

Art Breaks Volunteer Role Description

Art Breaks Overview

Art Breaks is an innovative project that focuses on children and young people with complex needs, alongside their parents, carers and non-learning disabled peers. Art Breaks workshops run during school holidays and are delivered at our studio base in Hastings. We also run three sets of Saturday workshops each year.

Art Breaks is a series of creative workshops that give children the opportunity to work in collaboration with a team of highly skilled professional artists and experience art as a tool for exploration, communication and self-expression. The children and young people that access Art Breaks are at the centre of the project. Their response to the environment shapes the project and how it develops. This personalised approach creates a sense of identity and ownership not only over the work that they make but also the environment they are in.

Volunteering with us

This is an opportunity to work alongside a team of professional artists and specialist support workers in a creative and supportive environment. You will gain experience of working with children and young people with complex support needs and building stimulating and engaging environments for creative freedom and play. The project invites whole families to join the workshops, which include children both with and without disabilities. Through Art Breaks new relationships are begun and old ones nurtured. Parents and carers also have the opportunity to talk to each other and share stories in a supportive and informed environment.

Art Breaks is often the first experience of volunteering with Project Art Works and can lead to further opportunities within the organisation.

*As a volunteer for Art Breaks we would require a commitment of **3 days** on a holiday project or **4 consecutive Saturdays**.*

You will experience:

- Working as part of a creative team.
- Assisting with the set-up of the Art Breaks session. This involves materials and environmental preparation.
- Supporting families and children with complex needs to explore and create in the environment.
- Working in a child led environment.
- An insight into the lives of children with complex needs and the barriers they face.

What you can bring:

- An arts, education or social care background
- A keen team-player
- Enthusiasm and energy
- A calm approach to working with children with varying needs.