



Paraprofessional Position for Summer Stars

JOIN OUR VIBRANT TEAM AT DSAWM!

Are you someone who wants to make a meaningful impact in the lives of kids with Down syndrome? The Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan (DSAWM) invites you to apply for the Summer Stars Paraprofessional position.

This role is ideal for individuals who have prior experience working with children that have disabilities and are passionate about supporting summer learning.

POSITION OVERVIEW:

The Summer Stars program offers a unique and engaging opportunity for kids with Down syndrome to continue learning, develop new skills, and build friendships throughout the summer. Through a variety of thoughtfully designed activities, including games, crafts, and outdoor play, the program helps children make progress on their IEP (Individualized Education Program) goals while supporting their overall development. With a structured routine that balances education and fun, this program provides a summer of growth, enjoyment, and achievement.

As the Paraprofessional, you will be paired with one or two children that have Down syndrome in grades 1–6, each with a diverse range of abilities help design a summer curriculum based on each child's IEP goals. You will work closely with the Special Education Teacher, Program Coordinator, and other team members to support group activities and help children stay engaged in learning through play. This program offers you the unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on children's lives by helping them continue their learning journey during the summer months and avoid the risk of regression.

SCHEDULE:

- **Orientation:**
 - May 18th
- **Program Preparation:**
 - May 19th-June 4th
 - Monday-Thursday
 - 10am-4pm
- **Summer Stars Program:**
 - June 8th-August 6th
 - Monday-Thursday
 - 12pm-5pm
- **Days Off:**
 - May 25th
 - June 29th-July 2nd

The preparation timeframe and hours are adaptable to suit your schedule and specific needs.

YOUR IMPACT:

Summer Stars Program:

- Work directly with children that have Down syndrome and encourage the children to engage in activities as well as support them as they work to accomplish goals.
- Plan, facilitate, and adapt group activities.
- Document interaction, progress, and participation per program protocols.
- Manage behaviors of children.
- Create a fun and safe environment.

Support Tasks:

- Collaborate with other staff, interns, and volunteers.
- Select, gather, and prepare materials for activities.
- Assist children in the bathroom or with other personal hygiene or ADL's as necessary.
- Support other member programming as needed.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- An individual that has experience working with children that have disabilities in a classroom or structured educational setting.
- Someone who is passionate about contributing to a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children with disabilities, particularly those with Down syndrome.
- Experience supporting students working toward IEP goals.
- Ability to implement positive behavior management strategies and support children in staying engaged in activities.
- Preferred Spanish and English, as we aim to extend our outreach and inclusivity to Spanish-speaking communities.
- Basic American Sign Language (ASL) is a plus, or willingness to learn.
- Strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to multitask, adapt in a fast-paced environment, and collaborate effectively with a team.
- Someone with reliable transportation to and from the program location.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

Compensation is \$20 per hour.

The position requires in person attendance at our building located at 160 68th St SW Grand Rapids, MI 49548. Our building is located on the bus line.

DSAWM is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive work environment, including reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

JOIN US!

If you're ready to contribute to our mission this summer please submit your resume and a cover letter to program@dsawm.org by April 16th. In your cover letter, please describe your experience working with children that have disabilities and how your skills align with the responsibilities of the position.

We look forward to welcoming you into our community!

Have Questions?

Contact our Program Coordinator, Maria, at program@dsawm.org