Role of the Volunteer for 'Family Saturdays' Project

About the 'Family Saturdays' Project:

'Family Saturdays' project is based at Hornsey Road Children's Centre for Islington families with children under 5 years of age with additional needs and living **in Finsbury Park** and **Andover Estate** , **Hillrise** and **Tollington** Wards.

Older siblings are welcome too. Last year we had an age range of children from 4months to 10 years of age , though the majority of children are pre-school aged between 2 – 6 years of age .

The project is located in Hornsey Road Children's Centre on Saturday mornings. Families are offered a warm and friendly welcome in a community nursery space from 10am – 1pm .

Activities:

Families can play together in a well resourced nursery environment , socialise and take part in creative arts, crafts and play-based activities, go on community outings to local services and parks , such as the local Library, farm or picnics. Parents also enjoy activities for themselves such as relaxation , reflexology and jewellery-making workshops .

Play:

Play activities are planned and child lead . We encourage free expression - aiming to tune in to the child's inner world and their playful interactions and otherwise, by accepting and connecting their behaviors and expressions aloud.

Parents Group:

A Parents' discussion group is facilitated by the project worker each Saturday session unless a work shop is planned . There is opportunity for others such as parents, staff members and volunteers to co-facilitate.

Family Lunches:

Everyone joins in together for a shared lunch that families often assist preparing.

Volunteers job description !

-Genuine interest in working with family groups that include babies and children with additional needs ,aged 0-5years. Older siblings are welcome too.

- Willing to commit 3 – 5 hours on Saturday mornings for duration of project until August 2016.

- Be a playful person . Creative and confident manner when leading on activities, modelling play as needed and

-Be willing to assist with the parents discussion group

-Be willing to assist with food preparation

-Be willing to attend relevant training if required or desired by you .

-Be willing to contribute to post sessional feedback and reflections.

- Convey a friendly , empathic & non-judgmental attitude ; Be open-minded to different perspectives in the context of parent/child interactions .

Volunteer duties will include:

- Playing with children and attending family groups ;

- taking part and assisting in activities and outings.

- Help with setting-up and clearing up activities in the play room and outside play area.

- Assist with preparation of food for lunch .

What Volunteers can expect in return:

- Induction Day with Family Action

- DBS processed for working as a Volunteer with Family Action

- Relevant training **,** including Child Protection & Safeguarding

- Supervision

-Travel expenses

-Lunch expenses (lunch is provided usually).