



Story & Rhymetime Volunteer

Library Service

Purpose of the role:

North Somerset Libraries hold regular free, fun rhymetimes and story times for children under 5 and their parents/carers. These sessions are a mix of stories, songs and action rhymes.

Rhymetimes: rhyme based sessions which include a variety of action, movement, sung and chanted rhymes, often using musical instruments.

Storytimes: story based sessions which includes stories and rhymes as well as short games or linked activities.

Main tasks and activities may include:

- Help with session preparations, including setting up the area (moving kinder boxes, chairs etc.), preparing additional materials e.g. CD and CD player, musical instruments, puppets, colouring sheets etc.
- 'Meet and greet' the children and their parents/carers. Welcome them to the session, show them where to park buggies etc.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs with the children and their parents/carers;
- Read stories to the children and their parents/carers;
- Use any linked props e.g. puppets, Big Books;
- Promote any Bookstart reading schemes for younger children;
- Help with session tidy-up, (return kinder boxes, chairs etc. to their usual place);
- Clean musical instruments;
- Be involved in session planning. This may be done on a week-by-week basis or may be termly.
- Help with any linked activities e.g. craft activities.

Volunteers will have these qualities, skills and experiences:

You do not need to have any previous experience of volunteering or working in a library. For this role you will need:

- An interest in libraries and desire to be an advocate for the service;

- Experience of reading and/or singing to children;
- The ability to engage and keep children's attention;
- The ability to relate to children and their families in a welcoming and friendly manner;
- The ability to work as part of a team but also to use your own initiative;
- Reliability;
- To be comfortable singing in public – you need enthusiasm, not an amazing singing voice!
- An interest in and enthusiasm for books and reading;
- Good communication skills.

Types of training and resources available to support volunteers:

- We ask that anyone interested in this role observes at least one session before applying. The Volunteering team can provide details of session times and will liaise with the library;
- An Induction which explains how the library service operates and outlines all the policies and procedures that you will need to know;
- A tour of the library at which you will be volunteering;
- Details of any relevant resources that may help you in your role;
- Autism Friendly Libraries training;
- Introductions to members of staff and other volunteers, alongside whom you will be volunteering;
- Out of pocket expenses can be paid;
- Accreditation may also be available.

How often does the volunteer activity tend to take place?

We will ask you to commit to a regular day and time so that we can promote the sessions. Story & Rhymetime volunteers often help out on a rota basis. This role is term-time only.

Where does the voluntary activity take place?

Activities take place at a number of North Somerset Libraries. Please see the Vacancies page of our website for more information: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsc-library-volunteering> or call using the details below.

Name and contact details of the volunteer co-ordinator:

Name: The Library Volunteering Team

Email: library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk

Phone: 01275 888 864

Other important information:

- This is a physically active role
- If you are concerned that volunteering may affect any benefits you receive, please ask and we will do our best to assist you.
- All library volunteering roles involve dealing with the public and are customer focused.
- Volunteers are complementary to paid workers and volunteers should not be used to replace staff.

Help is also available for people who require Council information in different formats and languages other than English. Please contact the Library Volunteering Team via email library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk or phone 01275 888 864, for more information.

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