



POSITION TITLE: Family Partner

ORGANIZATION: Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub

POSITION TYPE: Volunteer

DURATION: 6-months

Position Overview

The *Safe at Home (S@H)* strives to support families that are working with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Child Welfare agency and have had their child(ren) removed and placed into foster care due to abuse or neglect.

The role of the Family Partner volunteer is to ensure the safety and well-being of children during the trial-reunification process for those families ready to transition to an in-home plan. As a mandatory reporter, the Family Partner will work closely with caseworkers, families, and children to provide support, guidance, and advocacy, ensuring the child's safety remains a top priority throughout trial-reunification.

Responsibilities

As a Family Partner volunteer, your responsibilities will include:

- Abide by the policies and guidelines of the *S@H* program.
- Partner with ODHS Child Welfare agency during a family's trial reunification period as indicated in the safety plan.
- Be willing to enter a family's home.
- Provide compassion and empathy for parents and children.
- Document each family visit.
- Attend supervision and check in with *S@H*.

Per ODHS policy, Family Partners who are in the role of managing safety according to an in-home safety plan put in place by ODHS, must:

- Be willing to work with ODHS in a cooperative and collaborative relationship and willing to communicate regularly concerning all matters associated with the safety plan.
- Fully understand how the safety threats are operating in the home and what behaviors or actions would require you to step in to provide child safety.
- Comprehend your role in the safety plan and uphold the activities outlined.
- Be available on the days and the designated times listed on the safety plan.
- Be comfortable enough to step in when there is a safety issue.
- Contact Oregon law enforcement and/or the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline if you are unable to manage safety.
- Be trauma-informed and strengths-based.

Qualifications

- Strong commitment to promoting child safety, well-being, and family reunification.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills to effectively engage with diverse populations, including children, families, caseworkers, and community partners.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality, exercise sound judgment, and handle sensitive information with professionalism and discretion.



- Empathy, patience, and understanding to support families experiencing challenging situations and navigating of complex systems.
- Reliable, organized, and detail-oriented.
- Willingness to undergo background checks, including criminal record and child welfare registry checks, as required by the organization and the ODHS agency.

Training and Support Plan

Family Partners will receive direct supervision and guidance from the S@H Program Manager and MPELH Executive Director. Case staffing will occur once a month - or more frequently depending on case need.

Because families who are experiencing the ODHS Child Welfare system have also experienced trauma, including having their children removed from care, every interaction with the family must include a trauma-informed, strengths-based approach. Family Partners will be required to complete the 3-hour training by the S@H program in addition to any other training identified by ODHS Child Welfare or S@H that will help support the family's in-home safety plan. Additional training can be requested by the Family Partner and S@H will try its best to make accommodations.

Time Commitment

Each safety plan is unique to each family in ODHS Child Welfare care. The hours per week a family will require you to serve as a Family Partner will vary. The S@H program requests volunteers to make a 6-month commitment. The option to extend the volunteer service will be offered after 6 months.

Benefits of a Family Partner

Becoming a Family Partner helps children exit foster care. Per ODHS Child Welfare requirement, for parents to have their child exit foster care and return home to them, they are to identify individuals that can check on their child's safety and well-being during the trial reunification process. Those families who are unable to identify individuals who can check on their child's safety and well-being will not have their child returned to them. By stepping in as a Family Partner, you are helping connect a family who is ready to be reunited. The family is then able to continue working on their case plan while reunited.

TO APPLY: Please connect with Claudia Rodriguez, S@H Program Manager, by phone at 971-600-6026 or by email at crodriguez@earlylearninghub.org

Scan the QR with your phone to learn more:



This work is not possible without you! Thank you for your consideration.