

TIP SHEET

Weekly Attendance & Why it Matters



Thank you for being part of the Horizons Playspace community. As a volunteer, you help create safe, joyful spaces where children experiencing homelessness can build trust and resilience through play.

Why Consistency Matters

Children thrive on consistency:

- Familiar faces help them feel safe and valued
- Regular routines support learning and growth
- Predictability builds trust and stability

When attendance is inconsistent:

- Children may feel disappointed or uncertain
- Families may think the program has ended
- Trust and stability are disrupted

For children who have already experienced instability, consistency isn't just important it's **essential**.

What This Looks Like in the Playspace

Your weekly presence helps children:

- Feel secure knowing you will be there
- Build stronger, lasting relationships with you and their peers
- Settle into routines that reduce stress and increase joy
- Experience the healing power of predictable play



When volunteers are consistent, children can relax and focus on being kids.

Your Role as a PAL

One of the most important parts of your role is **weekly attendance**. Horizons asks each PAL to commit to:

- A minimum of **six months of service**
- **Weekly** shift attendance (minimum 3 out of 4 each month)

While we know life can get busy, we ask that—for the children—you adhere to this requirement. If you feel you cannot, please let Horizons staff know **three weeks in advance** so we can look for a replacement or bring in someone from our waitlist.

Your presence sends a powerful message to children:

- *You are safe.*
- *You are important.*
- *You can count on me.*

TRY IT YOURSELF!

Consistency in Action



WHAT YOU CAN DO	WHY IT HELPS
Arrive each week at your scheduled time	Builds trust and predictability for children
Communicate early with your PAL partners, shelter staff, and Horizons staff if a shift cannot occur <i>(i.e., less than 2 PALs available)</i>	Ensures children are never left waiting in an empty Playspace
Treat your shift like a standing appointment	Reinforces reliability and commitment
Reflect on how children respond when they see you again	Reminds you of the impact of your presence
Encourage your co-PALs to stay consistent too	Creates a stronger, supportive team for children

By honoring your weekly commitment, you help ensure every Playspace remains a place where children feel safe, supported, and free to play.