start Edinburgh, we work with local families with young children to help give them the best possible start in life. We are currently supporting 150 families across Scotland's capital.

For 38 years, we have been supporting parents and caregivers in Edinburgh to feel less isolated, to build their confidence in themselves and their parenting and to find ways to manage the challenges they face. We build trusting, helpful relationships with families and deliver a range of flexible support to meet their individual needs, including volunteer-led home visiting and family groups.

"I love being Home-Start volunteer. I get a lot out of it myself. Giving to the families makes me feel good about myself and also to appreciate what I have."
-Home-Visiting Volunteer (March 2023)



Job Role

Home-Visiting Volunteer

Home-Start volunteers give a high level of commitment and compassion. In return, volunteers will receive high quality training and support from Home-Start Edinburgh.

What do Home-Start Volunteers do?

Home-Start volunteers aim to build the confidence and independence of the family by:

- Offering support, friendship and practical help
- Committing to a minimum of 2-3 hours per week home-visiting according to the family's needs
- Visiting the families in their own homes, where the dignity and identity of each individual can be respected and protected
- Reassuring families that raising children brings different challenges and it's not usual to find things hard at times
- Emphasising the positive aspects of family life
- Developing a strong relationship with the family through being a regular and reliable presence in their lives
- Drawing on their own experience of parenting and being part of a family, to encourage parents' strengths and emotional well-being
- Encouraging families to widen their network of relationships and to use effectively the support and services available in the community

What is the time commitment?

In addition to visiting a family:

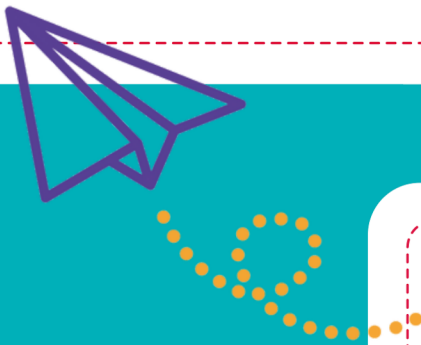
- Attendance at the initial training
- Attendance at regular Volunteer Peer Support Group meetings
- Attendance at supervision sessions with the Coordinator according to Home-Start guidance, every 4-6 weeks
- Attendance at regular training sessions
- A minimum commitment of one year

Person Specification

Home-Visiting Volunteer

Being a Home-Visiting Volunteer....

- You should understand why families may need support from Home-Start
- You should have time and enthusiasm for Home-Start, be reliable and understand the importance of reliability to the family
- You should have a clear understanding of the confidential nature of the Home-Start service, and not to break confidences shared by the family, other than when disclosure is essential in order to protect the wellbeing or safety of a child



Your personal attributes

- You have a positive, non-judgemental attitude to working with people of any gender, family status or sexual identity, or who are from any ethnic origin, culture or religion, or who may have a disability
- You demonstrate a sensitive and caring attitude towards others
- You have a warm and open personality and a sense of humour

Your experience

- You have good communication skills including an ability to listen
- You are able to work as a member of a team
- You are prepared to keep records as required by the scheme

**If you have any questions, please contact us at
volunteering@homestartedinburgh.org.uk**

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