

Family Registration Information

FriendBee is a SEND Befriending Service delivered by Ruils that matches young people with a paid Befriender to help them access social and leisure activities. We currently support young people up to the age of 25 that have a Special Education Need or Disability (SEND) that impacts their social life, who also live in the London Borough of Richmond or Royal Borough of Kingston.

Our Befrienders are recruited, trained, vetted and employed by Ruils to make finding the right support easier for families. Our service is designed to make long-term and sustainable matches between families and Befrienders. While we help coordinate matches and manage the employment of Befrienders, parents work directly with Befrienders to establish a schedule for sessions. Your Befriender can:

* Take your young person out to the park or to some other destination in the community
* Engage with your young person in the home doing some sort of activity – games, crafts, music
* Help them engage in social or leisure clubs or activities – sports, youth clubs

The primary role of our Befrienders is to build a relationship with a young person and support them in doing things that they want to do. While our service can help provide additional supports for young people, like personal care and transportation, FriendBee is not a childminding, babysitting, academic tutor or chauffeur service.

There are so many benefits to having a Befriender from enhancing your own wellbeing to increasing your young person’s confidence and opening up their world. The first step in the process to introduce a sitter to you is the completion of our Family Registration form, which is enclosed. When we receive a completed registration form we arrange a home visit:

* to give you more information about the service
* to ensure that we have all the information we need
* to understand what you are looking for with a Befriender

After the home visit we will add your details to the Family List which is circulated to our Befriender list regularly.

We hope to be able to introduce a Befriender to you as quickly as possible but if a Befriender is not immediately available we will continue to circulate your details and will take further steps if needed if we are not having success through the Family List and we will keep you updated. We cannot guarantee the time frame for finding a Befriender. We are not an agency and we are unable to provide Befrienders at specific days and times. We focus on facilitating a match between your young person and a Befriender that will last.

**Please read the enclosed family agreement, personal care statement and social media statement as we ask you to sign off that you have read and understood on the registration form.**

There is no charge to register with the service, however, you will need to be able to pay for the Befriender hours you use. The minimum rate is £10.85 per hour and we charge £6 per payslip per month towards our payroll administration costs (this is currently being covered by a generous donor).

If you have any questions about the Family Registration form, or any part of this process, please contact Hallie Banish at halliebanish@ruils.co.uk - or call on 020 8831 6083.