



Support and friendship
for families

*I would like to know more about
volunteering for Home-Start*

Name ...

Address ...

Telephone number:

Email:

The next coffee morning is:

The next course of

preparation starts:



Support and friendship
for families

The Home Start Thanet Centre
The Kent Innovation Centre
Thanet Reach Business Park
Millennium Way
Broadstairs
Kent
CT10 2QQ
Tel: 01843 609665
Email: admin@homestartthanet.org.uk



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HOME-START THANET WOULD
LIKE YOU TO PUT YOUR HANDS UP
TO VOLUNTEER

(just a few hours a week make
a huge difference)

Home-Start helping families step into a brighter future!

Home-Start offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children, in local communities throughout the UK. Home-Start offers a unique service, recruiting and training volunteers, who are usually parents themselves, to visit families at home who have at least one child under five years of age. They offer confidential, friendly and informal support. To help give children the best start in life, Home-Start supports parents as they grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with their children and widen their links with the local community. Volunteers can provide real support to families, by making weekly visits to the family in their own homes where their confidentiality and individuality can be respected.

Becoming a volunteer — the procedure

You will be invited to an informal coffee morning to meet others interested in volunteering plus members of the Home-Start staff team. If you are keen to apply to become a volunteer you will be given an opportunity to meet on a one to one basis with a member of staff enabling us to find out more about you and your motivation behind volunteering. The next stage is the 'Course of Preparation' — which as the name suggests prepares you in readiness to meet local families. During this period you will be asked to complete a CRB check



(police check) & supply us with two referees in accordance with our recruitment policy.

The 'Course of Preparation'

Currently this is run over six sessions followed by at least four additional training sessions. The initial six days will cover topics such as, what Home-Start is, the role of the volunteer, values & attitudes, child protection/safe guarding children and listening skills to name but a few. On completion of the initial sessions, following an end of course interview, a satisfactory CRB and references, you will be ready to meet your first family.

Being a volunteer

Becoming a volunteer is an important step in helping and supporting a parent who may be experiencing a difficult time. As a volunteer you can make such a difference, by offering a few hours of your time to commit to visiting a local family. Volunteers, on completion of the Course of Preparation, will be placed with at least one family, the majority of volunteers support two; however we are sensitive to your own commitments. You will be introduced to the family by a member of staff, who will ensure you have full knowledge of the family's situation and their need for support. Offering around 2 to 4 hours of your time per week (Mon — Fri), you will build up a trusting relationship with the family, enabling them to make positive changes. Families are referred to us for a variety of reasons: isolation, depression, demands of children, financial issues or just feeling low and unable to cope with everyday issues.

The support you offer will depend on what the family's needs are, whether it is to be a listening ear, to offer practical or emotional support or guidance with parenting.

What we offer you

Our Course of Preparation is an excellent way to build skills and knowledge of working in the community. We offer out of pocket expenses, on going training, regular support, supervision and guidance.

**TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE
CALL US ON 01843 609665 OR
COMPLETE THE FORM OVERLEAF**

