

Buddy Programme

Could you volunteer as an Adult Buddy?

At Family Works we think that all children deserve a caring and positive environment to grow up in!

Our Buddy programme aims to boost children's lives with friendship, fun, support, encouragement and positive attitudes.

We have been successfully operating more than 25 years throughout Otago. We love what we do and are passionate about helping young people.

What is the programme?

It is a one-to-one mentoring programme matching young people aged 4 to 12 with an adult volunteer. Spending a couple of hours a week sharing everyday, no or low costs activities and make a positive difference.

When is a good time to get involved?

There is no better time than now! Our waiting list has more than 50 young people in need of additional adult support for a range of reasons, all waiting for someone like you.

How do you become part of the team?

We carefully select and train the volunteers and offer ongoing support and supervision. The process includes two interviews, a police check, training and a home visit.

From here the real buddying starts. We introduce you to your new buddy, and offer a 4 - 6 week trial period. These are exciting times, and most find their way in the first few weeks. At the end of the 12 month period a decision is made to extend or end the match.

Where are we based?

The Buddy Programme is based in Wanaka, Cromwell, Alexandra, Oamaru, East Otago, Balclutha, Taieri and Dunedin.



“Every week I had this cool person that would pick me up and take me out somewhere.”

“It exposes the young person to another life, confidence in practical skills and believing in themselves.”

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We organise special outings during the year for young and adult buddies, and occasionally receive free tickets for events. These are fun events that you can join!

We hope you feel inspired and keen to get started. Being a buddy is very rewarding while at times can be challenging, but we are right here to support you.

If you want to make a difference for someone, why not BE the Difference! Don't wait - give your local coordinator a call today.



“You can make such a difference to a wee life and get such warm feelings for yourself as well.”

“[My adult buddy] showed me how to be an adult. They helped me develop as a person.”