



## Little Sparks Early Years Volunteer

<b>Location</b>	Central and South Western Sydney
<b>Why we need you?</b>	<p>SPARK is a settlement support program that provides social, cultural and educational support to newly arrived children and families of refugee and migrant background.</p> <p>Research shows that learning starts from birth, and is crucial in the first 5 years in building a strong foundation for later learning and development throughout all of a child's schooling and life. SPARK's Little Spark Early Years program provides a safe space for children ages 0-5, and their parents, to engage in learning and development through play.</p>
<b>Who we need?</b>	<p>Enthusiastic, energetic and positive volunteers who bring a sense of fun to activities. You are also patient, approachable and sensitive to cross-cultural issues and challenges. You will have experience working/ engaging with young children in a home or community setting. You are also team orientated, committed and reliable. You will be creative with ideas for games, and learning through play activities. A reasonable knowledge of English is required. <b>Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.</b></p> <p><i>Desirable volunteers may possess or be working towards a qualification in Early Childhood education, or have experience in working with young children in a community setting.</i></p>
<b>What you will be doing?</b>	Plan, prepare and run the Little Sparks Early Years program with a small team of volunteers. At sessions, engage with children 0-5 years of age in developmentally appropriate activities, providing support, supervision and direction so that children participate safely. This is a hands-on volunteer roll with lots of opportunities to have fun and get involved!
<b>What will you get out of it?</b>	This is a fun and creative way to experience the diversity and richness of other cultures while enjoying the rewards of helping others. SPARK volunteers are well supported with professional help and ongoing training available. Leadership opportunities are available.
<b>How long is the commitment?</b>	<p>Regular commitment – typically 1 session of 2-3 hours per week over a 7-week term. This requires a regular commitment each week for the duration of the term. Volunteers commit to a minimum of 2 terms per year – <i>but we'd love you to sign up for more.</i></p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p>Occasional roster – attend one-off events typically 2-3 hours each as available and agreed in advance.</p>
<b>Want to know more?</b>	For more information, call us on 9568 0280 or apply directly at <a href="http://spark.vinnies.org.au">spark.vinnies.org.au</a>





## IMPACT

SPARK's key aim is that families and children from a refugee, asylum seeker and migrant background settle well. They are able to fully participate in the community's social, educational and economic life, and so are less vulnerable to exclusion and discrimination, social and health issues, and disadvantage.

**Children:** Newly arrived children from a refugee and migrant background settle well into school and their community. They have learning and social skills, and make good academic progress. They have resilience and good emotional and mental health.

**Families:** Newly arrived families settle well into the school and local community. Parents engage with and support children's learning; have the confidence and knowledge to connect with the school and the awareness, skills and connections to access support and progress their settlement.

**Schools:** Schools have the capacity to support the successful settlement of newly arrived children and families into school and the school community. Schools partner on initiatives that support the children's learning and adjustment, and engage parents in children's learning and in school community activities.

**SPARK delivers programs across 10 schools in Western Sydney and works with several community partners within Fairfield, Liverpool, Auburn and Parramatta.**

**SPARK reaches 300 children on weekly basis and another 200 children through workshop based programs. It engages and supports 150 parents and toddlers through workshops, excursions and support programs.**

*Join our volunteer team! Fill in an application form at [spark.vinnies.org.au](http://spark.vinnies.org.au)*



*"I have had a wonderful time at the program, it felt awesome being a part of something big, meeting like-minded people...but above all, having some laughs."*

- SPARK Volunteer

*"SPARK is a great program for kids because it gives them a chance in life and it gives them a bright life, and if they cooperate, they will be a star."*

- SPARK Student

