

Peace at Home Family Shelter, Inc.

P. O. Box 10946, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703 | (479) 442-9811 | fax (479) 587-1817

www.peaceathomeshelter.org

Title:	Childcare Volunteer
Classification:	Volunteer
Schedule:	Based on volunteer ability and shelter need
Salary:	N/A
Reports to:	Volunteer Coordinator or Advocate Supervisor
Supervises:	N/A

Position Purpose: Support Peace at Home clients and staff by providing childcare to children while their parents attend counseling and support group sessions.

Responsibilities:

- Playing with children
- Ensuring their safety

Requirements:

- All potential volunteers must be at least 18 years old.
- Previous experience working with children is preferred but not required.
- Complete volunteer application which includes three background checks.
- Complete an interview with the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Complete training to become a mandated reporter in Arkansas
- Complete 5 hours of DV training
- Complete Peace at Home orientation
- Volunteers are required to wear masks when interacting with clients and their children.

Equal Opportunity Statement:

Peace at Home Family Shelter, Inc. provides equal opportunities to all applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, status as an officer or enlisted members of the military forces, veteran status, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, transgender status, marriage to a co-worker, hairstyle historically associated with race, or any other protected characteristic applicable under federal, state, and local laws.

To apply: Email our Volunteer Coordinator at mcaporaso@peaceathomeshelter.com.

Guidelines for In-Shelter Childcare

The following are some guidelines and helpful tips for doing childcare in our shelter. This will not cover every possible scenario, but hopefully, you will find it helpful in understanding what is needed from you when you are providing childcare.

Safety

The most crucial part of providing childcare is safety. The safety of everyone involved is of the utmost importance. You should know how many children you are responsible for at all times and where they are. No children should be left alone when they are in your care, and children should not be permitted to engage in activities that could harm themselves or others.

Be prepared

Come prepared to get messy. This means dressing in comfortable clothing you don't mind getting dirty. Small children are inherently messy and sitting on the floor inside or playing indoors is part of childcare, so plan accordingly.

Engage

This means getting games to play with the children, taking them outside to play, playing with the toys in the playroom, etc. We want this to be a positive experience for them, and part of that is having fun while they are here. Staying engaged in a fun activity is also an excellent way to keep children from becoming upset or doing things that may not be safe. The cabinet in Playroom 1 has activities for the children to do and if you would like alternate activities, please feel free to ask.

Responsibilities:

Playing with children
Ensuring their safety

Things you are NOT responsible for:

Changing diapers (children can be taken to their parent to change)

In the interest of safety and providing a positive experience for the children in your care, please refrain from:

Having adult conversations with other volunteers while providing childcare
Using your cell phone (except in case of emergency)
Using harsh or angry tones and words with the children

Remember: These children come from all kinds of situations, and we want to provide a positive, supportive environment. Children should be validated in any expressed concerns and supported however possible.

Mandated Reporters

All employees and volunteers at a domestic violence shelter are mandated reporters. You are responsible for knowing what that means and fulfilling your duties.

If a child discloses abuse, acknowledge and validate what they are telling you. All children deserve to be believed when they disclose abuse to an adult. As a mandated reporter, it is your responsibility to take what they say seriously and report things that qualify as abuse. Let them know that you believe them and will do what you can to help.

Do not be afraid to make a report of suspected child abuse. If what you report is not considered abuse, or there is not enough evidence, the report will not be accepted.

Our preferred practice is to talk with our clients and give them the opportunity to make the hotline call themselves. However, this is not required because you are a mandated reporter. You can choose to come to an advocate and discuss the issue or make the hotline call yourself.

Potential Issues

When caring for children, numerous issues can arise. If you ever feel unable to handle a situation, **ASK FOR HELP**. There should always be someone here that can help.

If children are being aggressive, remind them it is not safe and redirect them to an appropriate options.

Example: "Hitting is not safe; it hurts." If you don't like what they are doing, use your words to let them know or ask an adult to help.