

Project Safe Child Care Volunteer Job Description

Thank you for taking the time to volunteer your time and help the community!

Prior to coming on site, you will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement and pass a background check. This ensures that Project Safe is able to maintain the safety and privacy of victims of domestic violence.

We are looking for volunteers who have previous experience working with children to provide childcare on site at our shelter or outreach office during support groups, advocacy meetings, shelter events, or helping staff on field trips in the Athens area. For this role, we ask that you dedicate at least a year to volunteering in this capacity. Due to the confidentiality of our location and clients, we limit who knows where the shelter is and will not accept volunteers who are only able to commit to a few months - we have different opportunities to meet that need!

Some tasks we need help with include:

- Playing with kids or young teens for a couple hours in our playroom or yard/playground area while their parents are working on other things (at or away from our facility), or just getting a break for a while. The kiddos will watch videos when alone in their shelter apartment, but when they have access to a childcare volunteer they will expect your attention!
- Hang out with older teens for a couple hours to give some one on one attention while the little kids are playing elsewhere.
- Babysit – actual babies – while parent is away. This will include diaper changes.
- Assist staff in facilitating educational and recreational activities/groups on and off site
- Tag along on shelter field trips

Things you need to already have:

- Patience. Lots of it! Kids are kids
- Flexibility. We work with families in crisis, and new families can enter the shelter anytime 24/7. We try our best to schedule and confirm needs in advance, but sometimes we have more or fewer kids than expected for childcare shifts no matter how carefully we plan.
- Energy. Lots of it!
- Discernment. Is this kid really hungry or are they bamboozling you to get their third snack of the evening? Did mom really say it was ok to jump on the bed like a trampoline? Did that 6 inch drop from the bottom of the slide onto the rubber mulch actually break an arm or just tweak the funny bone?

Things we'll teach you:

- How witnessing and experiencing domestic violence can affect a child's behavior, mood, and developing personality
- How to utilize trauma informed de-escalation methods when working with children
- What services Project Safe provides to our community and what those advocacy roles look like
- How to recognize signs of domestic violence in your personal life and how to refer others to us

A few reminders:

- Always sign in and out.
- Please turn off cell phone location while on-site.
- Remember to be respectful of the residents' privacy and space.
- There is no smoking allowed inside the shelter. Please limit "smoke breaks" while volunteering.
- If you need to eat while at the shelter, let a staff member know and we can direct you to the break room.
- If at any time you are unsure of what to do, ask for help!

*I have read, understood, and **been shown** the tasks expected of me as a childcare volunteer. I affirm that I am able and willing to complete these tasks under the supervision of Project Safe staff.*

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

THANK YOU FOR DONATING YOUR TIME AT PROJECT SAFE!