

Bright SPARK Circus

Location	Selected primary schools in Western Sydney.
Why we need you?	<p>SPARK is a settlement support program that provides social, cultural and educational support to children and families of refugee background.</p> <p>The SPARK Social Circus program generates proven positive social outcomes in young people by offering physical and creative learning activities that promote self-determination, problem solving, team work, listening and communication, and resilience building skills. Social Circus is an inclusive program that celebrates diversity, allowing children to shine in their own ways. Social Circus takes a trauma-informed approach to working with children, teaching children both physical and emotional self-control.</p>
Who we need?	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.
What you will be doing?	<p>You'll work with a team of Circus trainers, SPARK staff and other Volunteers to provide a positive attitude and support the children with the activities. The professional Circus trainer will lead each class every week. No prior circus skills are required by our Volunteers.</p> <p>Over the course of weeks 1-4 the children are taught a variety of games and circus skills, including tumbling, acro-balance and human pyramids. These activities are tailored each week depending on the confidence and skills of the children in each group.</p> <p>Week 5 and 6 are dedicated to a final performance show. The children plan and rehearse the performance, including a whole group dress rehearsal. In the final performance the children showcase all they have learnt and celebrate their hard work, to an audience of their peers, parents and families.</p>
What will you get out of it?	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.



How long is the commitment?

Typically, 5 hours per week for 6 weeks.

Want to know more?

For more information, call us on 4621 5557 or apply directly at 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 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 7 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

