

Stories, Rhymes and Songs Volunteer Assistant at Redbridge Libraries

Stories, rhymes and songs are fun and engaging sessions for children under five and their families or carers. Babies love books and it's never too early to bring them to the library. On these weekly sessions everybody is encouraged to join in the playful actions of easy-to-follow stories and sing along to catchy nursery songs. These sessions aim to develop the babies' rhyming skills to get them ready to read and hopefully help them to grow into lifelong readers. Your task will be to assist the staff in creating this experience for our younger members and help them to fully enjoy and participate in this activity.

Who you are

- You engage well with others and are passionate about books, reading and libraries
- Warm and friendly with an approachable personality, helping children with your knowledge and clear communication skills
- You have a genuine enjoyment for singing and performing and would be willing to perform songs and act in front of groups of children and their parents
- You have a good command of spoken English and possibly a community language
- You are responsible, reliable and dependable and enjoy learning new things
- You are able to engage in a positive way with young children and their parents/carers
- You are aged 16 or over. There is no upper age limit for volunteering

As a Stories, Rhymes and Songs Volunteer Assistant you will:

- Assist staff setting up the space and tidying afterwards
- Welcome parents and children making everyone feel at ease
- Hand out stickers and other marketing materials as advised
- Talk to families joining in for the first time and explain what the sessions are about
- Help monitor audience capacity according to health and safety
- Answer questions regarding the library and promote other appropriate services offered
- If appropriate and willing, deliver some of the stories, songs and rhymes

Why you should volunteer with Redbridge Libraries

- You will increase your confidence dealing with children in a professional setting
- You will learn skills around customer care, confidentiality and health and safety
- You will gain valuable experience and a reference if you volunteer regularly

Where and when you would be volunteering

- You will volunteer at a Redbridge Library running Stories, Rhymes and Songs. Please ask staff for details about the programme in your chosen branch
- Sessions are run weekly throughout the year and last for half an hour. Volunteers will be required for at least 30 minutes before and after each session for set up and clear up
- Sessions also take place throughout school holiday periods
- All volunteers are placed initially on a one-month trial basis. Volunteers and activities are reviewed every six months