



Ohana (formally Ripon Acorns) is a parent initiated, professionally led charity supporting families with children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. Based within Ripon and the surrounding areas, we run a Saturday Play club for children up to the age of 11, a weekly parent support group, holiday activities as well as other events throughout the year.

A lot of what we offer relies on our amazing volunteers who help make it happen and YOU could help us make a real difference!

How You Can Help

Saturday Play Club runs every Saturday during term time from 10am-12pm at Holy Trinity Junior School. We would love you to come join us, giving whatever time you can. We have craft activities, sensory toys, bikes and scooters, a quiet area and even a bouncy castle! Our volunteers work and play with the children to make sure their needs are met while they have fun. They are supported by 3 Play Leaders. Parents are present and have their own room where they sit and chat, but also come out to support and play.

Most of our volunteers are in their final years at school and came to us with no previous experience working with children with additional needs, just a willingness to learn and passion for helping others.

We also have volunteers from all sorts of different backgrounds and professions, including those in childcare settings looking to build on and use their skills to help others.

"Past volunteers have really benefited from being with us widening their understanding about different learning needs, improving communication skills and most importantly working as a team. Some of the helpers have proceeded into further education and careers within child care/education sector."

– Lydia, Play Club Leader



Sound Good?

Drop us an email at volunteer@ohanacharity.co.uk

Or search 'Ohana (Acorns) Volunteer Group' on Facebook where we'd be happy to answer any questions.

"I honestly loved it so much, I always came away each week feeling so happy and inspired. The children are wonderful and it was a pleasure to be able to get to know them and engage with them in a range of calm or outgoing activities. I learnt a lot about caring for and supporting people, to ensure their safety but also confidence growth and happiness."

– Georgina (volunteered with Ohana for 2 years)

Volunteer With Us