

## Research Assistant

We are currently looking to recruit a volunteer Research Assistant at Kids Matter to assist with the following:

- Inputting data from our various programme surveys into a statistical database (STATA) and reporting regularly on pre, post and follow-up evaluation data to inform us of our progress and impact.
- Working with the Psychology & Research Team to identify and conduct literature searches and systematic reviews on various topics relevant to the work of Kids Matter.
- Devise new studies and/or develop qualitative measures and analyses to help Kids Matter in understanding its impact, and contribute as an author to any papers written up for publication.

The Research Assistant will be supported on a monthly basis by our in-house Clinical Psychologist, following initial induction and handover.

### Person specification

- Psychology final year student or graduate with a (predicted) 2:1 or above
- Some experience of quantitative data analyses
- *Qualitative analyses knowledge is desirable but not essential*

In addition to a clear understanding of the process of inputting and simple statistical analyses, we are looking for someone with good communication skills, a professional manner, and an ability to work independently.

***This is an honorary role for a minimum of 1 year.***

Work is entirely flexible and can be completed at your discretion. Attendance during working hours at joint meetings with the Research Supervisor and/or Executive Director will be required on a monthly basis. Monthly tasks will vary but typically include producing a data analysis report or drafting a literature review to be sent to the Executive Director.

This role is ideally suited to those who are keen to pursue a career in Psychology, particularly with a focus on children and families. We welcome input from all of our assistants to push into new areas of research around our work, as well as to write up our results for publication. Many of our past assistants have gone on to pursue careers in Research or Clinical Psychology.

To apply for this role, please email a CV and cover letter to [recruitment@kidsmatter.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kidsmatter.org.uk)



## About Kids Matter

More than 4 million children are being raised in poverty in the UK and the stress poverty places on them (and their parents) can result in long-term emotional and social problems. We therefore exist to help strengthen families and interrupt that negative trajectory.

Research has shown that the most effective early intervention to help children is group-based parenting programmes. For children to thrive, it is important for mums, dads and carers to increase their own wellbeing and confidence in their parenting skills. Whilst all parents need support, our effective and accessible programmes have been written for families facing disadvantages.

We partner with local churches and their community networks across the whole country to run our evidence-informed programmes in communities and in prisons, equipping mums, dads and carers with the tools (confidence, competence and community) they need to build strong relationships and strong families. Not only will this have a positive impact on child wellbeing and future outcomes, but it will also reduce the social and financial costs of family breakdown.

### Our impact

Since launching in 2017, we have impacted **over 4,000 children** through our parenting programmes, equipping their parents (nearly 2,000 of them) with the skills needed to build a strong family. We have an ambitious vision to reach many more in the coming years.

Read our most recent Impact Report [here](#).

### Our team

We have a wonderful team of brilliant people committed to transforming society, one family at a time, and a group of top-notch trustees who support us every step of the way.

Find out more about them [here](#).

*'It's worth doing, I would do it 20 times over and still learn something new in the twentieth session.'*

Tash, mum

# Our Research & Evaluation



Since launching in 2017, we have reached over 4,000 children to date, and we have an ambitious vision to reach many more this year.

Broadly speaking, there are two functions to our data collection at Kids Matter. Firstly, it serves to demonstrate our impact, and secondly, it serves to develop and deepen our understanding of those we seek to support.

Currently, in our Kids Matter community programme, all parents complete two standardised quantitative measures at three timepoints, allowing us to measure the short and long-term impact of the programme. We administer the:

- WEMWBS to monitor changes in parental wellbeing, as research shows this is a key factor leading to improved outcomes for children.
- TOPSE to measure changes in parental self-efficacy, a key factor in improving parental discipline and consequently, child behaviour.

Parents also complete our own non-standardised measure 'My Parenting Journey' at the end of the programme. These results consistently inform and improve our programme.

In addition to this, we routinely use standardised measures in our Babies Matter programme (MORS-SF and Relationship Assessment Scale), and in our prison parenting workshops (Child Parent Relationship Scale and the Parenting Style Questionnaire). This data is also periodically analysed and reported on.

There will be times where the data will be audited to consider various research questions. This might include, but is not limited to, examples such as (1) group attendance effects (2) demographic spread/effects (3) localised evaluation/data comparisons.

There will be times where pilot studies will seek to understand the challenges and potential impact and mechanisms of change of the various programmes and workshops. These will often involve mixed methods, including the undertaking of focus groups and interviews.

Finally, we recognise the value of systematic literature reviews to inform our programme development. We therefore seek to be informed by such systematic literature reviews and meta-analyses, and to conduct these ourselves where needed and/or feasible.

We actively seek to publish our various findings and our new Research Assistant will have the opportunity to contribute to this.

