



Young Achievers Volunteer Role Profile

We are looking for enthusiastic individuals (18+) to work closely with and support our Group Leaders and children/young people at our weekly groups for children and young people with Down Syndrome.

Would you like to.....

- Be part of a friendly and dedicated team
- Work with children/young people to help them learn, develop and have fun
- Build connections with children/young people and their families
- Enjoy new experiences and learn something new
- Gain practical experience working with children/young people with Down Syndrome

DS Achieve is a small Hertfordshire based charity. We work with families and professionals to enable children and young people with Down Syndrome to fulfil their potential. Our Young Achievers programme is a weekly (term-time only) social and developmental activity group for school age children/young people with Down Syndrome.

The aim of the programme is to support children and young people with Down Syndrome to reach their potential through a programme that builds social skills and provides friendship, fun and positivity. The group provides the opportunity to participate in games and activities designed to help develop teamwork, social skills and other practical skills for life. It also offers the chance for participants to be active and to have improved wellbeing.

Children and young people with Down Syndrome often find it difficult to access social opportunities that are not tailored to meet their individual needs. Young Achievers provides them with a safe environment to develop the skills they need to thrive in their communities. Bringing children and teenagers with Down Syndrome together on a regular basis also helps them to develop positivity and confidence in who they are by providing them with the opportunity to build strong peer to peer friendships.

- **Hours:**
 - 1.25hrs or 3.25hrs per week, EITHER:
 - 2:15pm - 3:30pm on a Saturday afternoon, term time only, for 10 weeks per term with the younger group (age 5-11 years), OR
 - 2:15pm - 5:30pm on a Saturday afternoon, term time only, for 10 weeks per term, with the younger group AND then the older group (aged 11 - 17 years)



- **Pay:**
 - This is an unpaid Volunteer role, agreed expenses (including training costs if needed) will be covered by DS Achieve
- **Location:** Applecroft School, Applecroft Road, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JZ
- **Start date:** ASAP

Role details

DS Achieve is looking to recruit volunteers for the Young Achievers programme to support the Group Leader and Assistant Leader to run developmental sessions for children and young people with Down Syndrome.

You will report to the Group Leader and be responsible for supporting the delivery of the programme, which will include working directly with children and young people with Down Syndrome to support them to take part in the planned activities where needed. Some example activities may be arts and crafts, sports, dance, music, games, food based tasks, themed activities. You will not be required to support the children/young people with any personal care needs.

Our ideal candidate has experience of working with children with SEND and working as part of a team to support activities suitable for a range of ages.

Duties will include, but not be limited to, the following:

You will:

- work directly with children and young people
- look to remove barriers in accessing the activities so every child can take part, taking account of their individual needs
- carry out tasks to help the staff run the activities
- use your initiative to get tasks done and strive at all times to be a positive role model to each individual
- be able to adhere to policies and procedures around confidentiality, data protection, safeguarding and Health & Safety requirements (incl. risk assessments)

Requirements:

- Age 18+
- Experience of working with children with SEND
- Experience of working within a team
- A sense of adventure and a willingness to try new things
- Patience, tolerance and flexibility
- Good numeracy and literacy skills
- Fantastic interpersonal skills - friendly and welcoming, good listener, clear communicator, good facilitator, happy to 'pitch in' - with the ability to establish good relationships with children and young people.

Desirable, but not essential:



- Safeguarding trained at minimum level 1 (or willing to undertake training at level 1 prior to commencement of the role if required)
- First Aid trained
- Experience of working with children with Down Syndrome and their families

DS Achieve's Vision

Our vision is that every child with Down Syndrome in our community has the opportunity to thrive and reach their potential.

DS Achieve's Mission

We support and champion children and young people with Down Syndrome. We do this by:

- providing advice and support to their parents and carers.
- ensuring professionals are knowledgeable and skilled.
- creating a positive, inclusive community.

About DS Achieve

DS Achieve is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation formed by parents of children with Down Syndrome. We empower the families and professionals to enable children and young people with Down Syndrome to fulfil their potential, whatever that may be – and it will be different for every child or young person.

Geographically, we are focused on families in and around Hertfordshire. The DS Achieve team currently consists of five Trustees, eight part time employees and a team of volunteers.

Please note that successful candidates may be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and reference checks prior to appointment.

If you think you may be suitable for this role and would like to find out more, please contact Fiona Forster, Operations Manager, on 07824 467471.

To apply, please email your CV to us at info@dsachieve.org.