

Become a Mentor



Thank you for your interest in becoming a mentor with The Kids Network. We hugely appreciate our volunteer mentors' time, energy and commitment to making a difference to a child's life. Come on the journey with us. Let's start connecting for change.

What will I do as a volunteer mentor?

- Hold weekly sessions, lasting 1-3 hours over the course of 1 year
- Support a child during a crucial stage in their social and emotional development
- Focus on the individual needs of your mentee – building confidence, supporting resilience and developing the tools to manage feelings for a positive future
- Join our peer to peer network of mentors, building role confidence and sharing knowledge and experiences
- Receive individual support from The Kids Network team, throughout the full year

What will the sessions involve?

Sessions will be one-to-one and will take place at a time and place of you and your mentee's choice. Sessions will be child led and will be as creative and varied as your imaginations! The options are endless – from the local park to London's great museums, you as a volunteer will experience the capital in a new way, through the eyes of a child.

As we are slowly transitioning out of Covid 19 Lockdown measures, our mentoring service will reflect that. This means that for the first part of your mentoring journey, you may be doing a mixture of phone call + messaging based mentoring/ face-to-face mentoring. However, as government guidance is changing, we hope to be able to transition all mentors to full face-to-face mentoring within the next few months.



What do I need to commit to?

- Volunteer once a week, either during the week or on weekends, for a year, minimum
- 6 consecutive weekends from your first session
- Attend our first training day that will be run digitally on a Saturday (August, exact dates TBC)
- Attend our second training session also ran digitally, during the week after working hours (August, exact dates TBC)
- Participate in evaluation
- Attend a peer volunteer meet-up at least once every 3 months

What are we looking for in our mentors?

- Positivity: Embraces fun and positive thinking
- Commitment: Attends all mentoring sessions and demonstrates patience and understanding in the face of challenges
- Communication: Communicates well with young people and The Kids Network team using compassion
- Resilience: Meets challenges with optimism, seeing them as an opportunity to learn
- Professionalism: Complies with all TKN policies and procedures particularly regarding safeguarding
- Non-judgement: Demonstrates kindness and openness and does not impose personal values
- Solution focused: Offers guidance and constructive feedback with compassion and understanding

Please note that due to legal requirements, if you have lived abroad over the last 5 years for 3 months or more, we will require a DBS from that country so processing may take longer.

Does this sound like the opportunity for you? Fill out the application form on our website:

<https://thekidsnetwork.org.uk/become-a-mentor/>

For more information, please email us at info@thekidsnetwork.org.uk

Safeguarding:

We are committed to the safeguarding and welfare of the children we work with. We have a zero tolerance approach to any harm or exploitation of a child by any of our staff, volunteers, partners or Trustees. We are looking for mentors who will promote the safety and well-being of the young people in our Network.

We ask all applicants to provide two references after the application. We will process a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for all successful mentors. We do not accept DBS checks from other organisations in line with our safeguarding policy. Mentors must comply with our child protection policy at all times. We will provide thorough safeguarding and child protection training to all applicants invited to the next stage.

Diversity:

We are looking for mentors who embrace and value diversity. The Kids Network is committed to diversity and inclusion. We want to reflect the society we live and work in by representing a diverse pool of mentors. You can't be what you can't see. By providing children with access to diverse opportunities, people, professions and perspectives, they can have positive experiences and make meaningful connections to increase wellbeing and resilience for positive futures.

