



*Providing respite for families with children 13 years of age and under  
who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

## **Child Support Volunteer Position**

*Location:* St. Mark's United Church, 201 Centre Street South, Whitby (Brock Rd & Hwy #2)

**FOOTPRINTS** is 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 with Autism Spectrum Disorders as the child plays and interacts with other children. **FOOTPRINTS** 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 Autism Spectrum Disorders; 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 Spectrum Disorders
- Patience with children affected by mental challenges, including non-verbal and inattentive 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 16 years of age or older
- Must submit to a Police Check with Vulnerable Persons Sector Check
- Understand and sign **FOOTPRINTS** Confidentiality Agreement and Abuse Policy

### **POSITION COMMITMENT**

- Able to commit to providing a minimum of 3-hours per month for a twelve (12) month volunteer term
  - **Sessions are held every other Saturday from 9am - 12pm**
- Attend all training sessions - Introduction to Autism (4 hours), First Aid (4 hours), Crisis Prevention Intervention Training (approx. 9 hours)
  - Majority of training sessions will be held at **FOOTPRINTS** Pickering location

For more information about **FOOTPRINTS**, please visit: [www.footprints4autism.org](http://www.footprints4autism.org)

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