

the kids network

Connecting for Change



# Volunteering Pack

Charity Number 1167178  
[www.thekidsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.thekidsnetwork.org.uk)

Welcome to The Kids Network!

As a volunteer mentor you'll support a child each week to have fun and build their resilience. You'll gain new skills, enhance your employability prospects whilst positively impacting children in your local community

## What we offer

We work with children aged 8-11 who could benefit from more social and emotional support, and provide them with positive experiences in their community outside the school setting.

- 1 year long mentoring programme
- 60 hours of child-led one-to-one mentoring in the community
- Monthly budget for sessions
- Child participation workshops
- Safeguarding support throughout the year
- Group mentoring sessions in the community



“

My mentor has made me feel more brave and confident and proud to answer questions in school

”

**We are incredibly proud of the package of training and opportunities we offer to our mentors during their mentoring journey.**

## What we offer mentors

- up to 30 hours of free training and development
- A Badge of Excellence Certificate in Child-Led Mentoring
- Access to our mentoring platform of resources and peer-learning
- A new network of friends in fellow mentors in their own community and across London
- Year round coaching and support from a dedicated Programme Manager



“

Mentoring has greatly benefited my mental health as I have another person to look out for and support, but he also supports me!

”

Our programme is designed to not just benefit the children we work with but also has a huge impact on the wellbeing and outlook of our volunteer mentors.

## Benefits for mentors

Data from our  
2021 Impact  
Report

87%

of mentors reported that mentoring has had a positive impact on their wellbeing.

93%

strongly agree that mentoring has made them consider new ways of thinking.

97%

of mentors had an increased belief they could make a positive change in society.



“

Selfishly, I've really seen an improvement in my own well-being and contentment volunteering with TKN!

”

## The Mentor Journey

### Onboarding

Once a candidate fills out our application, they'll be invited to an interview. At the interview we'll get to know a little more about the candidate to ensure we match them to a mentee with similar interests. All volunteers must then go through our vetting process, obtaining 2 references, a DBS check and any necessary overseas checks. This is managed and paid for by TKN.

### Induction

All our TKN mentors are invited to our two-day induction course. This includes sessions in understanding child-led mentoring, safeguarding, trauma-informed practice, and anti-oppression to provide our mentors with all the skills and knowledge they need to be a brilliant mentor to your mentee.

### Months 1-3 of mentoring

### Building Connections

We will then match you to a child in their borough who needs a little extra support. You will have a Programme Manager who will be on hand to coach you through your mentoring journey. The first 3 months of your mentoring journey will be building connections with your mentee. Spending 1 hour together each week, getting to know each other in your local area.

### Months 3-9 of mentoring

### Goal Setting

Once you pass the 3 month mark, sessions can be extended to 3 hours each week. You can start venturing further afield and begin goal setting. You will help your mentee identify their goals for their time with TKN and work with them to achieve them over your time together. These can be small things like learning to ride a bike, to bigger things like building their confidence or overcoming social anxiety.

### Months 9-12 of mentoring

### Positive endings

The final 3 months of your mentor/mentee journey will focus on positive endings, celebrating the time you have spent together, all you have achieved and looking forward to the positive future your mentee will move into after your TKN journey comes to an end at the one year mark.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ● Is there a cost?

No! TKN will pay for DBS and onboarding costs. Each mentor/mentee pair have £30 to spend each month. Mentors can also claim travel expenses to help them get to sessions and explore the city with their mentee.

### ● How will I be matched with my mentee?

Once our mentors have completed onboarding and training we begin the process of matching them with a child. This will be based not only on proximity but also on similar interest and personalities which we feel will make a good fit.

### ● When do I need to be available to mentor, and for how long?

Sessions last between 1 and 3 hours, once a week. This will be outside of school hours, we will work with you to fit your sessions into your schedule. The programme lasts a full 12 months.

### ● Can I take a holiday during the mentoring?

Yes, of course. Although our stance is that we require sessions with your mentee take place weekly, we recognise instances such as holidays may require you to have a two-week gap in sessions with your mentee. We ask that you work with your programme manager to maintain the quality of the programme experience for your mentee.

If you have other questions, please email  
[info@thekidsnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@thekidsnetwork.org.uk)



“

It's exposing me to things I wouldn't really do, even with my mentee like she wants to go trampolining or flower shopping. I'm learning about myself, she's learning about herself.

”

Our programme has a significant impact on social emotional development, wellbeing and school engagement. We achieve this by building children's confidence, resilience and curiosity for ambitious futures through positive experiences.

## Our impact

Data from our  
2021 Impact  
Report

74%

of children are from the global majority

98%

felt they had a trusting relationship with their mentor

90%

children reported an increase in their happiness over their mentoring journey



“

We have seen the difference it's made in the children's confidence levels, their ability to communicate and manage feelings.

”

**Do you think you could be a role model and connect with a mentee to make positive change?**

## What next?

You can apply to [Become a Mentor](#), or visit our [website](#) to learn more and start your mentoring journey today!

If you have any questions or wish to talk more about the opportunity, contact our Volunteer Recruitment Team at [info@thekidsnetwork.org.uk](mailto:info@thekidsnetwork.org.uk)



“

I think the motto of TKN should be "positive vibes only" both the staff and the mentors are extremely cheerful, supportive and understanding. It's truly like being part of a community.

”