



## CHILDCARE VOLUNTEER

Haringey Migrant Support Centre (HMSC) works closely with a group of visitors who have previously received support from us and have experience of the UK's hostile immigration and housing system. The group is named Voices for Equality, and they meet regularly to campaign for change on key issues affecting migrants with insecure immigration status in the UK. Most recently they have met with local MPs to discuss issues including long and expensive routes to settlement, lack of legal aid and inadequate housing.

Many of our visitors face barriers to participating in campaigning - one of the most significant being the lack of childcare for parents with young children. To help overcome this, HMSC provides childcare during Voices for Equality meetings, enabling parents to take part fully in group meetings.

**We are recruiting childcare volunteers to look after group member's children during Voices for Equality meetings. This is a vital role that allows parents to participate in campaigning around issues that directly affect them. You'll need to have an Enhanced DBS check for working with children or be willing to apply for one (HMSC will cover the cost).**

This role is suited to volunteers who have some previous experience caring for young children. You will need to be empathetic, able to take initiative and have strong communication skills. Experience of working with children with complex needs would be an advantage. Most important is the desire to create a safe and welcoming space for children to play while their parents participate in meetings.

### When?

Usually one Thursday a month, 11.00am – 13.30pm

### Where?

In person at our office in Haringey (N15).

### Tasks

- Provide a safe and consistent environment for children under 5 to play, while their parents focus on participating in a group meeting happening in the same room.
- Make sure the children are safely occupied and entertained.
- Set up and pack away the children's area before and after meetings.

### Commitment

- Need to be available to volunteer **one Thursday a month**. We understand that there might be circumstances where a volunteer can't attend (e.g., holidays, illness), please try to inform us in advance so that we can organise cover.
- Need a minimum commitment of **6 months**.

- Need to complete ongoing training provided by HMSC.

**Requirements: personal qualities**

- Experience caring for young children in a formal or informal environment.
- An Enhanced DBS check for working with children or be willing to apply for one (HMSC will fund the costs of the check).
- Patient, calm manner when engaging with young children.
- A desire to support migrants affected by the hostile environment, including people who are seeking to regularise their status.
- Ability to work with a diverse range of people from different backgrounds in a sensitive manner.

**Benefits**

- Valuable experience at the frontline of a grassroots organization supporting migrants, in a small friendly team.
- Better understanding of immigration and refugee issues, rights and entitlements of migrants. Additional training will be provided when possible.
- Professional reference after 4 months.
- Reimbursement of travel and lunch expenses.

**If you are interested in this volunteering role, please complete an application on our website.**