



Supporting Disabled Children & Young People



About Time2Share@WECIL

Time2share was established in 1972 by a group of medical students from Bristol University to support families caring for a child with a learning disability but was later broadened to support all children with a disability including many on the autistic spectrum. Time2share was one of the first organisations to offer home-based short breaks.

In June 2019, Time2Share joined forces with West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL) to help strengthen the youth services offered to disabled children and young people. WECIL is a local charity run by and for disabled people in Bristol and the surrounding areas.

WECIL's range of services supports over 4,000 disabled people every year in all different areas of their lives. Together, these combine to provide a holistic package of support, uniquely tailored to the individual to enable disabled people to have more choice and control over their lives.

Both organisations share the vision of creating a more inclusive society and their values embody a joint mission to support disabled people to live as independently as possible.

Time2Share@WECIL provide a 1:1 befriending and buddying service, youth groups, day trips and family activities that help improve the lives of the children, young people and families that we work with. We have been successfully enabling families to access additional support for over 40 years. This would not be possible without our volunteers and we are currently recruiting so that we can continue this great work and reach out to more people!

About the role

Our 1:1 Befriending and buddy scheme involves a volunteer being matched with a young person who they take out regularly to do fun activities. Spending regular time with a disabled young person can make a dramatic difference to their lives and also benefit the people who care for them. It can enable young people to increase their confidence and independence, develop their life skills and gain other friendships. It also provides their parents with the chance to have a much needed regular break.

Some things that our volunteers and young people do together include...

- Going for walks and bike rides
- Playing video games and board games
- Playing and watching sports
- Music, arts and crafts



What we are looking for

You do not need previous experience of working with children or disabled people to become a buddy. If you are enthusiastic, committed, responsible and reliable then this could be the ideal volunteering role for you! All we ask is that you spend a couple of hours a week or fortnight with a young person and try to commit to volunteering for one year. Our volunteering opportunities are very flexible and you can fit the time you spend with your buddy around other commitments.

What you can expect

Buddying can enable you to develop new skills, knowledge and experience which can boost your CV. You will also have a lot of fun and make new friends!

It is very important to us that you are linked with a young person that shares your interests and you are happy to spend time with, and we do everything we can to help you feel confident and comfortable in your role. To help achieve this we provide:

- Induction training and ongoing training/development opportunities
- Ongoing support and advice from our Volunteer Co-ordinators
- Travel expenses paid (you will never be out of pocket)
- Regular Volunteer Social Events

Interested?

If you would like an informal chat about the role or to request an application pack then please feel free to call us on **0117 9479911** or email us at: befriending@wecil.co.uk

**Website information www.time2share.org.uk or
www.wecil.org.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Jo & Dee
Befriending Co-ordinators (Bristol & B&NES)**

Time2Share@WECIL is committed to the safeguarding and the welfare of children and young people and expects its staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

All volunteering roles will be subject to our safer recruitment process including undertaking references and an enhanced DBS check.