

## Projects with children in care

Most often in the countryside

12-18 children

From 6 to 18 years old

Children put into care by the authorities

All projects are part of the Diaconal Year programme; some are also accredited for EVS.

### Board and lodgings

The volunteer has his or her own room in the institution, but may share a bathroom with two or three children.

Meals are taken with the children and/or the staff, but it's usually possible to cook yourself sometimes with food provided by the project.

### Environment

Projects in the countryside can cause transport difficulties during the week, but it is possible to go into town at weekends when the volunteer is not working. Train travel is relatively cheap.

### Timetable, working times and holidays

The volunteer should not work any more than an average of 35 hours per week, but this is flexible and should be arranged between the volunteer and the director. Sometimes, he or she will work a lot of hours but will be able to take them in lieu later on.

Usually, the volunteer will get up quite early to get the children ready for school and can be free at least some days in the afternoon. The children come home around 15h30 and the volunteer takes care of them until they go to bed, between 20h00 and 22h00.

Every other weekend should be free, except for special circumstances.

Two days' holiday are allowed for each month of service. These can be arranged between the volunteer and the director.

### Tasks

The main tasks are linked to accompanying the children in their daily lives :

- Getting them up and ready for school

- Walking them to the bus stop
- Having a snack with them when they get home
- Helping with homework
- Listening to what they did at school
- Eating dinner with them
- Helping them to wash and brush their teeth
- Reading them a story
- Tucking them in and saying goodnight

Other activities are also possible according to the children's availability :

- Games, sports, table games, crafts, excursions...
- Pampering sessions, massage, wellness...
- Cooking, music...
- Shopping
- ... ..

And also :

- Taking them for health visits (psychologist, dentist...)
- Taking them to Scouts, or sports clubs
- Watching them in the school play...

The volunteer will not work alone but will be accompanied by a member of staff.

### **Nota bene**

**Ideally, the volunteer should speak some French; many people in the projects do not speak English. In any case, he or she must be motivated to learn and will be able to access some kind of lessons (whether formal or informal).**

**He or she should be motivated to work with children in very difficult situations.**

### **Finances**

- Pocket money and integration costs come to a total of €160 per month.
- **Non EVS volunteers must pay their own international travel expenses and insurance for the year.**

