



# Parent Champions Swindon

## PARENT CHAMPION VOLUNTEER GUIDE

Coram Family and Childcare is the leading national charity in the field of policy, research and advocacy on childcare and family issues. Their vision is a society where all families are well-supported and have genuine choices about their lives.

In 2007 Coram Family and Childcare launched the Parent Champions Programme to help in their aims to support families. Swindon Borough Council have joined with them to deliver the programme locally.



### WHO ARE PARENT CHAMPIONS –

- ☑ Parent volunteers who give a few hours a week to talk to other parents about local services
- ☑ Parents who have informal conversations with other parents and share positive experiences of using family and childcare services
- ☑ Not officials but working with services to raise awareness of childcare and other early years opportunities

Parent Champions give a few hours a week to talk to other parents about local services available to them, including childcare and early years' services. You will use your own experiences to provide parents with all the information they will need to make an informed choice about childcare and Early Education.

**Volunteers are not expected to give complicated information but to direct parents to the services that can help them. We want to encourage parents to feel able to make a choice that will suit them best.**



#### **WHAT DO YOU DO AS A PARENT CHAMPION?**

- Talk with parents about your positive experience of using Early Education Childcare services**
- Answer questions about how you and your child felt about using these services and how you dealt with any issues faced**
- Inform parents about where to get advice and information about Early Education services and getting involved in their child's early learning**
- Explain what the benefits of using these services are**
- Signpost parents to the services that will fit their needs**

#### **WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU AS A PARENT CHAMPION?**

- Regular support and communication with your Coordinator**
- Monthly or half-termly meetings with your coordinator**
- Expenses reimbursed**
- Training**

**“We want to make sure that you receive all the support you need to be great Parent Champions and enjoy your role.”**