

## Safe Start Volunteer Mentor

### Safe Start Children's Services Mission

Safe Start Children's Services serves to mitigate the effects of toxic stress that children ages 1-12 might have experienced due to being secondary survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. We aim to improve health outcomes by providing a safe space of belonging that is resilience centered and developmentally appropriate that includes emotional intelligence, boundary setting, and non-violent communication skills through mentoring.

### Position Description

Volunteer Mentors have the opportunity to implement and assist with Safe Start Children's Services here at DVSAS. The main focus of this volunteer opportunity is mentoring children attending Safe Start Playgroups or Family Hours while their parents/caregivers access DVSAS services. Volunteer Mentors can also work with children one-on-one to provide Advocacy Counseling services. The Safe Start Playgroups provide a place for children to have fun and feel secure, to build relationships with adult role models that are built on safety and respect, to refine social skills, and to make friends.

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### Do you have to complete Advocacy Training to volunteer?

Not necessarily. If you are interested in volunteering in the Playgroups only you do not need to complete the ACT. If you are interested in ongoing child advocacy you will need to complete the ACT.

### How often would I volunteer?

- If your only volunteer commitment is as a mentor we ask that you commit to one 2 hour shift each week.
- If you are a volunteer advocate we ask that you commit to a 2 hour shift, twice a month.
- If you would like to volunteer more than once a week, you may chat with us about our internship opportunities!



**Domestic Violence and  
Sexual Assault Services**  
*ending violence, transforming lives*

1407 Commercial St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
[www.dvsas.org](http://www.dvsas.org)

24 hour helpline: 360.715.1563  
toll-free: 877.715.1563  
*accepts 711 and other relay calls  
Se habla español.*

## *Safe Start Volunteer Mentor*

### Qualifications

- Respect and genuine caring for children; ability to respond to a variety of situations with positive and patient feedback
- Experience with a wide range of ages 6 months—12 years old
- Ability to provide empathy and patience to children who have experienced or witnessed abuse and its ramifications
- Willingness to learn through experience
- Volunteers must be 18 years or older

### Requirements

- Apply online at: <http://dvsas.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
- Complete the interviews and the background check (specify your interest in being a mentor)
- Successfully complete the Advocacy Counselor Training (ACT)
- Successfully complete the Safe Start Volunteer Mentor Orientation

### Supervisor

Simone Mack, Children's & Family Advocacy Coordinator



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