



The Role of the Home-Start Volunteer

To help give children the best possible start in life, Home-Start supports parents as they grow in confidence, strengthen their relationship with their children and widen their links with the local community. Home-Start offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children in the local community.

Visiting families at home is basic to the Home-Start approach. Volunteers undertake the core work of the Home-Start scheme in their support for families, visiting them regularly in their own homes. Volunteers offer a realistic, flexible response and a caring attitude rather than a clearly defined method of working. Every family is different with differing requirements.

By sharing their time and friendship volunteers offer families opportunities to develop new relationships, fresh ideas and enhanced skills and capabilities.

Because of this, families can develop a renewed interest in their children and an improved response to their needs. They gain the confidence to take advantage of other resources in the community.

Volunteers need to be able to offer a high level of commitment and reliability. In turn volunteers will be fully supported by the Home-Start organisers.