

Options Volunteer Activity Animators

Program Summary

The Options Program at Family Service Toronto is dedicated to creating welcoming, inclusive communities where everyone can contribute their skills and talents. Options works city-wide, supporting individuals and families, adults and children, couples and communities. The Program's focus on equity and inclusion is guided by a person-directed approach and puts us wherever individuals and families need us.

Position Summary

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to engage and support children and youth ages 4 - 18, some of whom have a label of developmental disability, while their parents attend peer-led support workshops in the adjoining room.

Core Responsibilities

- In collaboration with other Volunteer Activity Animators, develop and implement activities
- Pre-brief and set up prior to workshop
- Assist with clean-up and debrief with program staff
- Keep in regular contact with supervisor to discuss progress
- Volunteers will be given the opportunity to sit in on the adult group and hear first-hand from parents whose children have developmental disabilities

Experience and Skills

- Experience working with children (such as ECE, siblings of children with special needs)
- Experience working with individuals who have a label of developmental disability and/or an eagerness to provide support to children who have developmental disabilities
- Demonstrated ability to work as a team member
- First aid training/certification
- Creative
- Patient
- Demonstrated ability to maintain confidentiality
- Outgoing, friendly and positive

Time commitment

- Workshops take place one Saturday or Sunday per month. Volunteers may commit to volunteering on Saturdays, Sundays or both.
- 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- We request a minimum commitment of 6 months

Location

- 700 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 498

Training

- General to FST: Volunteer Resources
- Specific to role: Options Community Resource Facilitator will meet with the team of Volunteer Activity Animators a week prior to their start date to provide an orientation.
- Staff will stay with volunteers on their first date, to provide support and suggestions.

Benefits

- Satisfaction gained in supporting parents whose children have developmental disabilities to attend workshops designed to help them and learn from each other
- Excellent opportunity for individuals interested in pursuing a career in the Developmental Disability Sector, Day Care or Child and Youth Work fields
Opportunity to gain experience working with children
- Access to learning opportunities (such as Shared Learning Forum trainings)
- A reference letter may be provided upon request after successful completion of the volunteer commitment/volunteering 15 hours

FST conducts a Police Records Check for successful applicants for this position.

Please apply for this position online through the Volunteer Application Form and attach a resume and cover letter to your application.