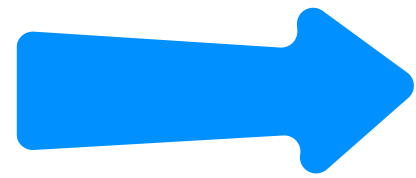




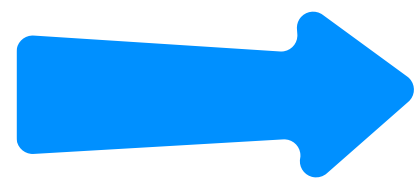
www.babyzone.org.uk



1 in 3 children in the UK live in poverty.



We know that poor children grow up with poorer life chances.



Intervening at the earliest point has the greatest long term impact.

We are building a **national movement** to provide every child a **fair start in life**. Join us in making a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of families and **setting a new standard** for early years services in the UK.

Watch our **2 min video** to find out more on what we do





What is Babyzone

We work to transform the lives of low-income families with pre-school children

- Babyzone provides holistic support for families with children under 6 years.
- Each Babyzone serves as a vibrant community hub, offering evidence-informed classes and vital support to over 2,000 individuals annually, with a focus on underserved families.
- Our provision is a safe, welcoming space where a community of parents with shared lived experience, have access to all they need, empowering them with a toolkit to support their child in the home learning environment.



What makes us unique

- The space we rent from the Youth Zones is premium and not your typical old sports hall. We often hear new families arrive and ask if they need to pay to enter (**Babyzone is completely free**)
- We can reach families which statutory organisations cannot. We have removed all barriers families face when trying to access early years support in the UK and our staff are parents from the community, who engage with families as peers (**Babyzone requires no family to sign up, you just show up and we never turn a family away**)
- We offer a suite of services under one roof. Our focus is both on the child and the parent. From healthy eating workshops, to baby weighing, to oral health, to immunisation workshops, Babyzone is a one-stop shop for families (**Babyzone partners with over 50 statutory and charitable services to give ongoing support to our families**)



Current locations, based out of OnSide Youth Zones

 Barking & Dagenham Future Youth Zone



 Croydon Legacy Youth Zone



 Warrington Youth Zone



 Barnet Unitas Youth Zone



 Hammersmith & Fulham WEST Youth Zone



The Problem

The UK is facing a crisis in early years support and outcomes

- Children from low-income backgrounds start primary school approximately 4.6 months behind their better-off peers in terms of development (Smith, 2018).
- Early language and cognitive delays can be directly linked to low family income during a child's earliest years. The Literacy Trust reported that 3-year-old children living in poverty can be almost 18 months behind their peers in language development (Literacy Trust, 2017).
- In the UK, statutory education begins at ages 4 or 5. However, the closure of hundreds of children's centres has left parents lacking access to support for developing their knowledge, skills, and awareness of their role in their children's first years (Department for Education, 2020). Between 2010 and 2024, more than 1,500 children's centres in the UK were closed, reflecting significant reductions across many local authorities. In some areas, the decline was as high as 93% of the centres previously available.



Volunteers

An opportunity to support low-income families across the UK

Volunteers at Babyzone play a very important role. Whether you are able to give 1 day or 30 days, we have various activities where we need support from volunteers.

When you volunteer with us, the families of Babyzone benefit in so many ways because we can:

- Support a greater number of families and children
- Run more classes/activities
- Increase capacity
- Offer more one-to-one and tailored support
- Offer a wider community of life experiences, relatable to families
- Gain access to a wider range of diverse skills and expertise
- Learn from your fresh perspectives and ideas
- Strengthen local community connections and community engagement
- Create advocates within the community
- Raise further awareness of Babyzone's work



Summary of the day

An opportunity to support low-income families across the UK

The Babyzone working day starts at 8:30am and finishes at 3:00pm. There are a diverse range of activities and areas in which you can support as a volunteer. Below is a summary (expect to be very busy!).

- **8:30am - 9:30am:** Setting up Babyzone - We set out the soft play and other free-play exploration areas such as the book corner and colouring table.
- **9:30am:** Doors open - We warmly welcome families through the door. Share our rules of engagement with them and give them a short tour of where to find relevant classes/activities.
- **10:00am - 2:30pm:** Developmental classes begin - We guide families to the relevant classes. If they have missed a session, we encourage them to explore the free-play spaces, participate in arts & craft activities or read a book together in the reading area.
- **2:30pm - 3:00pm:** Pack down - We say goodbye to the last families and then pack away all of the equipment.



Volunteer Spotlight



“I have been volunteering at Babyzone for six months now, my day is always very varied, there is always something different to do. I really enjoy talking to and helping the families that come to Babyzone for some respite and to see how much they love to see their children interacting with all the activities that are going on and the other children. I have never worked with young children and am really enjoying it, I love the way they just want to learn and discover new things to do, this is why I think Babyzone is such a good place for them to go as part of their early learning. I would recommend volunteering as I come away feeling I have helped in some way.”

Sharon, Volunteer at Babyzone Croydon

thank you

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katelyn@babyzone.org.uk

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