



Idanr • Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

Better Emotional and Social Times (B.E.S.T.) Job Posting – Virtual Program Volunteer Winter 2020

Position: B.E.S.T. Program Volunteer – (3) Positions available
Reports to: Program Coordinator
Start date: January 20th, 2021*
End date: April 7th, 2021
Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Length of Commitment: The B.E.S.T. Program Instructors will serve for **8 weeks** for the Winter 2020 program, with mandatory training taking place prior to program start.

St. Catharines Location

February 3rd – April 7th **

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Wednesdays only ***

Time Commitment: 1.5 hours/week

* The start date of January 20th reflects a mandatory orientation and training session to be held that week (2 hours in the evening) for our B.E.S.T. Program volunteers and staff.

**The B.E.S.T. program will not run during the weeks of February 15th-19th (Brock University Reading Week) and March 15th-19th (March Break).

***Program Volunteers must be available every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 pm (until Wednesday, April 7th).

Position Summary

B.E.S.T. Social Skills and Self-Advocacy program volunteers support the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR)'s self-advocacy and coping skills program for children with learning difficulties. The B.E.S.T. self-advocacy and coping skills program is designed to help children understand their learning differences as well as ways to successfully cope with the secondary characteristics associated with learning differently. This program motivates and helps children learn how to advocate for themselves at school, with their friends and family as well as have fun learning new coping skills such as asking for help, talking with others, dealing with frustration/anxiety, and much more. B.E.S.T. is also designed to help volunteers and program instructors gain knowledge and experience in working with children who experience self-advocacy and social skills challenges because of a learning disability.

Responsibilities

The *BEST* program volunteer:

- Works with and supports the BEST Program Facilitators to deliver the assigned lesson plans as well as the active and cooperative games/sports to further foster social skills;
- Works with a small group of children who experience difficulties with coping skills (such as: conversation skills, friendship skills, organization skills, time management, self-evaluation, feelings, anger management, problem solving, peer pressure, bullying and more) by leading and guiding various activities such as role-playing and so forth.
- Helps the children learn about their learning disability as well as their strengths and how to self-advocate for themselves;
- Provides one-to-one support to the children when needed;
- Provides a positive environment for students to encourage full participation in activities;
- Models positive behaviour and coaches children to develop and exhibit proper actions and reactions in social settings;
- Provides regular positive feedback to increase self-confidence and self-esteem;
- Supports the program facilitator in the set-up and clean-up for each session.

Mandatory Activities

- Attend meetings as necessary;
- Attend training sessions;
- Responsible for transportation to and from program locations;
- And must complete weekly timesheets.

Qualifications and Skills Required

Eligible candidates for the B.E.S.T. Program Volunteer position include individuals who are 16 years of age or older. Volunteers who are 18+ years of age must have passed a police vulnerable sector clearance (PVSC). Additional requirements and assets include:

- **Police Vulnerable Sectors Clearance** valid within two years (***mandatory if 18+**);
- Completed the **Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Training Module** – [Click here for link to access](#) (***required**);
- Previous experience working with individuals with learning disabilities and/or children (asset);
- Standard First Aid and CPR-C (asset);
- And a driver's license is an asset (**must have own transportation for in-person programs**).

In the case that programs will need to move to a *virtual learning environment*, possessing certain additional skills would be considered an asset, including:

- A working reliable device, microphone and camera with reliable Internet access (***mandatory**);
- And previous experience with Microsoft Teams (asset).

Participants should demonstrate:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- The ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- Organizational skills, responsibility, patience and reliability;
- And the ability to meet deadlines within a specified timeframe.

Benefits

Will develop skills related to the association:

- Understanding the functions and roles of LDANR;
- Identifying and utilizing community resources;
- Gaining understanding of the issues and needs of the client;
- Gaining proficiency in online programming and Microsoft Teams software;
- And Increased knowledge of Learning Disabilities and AD(H)D.

Support Provided

Training for this position will be provided at the orientation session prior to programs commencing. In addition, the Program Coordinator is available on an ongoing basis to answer questions and provide assistance as needed. The Program Instructors and volunteers will have full access to our resource library/center for resources, tools, games, etc. that would be useful for B.E.S.T. program sessions.

Application Procedure

Please send a cover letter, resume, the names of three references and your location of interest by e-mail to:

Emily Glencross, Program Coordinator
eglencross@ldaniagara.org

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

We thank all who apply; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls please. For more information about LDANR, please refer to our website www.LDANiagara.org.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region is committed to our Accessibility and Accommodation policy. We welcome and encourage applications from individuals with disabilities. Candidates taking part in all aspects of the recruitment and selection process are encouraged to communicate needs for accommodation and we will partner with you to meet those needs.