



## Bright Sparks Learning Club Volunteer

<b>Location</b>	Selected primary schools in Western Sydney.
<b>Why we need you?</b>	<p>SPARK is a settlement support program that provides social, cultural and educational support to children and families of refugee background.</p> <p>Settling into a new school environment can be a challenging experience for recently arrived children, particularly those whose education has been disrupted by traumatic experiences. SPARK's Bright Sparks program is an after school learning club. We focus on creating a fun learning space where children are given an opportunity to build their confidence and develop friendships. We do this by providing a reliable and consistent after school program where primary aged children engage in a range of games and activities with peers and community volunteers. The club's focus is on broad learning, it is not just a homework club.</p>
<b>Who we need?</b>	Enthusiastic, energetic and positive volunteers who bring a sense of fun to activities. Volunteers are patient, approachable and sensitive to cross-cultural issues and challenges. They are team orientated, committed and reliable. A sound knowledge of English is required.
<b>What you will be doing?</b>	You'll work with a team of volunteers and SPARK staff to provide a positive learning environment, helping children to settle into the school and become interested in learning. This might include; strengthening English skills by engaging the children in conversation, helping them feel more settled and confident in the classroom by assisting with homework or other academic learning; developing social skills by facilitating group activities and games; making learning fun by implementing learning through play; building confidence by recognising and celebrating the children's strengths.
<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 help from Program Officers and the broader SPARK team. There is also opportunities for further training and pathways to leadership roles are available.
<b>How long is the commitment?</b>	Typically, 1.5 hours per week, 6-8 weeks per term. Volunteers commit to a minimum of 2 terms per year – <i>but we'd love you to sign up for more.</i>

**Want to know more?**

For more information, call us on 4621 5557 or apply directly at [spark.vinnies.org.au](http://spark.vinnies.org.au)



## IMPACT

SPARK’s key aim is that children and families from a refugee background belong and are engaged in community. To achieve this, refugee families need access to opportunities to connect, participate and voice. We encourage and create space for them to engage in the community’s social, educational and economic life and voice their stories and participate in decisions that affect them.

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

**Families:** Refugee 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 children and families of refugee background 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 6 schools in Western Sydney and works with several community partners within Fairfield, Liverpool and Cumberland local Government areas.**

**SPARK reaches up to 200 children on a weekly basis. SPARK also engages and supports families and siblings through workshops, excursions and support based 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