

Early Years, Children and Families Worker

Aim to advance the gospel mission of the GSM fellowship by equipping volunteer teams to evangelise and disciple local children (early years to year 6) and their families.

Gospel Mission

Bearing witness to the strategic advance of God's Kingdom in the local area and beyond by overseeing evangelism of young children, creating environments of nurture and growth in discipleship, and building relational connections with local families.

Equipping Volunteer Teams

Recruiting, developing and coordinating teams of committed volunteers to effectively run events and build relationships with children and their families which bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Evangelise and Disciple Local Children & Families

Proclaiming the good news of Jesus in word and deed whilst equipping families to oversee the spiritual growth and maturity of their children.

Specific Activities

Recruiting and Equipping Volunteer Teams

Clubs Volunteers (Bouncers & Thursday Club) - cultivating a team-based approach to weekly clubs for early years and primary aged kids. This includes recruiting, managing and equipping committed teams of volunteers who assist in running club events and actively develop relationships with kids and their families. In the first 12-18 months, and as needed thereafter, this will include playing a regular primary role in delivering early years and children's sessions on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Sunday Groups - taking a similar team-based approach to Sunday primary age provision at the Good Shepherd Mission. This includes recruiting, managing and equipping committed volunteers who will provide gospel-based activities and learning for the GSM children present on Sundays, both age-appropriate groups and in all-age settings.

Detached Work and Home Visits - linking with local schools and other venues where gospel outreach to primary aged children is invited. This includes initiatives like coordinating volunteers to visit local families and collaborating with a local team of networked churches to provide school assemblies explaining what Christians believe.

Holiday Residentials - coordinating a team of volunteer leaders to attend a summer venture holiday for 8-11 year olds.

Pastoral Support of Children, Families, and Volunteer Leaders

Discipleship of Children and Families — attentive to pastoral needs of children and their families, paying particular attention to pastoral situations which need input or follow-up. This includes working in coordination with the Evangelism and Discipleship Pastor to ensure an overall environment of safety in which children can grow in discipleship while providing sufficient, responsive pastoral care to children and families.

Discipleship of Volunteers — attentive to the needs of volunteer teams and their leaders, paying particular attention to pastoral situations which need input or follow-up. This includes ensuring that volunteers are adequately inducted and trained, that they're able to serve in alignment with GSM vision and values, and that volunteers are appreciated and valued.

Ongoing Prayer for Early Years and Children's Work - praying consistently for the children and families which access GSM children ministries. This includes actively and appropriately making prayer needs known within the wider fellowship while exercising spiritual leadership in calling volunteers, parents, and the church to prayer.

Communicating & Coordinating in Alignment with the GSM Mission

Staff Team Responsibilities - participating as part of a larger team engaged in gospel outreach as part of the GSM. This includes attendance in weekly staff team meetings, meeting with the Outreach Manager for line management, and liaising with other staff team members as needed in order to fulfill both the priorities of this role and the larger GSM vision (eg the Evangelism/Discipleship Pastor for the Sunday groups).

Volunteer Team Coordination - gathering volunteer teams and/or volunteer team leaders at regular intervals to pray, plan and prepare for the upcoming term's activities. This includes checking in on how clubs and groups are going, reviewing policies and procedures, and equipping/training towards larger vision.

Leadership Team Links - reporting back to the GSM Leadership Team on a consistent basis via regular meetings with the team (3 - 4 times per year).

Qualifications for the role

- Demonstrated ability to share Jesus with both children and adults
- Willingness to become an attending member of the Good Shepherd Mission
- Welcoming, friendly and approachable
- Proficient knowledge of current safeguarding standards and practices
- Strict adherence to a high level of safeguarding culture throughout all GSM activities
- People management skills including recruitment and management of volunteers, sensitivity to parents as well as group leaders, and managing expectations
- Willingness and capacity to visit families
- Networking abilities including linking with other local agencies eg. schools, health and well being professionals/groups
- Administrative skills including verbal and written communication skills
- Familiarity with primary/early years curriculum and experience running an early years and/or children's club either at GSM or elsewhere
- Available on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Hours and pay

This is written as a full time (36 hour) role paying £23,500 per annum. However, applications suggesting alternate hourly arrangements based on other work and life circumstances are welcomed.