

Skills Developed by Doorstep Library Volunteers

- Engaging with families
- Harnessing a truly empathetic and understanding nature to engage with potentially vulnerable families
- Understanding the benefits of consistency when delivering community-focused projects, seeing first-hand how consistency develops meaningful relationships with families on the ground
- Understanding the value of supporting families to access community services and increased knowledge of the types available
- Approaching families with a supportive and friendly nature
- Developing a good understanding of safeguarding and how to prioritise it
- Excellent time management
- Broad experience of working with families across different areas in London from a range of differing backgrounds
- Thinking on your feet, able to accommodate for last minute changes in children being visited and what they might want to read

Reading sessions

- Employing a good, patient nature with children from a wide variety of ages and backgrounds
- Using active listening to ensure children and families feel heard
- Using a wide range of approaches to create engaging sessions that promote reading for pleasure
- Developing a hands-on understanding of how to work with families in a child-led manner, based on children's ages and interests
- Encouraging parental engagement in the sessions wherever possible, learning over time the most effective approaches and strategies to achieve this
- Learning through experience, how different reading techniques like phonics support children's reading development
- Learning more about children's social, emotional and educational development from the early years to late primary school

Planning what books to use

- Develop an understanding of children's literature, expanding knowledge on a termly basis
- Employing an understanding of children's interests to create a session they will truly enjoy
- Using cooperation and teamwork to agree on how to share planning with volunteer partner?

Volunteering logistics

- For regular, weekly volunteers - consistent commitment to a community-focused project alongside a regular volunteer partner working collaboratively

- For stand-in, ad-hoc volunteers - adaptability and flexibility to support the running of community-focused projects
- For stand-in, ad hoc volunteers - the opportunity to volunteer on many different projects, working with different partners and meeting lots of different families and staff members.
- Team working to efficiently manage project logistics each week, i.e. set up and close down
- Use of bespoke database for regular reporting: developing a greater understanding of the types of data organisations capture, and the importance of monitoring and the need for data protection within that

What career paths would be supported by Doorstep Library

- Teachers
- Charity sector role
- Paediatrician
- Child Psychologist
- Youth Worker
- Events
- Community Practitioner / Organiser
- Civil Servant
- Early Years Practitioners
- Occupational/Play/Art Therapist
- Publishing
- Writing careers (any form of writing for a young audience)
- Social work
- Nursery and childcare workers