

Parent / Carer Information

Befriending Programme

Befriend a Child's befriending programme supports children and young people aged 5 to 16 years across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, within a 25-mile radius of Aberdeen City Centre. Befriending offers children an opportunity to build a trusting relationship with a volunteer befriender while enjoying social and recreational activities together.

Children and young people are referred to the befriending programme by professional bodies including social work, education, health and third sector organisations for a variety of reasons including low self-esteem and confidence, social isolation, child or parent mental health and young carers.

Our Volunteers

Befriend a Child provides volunteers who have been carefully selected through interview, are screened by Disclosure Scotland, have two personal references in place and have been fully trained by Befriend a Child's experienced staff team, they also sign a confidentiality agreement. Volunteers are matched with a child based on their interests and geographic location, ensuring a really good match for both child and volunteer. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and are covered by our public liability insurance.

Your Child and Our Volunteer

Your child will only be referred to the organisation with your agreement. You will be asked to complete a child registration form which will be submitted with the referral. When a suitable match is found you will receive a call from a Befriending Co-ordinator at Befriend a Child who will introduce themselves and answer any questions you may have and then arrange to take the volunteer to meet you and your child at the family home or elsewhere if preferred. At this meeting the volunteer will arrange to take the child out for the first time. Thereafter, the outings should take place twice a month for approximately 2-3 hours, at a time that suits the child and volunteer which may be weekends or evenings.

Your child will be introduced to new activities which may help to increase their self-esteem and self-confidence, teach them new skills and at the same time allow them to have some fun. The volunteer will have a small allowance for each outing and will spend good quality 1-1 time with the child for a minimum period of one year.



Visit our website at
www.befriendachild.org.uk



Registered Charity Number SC005467

befriend a child



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Your Child's Volunteer will...

- See the child on a regular basis, twice a month for 2-3 hours each time
- Collect and return the child at the stated times
- Always ensure the child is safe
- Adhere to Befriend a Child's befriending policies and guidelines
- Keep the Befriending Co-ordinators informed of the number of times they have met with your child and the activities that have taken place
- Respect confidentiality, although there may be occasions when the volunteer may have to pass on information to Befriend a Child, who in turn may contact the referrer

Parent / Carers are asked to...

- Be at home when the volunteer collects and returns your child
- Not withdraw the befriending as a punishment. It takes time to develop a relationship with a child and if outings are cancelled this can be detrimental
- Not ask the volunteer for money or to buy things for you or your child or ask them to babysit this is not permitted at any time
- As the volunteer has a set allowance to spend, please do not give your child money for their outing as we do not permit volunteers to hold money for the children
- Be flexible with times and dates of outings
- Inform the volunteer as soon as possible if you wish to cancel an outing
- Not offer gifts to the volunteer as we do not wish to offend you should they refuse
- Whilst we appreciate that you may want to get to know your child's volunteer socialising between the parent/carer and the volunteer is discouraged
- Give feedback to the Befriending Co-ordinator about befriending on a regular basis
- Inform Befriend a Child if there are any changes in circumstances which effect the child, this includes change of address

Your Befriending Co-ordinator will...

- Contact the volunteer on a regular basis for updates
- Contact you / the carer, for regular updates for review meetings
- Resolve any issues that may arise ASAP
- Share information with other professionals if necessary

Ending the Relationship

We expect the volunteer to give a least two months' notice when ending the relationship. The volunteer will remind the child leading up to the final outing, so the child is fully prepared when the befriending stops. The referrer will also be notified of the end date.

Should you or your child wish to end the befriending we ask for a least one month's notice. This can be done by contacting the referrer or Befriend a Child.

Cancelling Outings or Problems with Befriending

If your child can not attend an outing, for example they are ill, and you have to cancel an outing please contact the volunteer directly, or call the Befriend a Child office on 01224 210060.

If you have any other issues, including any complaints, please contact Befriend a Child.

Copies of Befriend a Child's policies and procedures are available on request.

Contact

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

01224 210060

info@befriendachild.org.uk



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"We are so pleased to have Befriend a Child helping Molly. She has little self confidence and can find social situations awkward - but has blossomed with her befriender Lydia" - Carer

90%

of parents / carers said that they have noticed a positive difference in their child since being matched with their volunteer



"My child wouldn't be where he is now if it wasn't for the help and support from Befriend a Child and giving him the most amazing, caring and one in a million befriender so thank you" - Parent

96%

of parents / carers said that the services of Befriend a Child have positively benefitted them as a parent / carer.

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