

## **Role of the ESL Classroom Volunteer**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Mosaic Newcomer Family Resource Network. Your contribution of time and expertise is valued by our agency. We want to ensure that your experience volunteering with us is beneficial for us and for you, and that we meet your expectations.

Please look over the information below. We think you will find it helpful as you begin your volunteer work with us.

### ***Why are volunteers important at Mosaic?***

Volunteers are very important in our ESL classrooms to our teachers because they provide them with much needed classroom support in a variety of ways. Volunteers are important to our students because they can help to differentiate instructions so stronger and weaker students both can learn at a level or pace this is right for them. Volunteers serve as cultural role models. When volunteers are in the classroom, students will develop a sense of the importance that our society places on volunteering.

### ***How will I be asked to help in a Mosaic ESL classroom?***

Our teachers will guide you in the classroom. The teacher prepares each lesson and will let you know how they want you to help. Here are some examples of the things you may be asked to do:

- Pass out papers and distribute materials,
- Sit at a particular table with a group to help them with conversation or other activity,
- Work with two or three students to help them with a writing activity or worksheet,
- Read with students individually,
- Float around the room helping students with their writing, spelling or other work as needed,
- Assist with filing assessments in binders,
- Help creating materials (cutting, laminating etc.)

### ***Here are some tips to keep in mind when working with the students:***

- When you are asked to help a group with an activity, try to keep the students on task, let them do the work, and only assist when absolutely necessary. (Sometimes it is tempting to give an answer.)
- Speaking activities are designed as opportunities for students to practice their English skills. Try to get the students to talk as much as possible and minimize your own speech. You can help them to understand new words by using drawings or body language.

Thank you for taking the time to read over this information. We hope you will enjoy your time as a Mosaic volunteer. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our volunteer coordinator. It's the volunteer coordinator's role to assist volunteers in case of any arising issues.