



## **Volunteer Information**

### **Role A: Play and Social Activity Helper for Autistic Children**

#### **Description of What is Needed:-**

**Autistic children attending a trampoline session need different forms of help.**

- 1. Whilst on the trampoline they need an adult to 'spot' by the side of the trampoline for health and safety**
- 2. Specific help for those new to the sport may also be required.**
- 3. When they are off the trampoline and waiting for their turn they need support in waiting, turn taking and social inter-action with the other children**
- 4. Soft play is available before, during and after the session, so support playing appropriately with soft play is also needed.**

**Merit awards for socially appropriate behaviour are given to the children and volunteers will have input to this. There will also be opportunities to become a volunteer session leader or even the Volunteer Co-Ordinator.**

#### **Skills and Qualifications Needed:-**

**Experience working with children, disability or challenging behaviour would be useful but no specific qualifications are needed as periodic training sessions are given by a specialist worker in autistic spectrum disorder. This is specifically for volunteers working with children with autism in out-of-school activities. However, a good deal of patience, understanding and a strong personality are particularly useful attributes. Autistic children may express their anxiety and confusion through challenging behaviour and this may occasionally include bad language and some physical contact. With the right support these incidents are few and far between.**

**This role is ideally suited for those seeking or considering pursuing a career in medicine/childcare/social work/psychology and a reasonable degree of fitness is also required.**