

Referral Forms

If you would like to refer a child or youth to KidStart, referral forms are available from:

Campbell River

#201-140A 10th Avenue
Campbell River, B.C.
V9W 4E3

Phone: 250-286-0611

Fax: 250-286-3650

E-mail: tara@jhsni.bc.ca

Comox Valley

1455 Cliffe Avenue
Courtenay, B.C.
V9N 2K6

Phone: 250-338-7341

Fax: 250-338-6568

E-mail: wendyt@jhsni.bc.ca

You can also find out more information about KidStart at:

www.jhsni.bc.ca/programs/kidstart.html

and

www.kidstart.ca

Want to Help?

Become a KidStart Mentor!

Do you like to go for walks? Bake cookies? Roast hotdogs at the beach? Consider becoming a mentor! KidStart is always looking for caring adults to spend three hours per week having fun with a child or youth. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact The John Howard Society of North Island today!

Become a KidStart Champion!

No time to mentor but still want to help? Consider becoming a KidStart Champion! KidStart Champions sponsor local children and youth in The John Howard Society of North Island's KidStart Mentoring Program. Champions can be individuals, businesses, or teams and can choose from three levels of sponsorship:

Gold: \$100 per month (covers the entire cost of a KidStart mentee's participation)

Silver: \$50 per month (covers 50% of the cost)

Bronze: \$25 (covers 25% of the cost)



KidStart depends on volunteers and charitable donations for its continued success. Thank you for considering KidStart as a meaningful way to contribute to positive change in our community.

KidStart Mentoring Program

Referral Information

Campbell River: 250-286-0611

Comox Valley: 250-338-7341

www.jhsni.bc.ca

KidStart

KidStart is a volunteer mentoring program for vulnerable children and youth ages 6-18.

The volunteer mentors serve as consistent and positive role models who encourage the young person's participation in recreational activities and provide opportunities to experience success and achievement.

We recruit volunteers through volunteer centres, universities, colleges, businesses, and community centres. All candidates are carefully screened through interviews, home visits, references, and police record checks.

The primary goal of KidStart is to connect a stable, committed, caring adult friend to children and youth when they need it most. The weekly outings continue for a year or longer, as research indicates children are more likely to thrive with this positive one-to-one attention.

KidStart Coordinators provide extensive screening and training to new volunteers, provide ongoing supervision, and hold monthly training and support meetings. They also communicate regularly with the parents or guardians and mentees to assess overall program effectiveness.

Who is KidStart for?

KidStart is designed for children who are experiencing difficulties. The program is offered in Campbell River and the Comox Valley.

Typical referrals are children who are generally not functioning well in school, at home, or in the community, or have the potential to become at-risk. Each child or youth is assigned to an adult volunteer mentor who acts as a positive role model for the young person and helps them build self-esteem through positive achievement.

The volunteer mentors are carefully screened and receive ongoing training and supervision. They build a friendship with the child or youth and help them connect with their community.

Matches are typically for one year, but many are longer (continuing into adulthood). This program is supported entirely by charitable donations, fundraising and The Province of BC—Gaming.

KidStart Referrals

KidStart accepts referrals from parents, teachers, school counsellors, social workers, probation officers, and other child care professionals.

Completed referral forms can be submitted to the KidStart Coordinator in your community by e-mail, fax, mail, or in person.

Once the completed referral forms have been received, the KidStart Coordinator will contact the referral agent for more details and add the child or youth to the waitlist.

KidStart FAQs

How long is the waitlist to get a mentor?

The waitlist for mentors varies from one month to two years depending on the age and gender of the mentee.

What will they do on KidStart outings?

KidStart outings are weekly for three or more hours and can include activities like fishing, hiking, baking, art, playing games, going out for coffee, or any hobbies that the mentor and mentee are interested in.

What does mentor screening involve?

Screening of new KidStart volunteers is lengthy and extensive and includes a home visit, criminal record check, reference checks, and three interviews.

Is there a cost involved to participate?

There is no program fee and KidStart mentors are encouraged to keep expenses to a minimum.

Is my client right for KidStart?

The KidStart Coordinators in your area would be happy to answer any questions you might have!

Contact Tara in Campbell River at 250-286-0611 or tara@jhsni.bc.ca

Contact Wendy in the Comox Valley at 250-338-7341 or wendyt@jhsni.bc.ca

Or visit: www.kidstart.ca