

Are you a father or father-figure living in or near Lambeth?

# JOIN THE DAD SQUAD

Would you like to 'give something back' to your local community, meet and support other dads, and share or build your skills?



*We're creating a Dad Squad to support our FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day) programme in nurseries and other early years settings in the London Borough of Lambeth. We're looking for fathers of all ages and backgrounds to join the Dad Squad as volunteers*

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## About the role

As a Dad Squad volunteer your role will be to:

- Help us promote the FRED programme to local fathers and families
- Support and mentor other dads through the programme
- Act as a FRED champion and recruit new Dad Squad members

You'll attend an initial training session, receive a set of FRED resources, and be matched with a nursery / early years setting in your local area, while it prepares to run the FRED programme.

You'll work with staff at the setting – with support from the Dad Squad team – at key points during the six-week FRED programme, to help recruit dads into FRED, and provide them with ongoing support to make the most of it and share their feedback with us.

## About FRED

Fathers Reading Every Day is a six-week reading-for-pleasure programme for fathers of young children, which we'll be delivering and evaluating in early years education settings across the borough, from 2024-2027.

FRED helps children do better at school and build stronger relationships with their fathers. It also helps dads feel more confident at helping their children learn – and gets them more involved in school and nursery life.





## About you

You're probably a dad, a stepdad or a granddad. Maybe you're an uncle or older brother with experience of looking after young children. That's important because we want our Dad Squad volunteers to be able to speak from the heart about why dads matter, and understand the joys and challenges of being a father to young children.

Most early years staff are female, and often it's mums who are more likely to drop their children off and pick them up in the playground. Sometimes men find nurseries and other settings quite scary or alien. Just seeing you there promoting FRED can have a positive effect: it shows the dads – and mums – that fathers are welcome, and have an important role to play.

Some of the fathers you'll meet might lack confidence as parents. They might struggle with reading or other educational activities, and need a helping hand to make the time to do FRED or understand the impact they could have. You don't need to be an educational expert to do this: just be warm and approachable, and explain how FRED works.

With some dads, English might not be their first language. If you speak other languages they might come in handy, but if not we'll make sure you know how to signpost families to help in their own language.





## More details

We're asking for a minimum time commitment of 20 hours overall, with 2 hours per week in the six-week period of the programme itself. Some of this time needs to be 'on location' at your setting, but some can be done from phone, for example catching up with FRED dads by text or email.

To be part of the Dad Squad you'll need to pass a DBS check – which we will fund (this could be useful to you in other jobs or roles).

You'll need to have reliable phone and internet access (we'll give you a small allowance to cover your usage for Dad Squad-related usage). We'll cover reasonable expenses for your travel costs.

Note: If you receive benefits, you can still volunteer. [Find out more.](#)



*Lambeth FRED and the Dad Squad are led by the Fatherhood Institute, together with three local charities: Unity Matters CIC, Future Men, and St Michael's Fellowship. The programme is supported by the Mercers' Company as trustee of the Charity of Sir Richard Whittington*

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