

Volunteer Helper

Statement

It is our intention to ensure that parents and carers understand the philosophy adopted by Alderton Acorns of involving volunteer parent/carers helpers in the running of the group.

Aim

We aim to ensure that all parents have the opportunity to get involved in the way that they feel most comfortable.

Method

Alderton Acorns is a community group with charitable status, owned and run by the parents of the children attending. Therefore, we **rely** on volunteer help and support. There are five main ways in which volunteers can help:

Committee Member

In May, every year, a committee of parent volunteers is elected to administer and be responsible for the running of the group. We understand that this can initially seem daunting, so if a parent/carers does not want to take a role on the committee we would still welcome their input at committee meetings. At the meetings we discuss issues relevant to the group at that time.

Fundraising

In order to raise money for the group we organise various fund raisers during the year. We always value parent/carer support, help and donations for these events.

Cleaning

There are times during the year that we need to wash toys, aprons etc... Once again we always appreciate parent/carer support with this task. The preschool leader will inform parents when this help is required.

Snack Rota

We operate a snack rota each day. Whoever is on the rota should bring a fruit/healthy snack to share with the group at snack time. This should be prepared as much as possible and all items for snack left on the trolley ready for the staff to give out.

Volunteer Helper

Volunteers are an essential part of the pre-school team.

Jobs you could help with include;

- Helping to put out and clear away equipment
- Mixing paint
- Joining in a game
- Supervising painting or gluing
- Preparing mid-morning drinks and snacks for the children
- Making the all-important coffee!
- Reading a story to a small group

Tips for volunteer helpers:

- Spend as much time as possible with the children but do as little as possible for them.
- Sit down with the children -- get down to their level. Encourage conversation and be prepared to listen to the answers.
- Resist the temptation to take over; let the children do their own thing (within reason) and not what you want them to do
- When children take part in activities they are not always looking for an end product - it is the doing which matters most to them.

The notice board at the front of the hall contains details of meetings, EYFS, fundraising and any other information