

You and the volunteer

Please remember the volunteer is your child's special friend and not yours. Whilst we appreciate that you may want to get to know your child's befriender / mentor, socialising between the parent / guardian and volunteer is discouraged.

Your responsibilities

- Being at home when the volunteer collects and returns your child.
- Remembering that the volunteer is your child's friend, not yours.
- Withdrawal from befriending / mentoring should not be used as a punishment. It takes time to develop a relationship with a child and if the meetings are cancelled this can be detrimental.
- Please do not ask the volunteer to babysit, this is not permitted at any time.
- Please do not ask the volunteer for money or to buy things for you and your child, this is not permitted at any time.
- Please do not give your child spending money, the volunteer has a set allowance while out with the child. We do not permit volunteers to hold any money for the children.
- Please be flexible with times / days of outings.
- Please do not offer gifts to the volunteer as we do not wish you to be offended should they refuse.

The volunteer's responsibilities

- Seeing the child on a regular basis, every fortnight for befrienders or every week for mentor, 2-3 hours each time.
- Keeping the Befriending / Mentoring Coordinator informed of the number of times they have seen the child and what activities they have enjoyed together.
- Ensuring the child's safety at all times.
- Ensuring government guidelines are adhered to during outings, for example social distancing and basic hygiene during a pandemic.
- Collecting and returning the child at the stated times.
- All volunteers will respect confidentiality but there may be occasions when the volunteer may have to pass on information to Befriend a Child who, in turn, may contact social services.



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Befriend a Child
9 Bon Accord Square,
Aberdeen, AB11 6DJ

Tel. 01224 210060
www.befriendachild.org.uk
www.facebook.com/befriendachild

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Parent/Guardian Information

For over 40 years Befriend a Child have been providing 1:1 befriending and mentoring programmes and projects for children and young people aged 4.5-16 years in Aberdeen City and Shire.

The youngsters are referred to the organisation by a range of statutory bodies including social services, health visitors and schools and for a variety of reasons including parental substance misuse, behavioural difficulties, economic disadvantage and social isolation.

The volunteer

Befriend a Child provides volunteers who have been carefully selected through interview and have been fully trained before being matched with a child / young person. Before they are matched all volunteers will have two personal references in place and will also be screened by CRBS under the PVG scheme.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and are covered by our public liability insurance.



Problems

Hopefully there won't be any, but if you have a problem - for example if the child is ill and you need to cancel the meeting with the volunteer - then please contact the office on 01224 210060.

Changes in circumstance

Should there be any changes in circumstances which affect the child, the referrer will notify Befriend a Child who, in turn, will pass the information on to the volunteer so they are aware of the current family situation.

Ending the relationship

We expect our volunteers to give you and the child at least 2 months notice when ending the relationship. The volunteer will remind the child of this leading up to the finishing date so the child is fully prepared for when the befriending / mentoring stops. The referrer will also be informed of this.

Should you or your child wish to end the befriending / mentoring we ask for at least a month notice. This can be done by either contacting the referrer or Befriend a Child

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Complaints

If you have any complaints please contact Befriend a Child on 01224 210060 or the child's referrer for further advice. Copies of Befriend a Child's Policies and Procedures are available from the office or at www.befriendachild.org.uk

The child and the volunteer



The child will only be referred to the organisation with your agreement. You will be asked to complete a consent / registration form which will be submitted with the referral form. When a suitable match is found for your child you will receive a call from a Befriending / Mentoring Coordinator who will introduce him / herself and answer any questions you may have.

The referrer will then make arrangements to introduce the volunteer and Befriending / Mentoring Coordinator to you and the child. At this meeting the volunteer will arrange to take the child out for the first time. The outings should happen on a fortnightly basis for approximately 2-3 hours each time.

The volunteer will take the opportunity to introduce the child to new activities which may help them increase their self esteem, teach them new skills and at the same time allow the child to have some fun. Volunteers will not spend large sums of money but will spend good quality 1:1 time with the child / young person for a minimum period of a year.