



## Childcare project



**Objectives:** This project aims to assist young rural children of southern Sri Lanka by providing them with **care, support, and attention as they learn English** by interacting, exploring, explaining, and elaborating in the language. The goal is to develop their English language skills (along with some life skills from time to time) and increase student involvement in schools for children aged 6 to 12 years old. The hope is that these unique opportunities to study English will instill a positive attitude in them that will drive them to continue their English studies in high school and beyond.

In Kindergarten the purpose of this project is also to provide assistance, attention and care to very young underprivileged children, allowing them to **develop their social, mental, emotional, linguistic, reading, and writing skills** in preparation for a brighter future. The major goal is to get the children to participate, investigate, explain, and elaborate so that they can learn in a dynamic and practical setting. To maximise volunteer contributions, priority is given to well-deserving children that lack adequate resources.

**Capacity:** Maximum of 10 participants at one time. But for the kindergarten project the maximum is 25 participants at one time.

**Availability:** Full availability for 10 months of the year (Jan, Feb, March, May,

June, July, Aug, Sep, Oct and Nov); partial availability for 2 months of the year (Jan and April); no availability in Dec – **please check with us to confirm exact dates for bookings made in these months.**

**Project Start & End Days:** Saturdays

**Project Work Days:** Monday to Fridays (weekends are free)

**Support Provided:** Program Manager provides detailed introduction and culture training on arrival. Area orientation tour provided within 1-2 days of arrival. Teaching Coordinator gives project-specific training. Our teaching staff also assists participants with lesson planning, guiding them on the specific curriculum to follow each week and conducting regular meetings to monitor progress. Participants also have access to our in-house teaching library consisting of manuals, books and various teaching materials to help with lesson planning and providing general guidance. Local transportation to and from the projects is included each day.

**Age Requirement:** Must be **16 years** or over.

**Required Documents:** CV, Motivational letter, Application, English Language level, Passport copy, Police Report and Medical. (soft copies only)

**Nearest Airport:** Colombo Bandaranaike International Airport

**Location of Project:** The project is run at AASHA Community Centre and other locations around the area based on local conditions and project requirements at the time.

**Meals Provided:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Background to this Program:** In Sri Lanka, younger children at less affluent schools receive far less resources and attention than those who receive greater help. In the greater Galle area, there are a number of schools, both public and private, ranging from primary to secondary, that cater to children of varying ages. Public (or government) schools provide free education to children, and are therefore in greater demand, especially for parents from poorer rural communities that lack the resources to put their children in private schools, for which they have to pay extra. The unfortunate reality of the situation is that the difference in quality of the education received from poorer schools, more often than not, pales in comparison to those received by better-funded ones, particularly as it relates to a foreign language like English. There are significant differences in the resources and facilities available for various schools in various locations, even though successive governments have tried to improve educational opportunities and standards at schools by giving out free textbooks, uniforms, and other items. Notwithstanding the unequal distribution of learning resources, the inability to support basic requirements for children in rural schools and lack of qualified teachers, crowded classrooms with more children and one teacher have led to limited educational opportunities for disadvantaged school children.

Hence, **there is a strong need to develop English skills** (speaking, reading and writing) in these schools, where teachers and facilities are not as well equipped. We only work with schools that really need the help and we do it in a sustainable manner, where our volunteers can make the maximum impact.

**What our Volunteers do on the Project:** Children's Teaching participants can choose between one of the two options:

1. Volunteer full-time (Monday to Friday) at our kindergarten school
2. Volunteer 3 days a week at the kindergarten school + 2 days a week with older children at the local public school

At the Kindergarten school, our participants assist the local school teachers with the day-to-day running of the classes. The classes are conducted in the afternoons for **2-3 hours per day** and lesson planning is done for **4-5 hours a week**. Typical class size ranges from **20-30 children**. Typical activities include teaching basic English (reading and writing), playing educational games, socializing with the children and caring for them by giving them attention and warmth in an intimate environment. Basic life skills, basic computer literacy and table tennis are also covered during the project ensuring all arenas of personal development are catered to while developing their English language.

This project is ideal for participants who like spending time with young children and nurturing them.

At the local public school (for children aged 6-14 years), participants are expected to run their own classes (with guidance and support from our education coordinators). The school we work with thoroughly lacks adequate local English teachers to teach English, so the need and impact of this project is strong.

**Participants need to plan their own lessons on a daily basis** (approximately 1-2 hours each day) with support from our staff, but the ultimate responsibility lies with the participants. Typical class size ranges from 10-30 students. We encourage you to **bring a notebook** and a pen to make necessary notes and records along with laptops or tablets for lesson planning.

**Recommended Attire:** A conservative dress code needs to be adhered to while at the project. Knees and shoulders must be covered, as well as any tattoos or body art. Additionally, participants need to wear our blue cotton teaching coats during their sessions which we will provide. The rest of the clothing can be comfortable and casual.