

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of KidStart?

Your child will be paired with an adult volunteer mentor who will see your child on a weekly basis. The mentor's role is to develop a supportive relationship, be a consistent positive role model, and encourage participation in recreational activities that let your child experience success and gain self-confidence. The time they spend together will give your child new and exciting experiences and the opportunity to relate to someone outside of the family.

What is my role as a parent/guardian?

The John Howard KidStart Coordinator will meet with the parent/guardian to discuss the program and answer any questions. You will be asked to provide some information and sign permission slips.

"It's amazing what a difference it makes having a male role model in my son's life."

- Mom of a 12-year-old boy

Who makes arrangements for an outing?

The volunteer mentor will arrange a time that is good for you both. The mentor will pick up your child and drop him or her off.

What will the volunteer mentor and my child do together?

They will spend three or more hours together every week. Activities may include a visit to a park, sports, baking, crafts, or any other activity friends typically do together. KidStart staff encourage mentors to look for free or low cost activities that interest both adult and child.



Will my child be safe with the volunteer mentor?

Yes. Volunteer mentors are thoroughly screened and interviewed by John Howard KidStart staff. Mentors must provide four references and a driver's abstract, and complete two criminal record checks and a home assessment. KidStart provides ongoing training support and supervision to volunteer mentors.

Is there a cost involved?

There is no fee and John Howard KidStart volunteer mentors are encouraged to keep expenses to a minimum.

Is KidStart counselling?

No. This program is not counselling or social work. Your child will spend some recreational time with another adult who is not a member of the family. The volunteer mentor can be a positive role model and an additional support for your child as he or she grows up.

What are the program outcomes?

In 2014-2015:

- 100% of families surveyed reported that KidStart is making a positive difference in their child's life.

"I am really grateful that my daughter has her mentor in her life. As a single mom with five kids it's hard to give each one the undivided time that I would like to. This program is wonderful."

- Mom of a 9-year-old girl

JohnHoward
KidStart



What is KidStart?

John Howard KidStart is a volunteer-based program in Campbell River, Quadra Island, and the Comox Valley that focuses on the positive development of children and youth ages 6-18 who could benefit from having stable, committed, and caring adults in their lives. KidStart connects children and youth with carefully screened and trained adult mentors.

KidStart is a free service that is funded by grants, donations, fundraising, and gaming funds—Province of BC.

For more information call:

Campbell River:
250-286-0611

Comox Valley:
250-338-7341

Mission Statement

The John Howard Society of North Island is a charitable organization whose mission is to provide programs and support to help children, youth, and families lead safer, healthier lives.



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