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**Child Minder - Paid Volunteer Role**

**Cairdeas Programme**

**(Jan - May 2024)**

**Description and Specifications**

**Serve the City Ireland CLG:**

Serve the City Ireland (‘STC’), [https://www.servethecity.ie](https://www.servethecity.ie/), is a volunteer-led organisation and registered charity. We mobilise volunteers to serve the practical needs of those who are marginalised and vulnerable in our communities. STC is part of a global movement of Serve the City initiatives that are active in over 65 cities around the world.

**Cairdeas Programme - Child Minder role:**

Cairdeas is a programme aimed at furthering the inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants into Irish society through training, up-skilling, mentoring and exploring Irish culture and heritage.

Our new *Parenting in Ireland* project will see the delivery of a course (90-minutes, once per week) on parenting to newly arrived international protection applicants. These sessions will take the format of information-sharing on practical aspects relevant to parents in Ireland in addition to addressing topics more specific to parenting children who are living in IPAS accommodation and/or in the process of applying for international protection, such as reflections on cultural aspects of parenting, education, family roles, etc. The sessions will aim to serve as a supportive, non-judgemental space for parents.

In order to facilitate attendance of parents, we will offer assistance with free childcare for participants. This will take the format of the setting up of a *Kids’ Corner* while the sessions are taking place, to entertain and care for a small number of children (toddler, preschool and/or primary school aged children). In addition to participants and their children, the Child Minder will work closely with the Course Facilitator, various stakeholders, including but not limited to, STC volunteers, reception centre staff and support providers. This role reports to the Cairdeas Programme Coordinator.

**Terms:**

* 2.5 hours per session @ €12.70/hour (90 minutes contact time with the children, plus 60 minutes for preparation and tidying-up)
* Project duration 08/01/2024 - 31/05/2024 (10 sessions during this timeframe) - Weekday mornings, exact days and times to be agreed
* Place of work: Balseskin National Reception Centre, Dublin, D11 FX93.
* Travel expenses and cost of craft materials, supplies, etc. reimbursed.

**Key responsibilities:**

* Engagement with programme participants and their children
* Setting up the *Kid’s Corner* for the weekly sessions (x 10)
* Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children at all times, including but not limited to ensuring equipment is well maintained, age appropriate and safe to use and that good hygiene standards are met
* Plan, provide and take part in play based activities that stimulate and support children’s development. 
* Listening to, encouraging, enabling, and actively engaging with children in an respectful, empathetic and supportive way
* Maintaining records as required
* Completion of weekly timesheets
* Working within data and privacy guidelines
* Upholding the ethos, values, and good name of STC and abiding by its Code of Conduct
* Work at all times within relevant health and safety guidelines

**Key skills and expertise required:**

* Experience caring for young children.
* Experience in working in a community development setting.
* Experience of working with families, groups and delivering projects (e.g., organising children's activities, book club, etc.).
* Ability to provide a safe and supportive space for parents and children.
* Have awareness around supporting parents in different family types, from different cultural backgrounds and those who are parenting in other different contexts.
* An awareness/understanding and valuing of cultural diversity.
* Understanding of the issues and needs confronting children of families seeking asylum and living in Accommodation/Reception Centres.
* Ability to develop and sustain positive interpersonal and professional relationships with programme participants/beneficiaries
* Competency in English.
* Excellent verbal communication

**Desirable skills and experience:**

* Experience working with migrant communities
* Trained in Children's First Aid
* FETAC Level 5 or 6 in Childcare, or similar relevant experience.

**Qualifications and permissions:**

* Fully eligible to legally work within the Republic of Ireland
* Garda vetting (will be arranged)

**Required attributes:**

* Passionate about working with children, enthusiastic about creating a welcoming environment and can bring fun and creative ideas to the role.
* Demonstrates the STC Values in how they volunteer and relate to others (Humility, Compassion, Respect, Courage, Love and Hope).
* Has a positive, “can-do” attitude.
* Shows a natural ability to engage with people of other cultures.
* Is respectful, tactful, open-minded, empathetic and wanting to ‘make a difference’.
* Innovative and flexible.

**Benefits of this Role:**

* Satisfaction, knowing you are contributing to a more inclusive society.
* Gain an insight into working with refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland.
* Meet others from different cultures.
* Working with like-minded people, determined to improve the lives of vulnerable people in our society.

**Application process:**

* To apply, please email your CV, together with a cover note stating why you think you are suitable for this position, to **erika@servethecity.ie** with subject heading ‘Child Minder Role’.
* Details of two relevant references required (we will not contact your references without your prior knowledge).
* Closing date: Friday, December 1st 2023.
* Informal interviews week commencing December 4th / December 11th