

FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism is a charitable program dedicated to serving families who have a child (or children) diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders by providing much-needed respite opportunities. By providing respite care and not therapy, FOOTPRINTS is an affordable service for families already burdened with the high costs (in both time and money) of caring for a child affected by autism or one of its related disorders. Largely volunteer-based, our culture is one of respect, safety and caring.

Position Summary:

Child Support Volunteers provide one-on-one supervision of a child diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum as the child plays and interacts with other children. FOOTPRINTS 4 Autism provides an environment of fun and stimulation with age and skill level appropriate toys and activities. The Program Consultant will match Child Support Volunteers with a child, based on the child's abilities.

Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Provide one-on-one supervision of a child diagnosed with ASD; this includes:
 - Ensuring the safety of the child while participating in the program
 - Providing an environment for the child to learn and explore at their skill and comfort level
- Assist the Program Consultant in setting up and/or taking down of FOOTPRINTS activity stations
- Take direction from and report to the Program Consultant; provide on-going feedback to enhance the program for the clients and volunteers
- Dress appropriately for each shift

Qualifications:

- Compassion and empathy for the needs of families living with a child/children diagnosed with Autism
- Experience working with people affected by Autism and/or other mental health challenges (preferred)
- Patience with those affected by mental health challenges (incl. non-verbal, inattentive and aggressive children)
- Desire to provide a safe, happy and caring environment where children can learn, grow and explore
- Demonstrate professional manner when interacting with the individual children and their families
- Must be sixteen (16) years of age or older to work one-to-one with a child, minimum fourteen (14) years of age to volunteer
- Must submit to a Police Records Check with Vulnerable Person Sector check
- Understand and sign FOOTPRINTS Confidentiality Agreement and Abuse Policy

Position Commitment

Attend all training sessions

- Introduction to Autism & Program Orientation (4 hours),
- Standard First Aid and Heartsaver AED & CPR Certification (**7 hours**)
 - Volunteers are required pay \$25 towards their Standard First Aid and Heartsaver AED & CPR Certification. FOOTPRINTS will subsidize the remaining cost. As an individual taking the training on their own, volunteers can expect to pay between \$120-150 for the full-day certification. Having Standard First Aid and Heartsaver AED & CPR Certification is a requirement for volunteering and is a valuable asset to you when applying for employment.
- Behaviour Management Systems Training (4 hours). BMS Training is offered to volunteers after completing 20 hours of volunteering.

Pickering Location: Dunbarton-Fairport United Church, 1066 Dunbarton Road

- Able to commit to a minimum of one (1) shift per month for a minimum twelve (12) month term. **Friday evening shift:** 4:45 pm – 8:15 pm. **Saturday shifts:** 8:45 am – 1:15 pm; or, 12:45 pm – 5:15 pm.

Whitby Location: St. Mark's United Church, 201 Centre Street, South

- Able to commit to providing a minimum of 3-1/2 hours per month for a twelve (12) month volunteer term. Sessions are held Saturdays from 9 am – 12 pm. Volunteer shift runs from 8:45 am – 12:15 pm