



Volunteering as a KEEN London Coach

Support your adoption journey while making a real difference.

What is KEEN London?

We run free, fun-filled sports and activity sessions for children aged 5–11 with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Each child is supported 1:1 by a trained volunteer coach.

Key Details

- **When:** Saturdays, 10:00am–2:30pm (term time only)
- **Where:** North, South & East London
- **Commitment:** 2 sessions a month for 6 months (10 sessions minimum)
- **Experience needed?** No – full training and support provided
- **Reference for adoption:** We typically provide references after a minimum of **10 completed sessions**. However, there is **some flexibility**, if a volunteer has completed at least **4–5 sessions** and we feel confident that we can provide a meaningful, high-quality reference based on their engagement and contribution, we are happy to consider this on a case-by-case basis.

Application Process

1. Online application
2. Virtual info session
3. In-person training
4. Safeguarding quiz + Enhanced DBS
5. Two references

Onboarding typically takes 6–8 weeks.



Case Study: Volunteer A

Volunteer A joined KEEN while applying to adopt through Coram in Spring 2024. After completing 10 sessions, we provided a reference highlighting their reliability, positive communication, and experience supporting children with additional needs.

They continued volunteering even after adopting their child, saying:

"KEEN helped me build real confidence and understanding around SEND. It gave me insight, community, and made a huge difference to how prepared I felt for the adoption journey"

Case Study: Volunteer B

Volunteer B embarked on their journey with KEEN London in 2023, seeking to gain invaluable experience and understanding of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). They recognised that hands-on experience and a deeper insight into SEND would be immensely beneficial, not only for their personal growth but also in preparing them for the unique challenges and joys of adopting a child with potential additional needs.

From their very first session, Volunteer B demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the KEEN London athletes. They consistently arrived with enthusiasm, ready to engage in a variety of activities, from high-energy games to more focused, one-on-one support. Volunteer B became an integral part of the KEEN London family. They quickly built rapport with the athletes, adapting their communication style and approach to meet individual needs, whether it was providing clear instructions, offering gentle encouragement, or simply being a patient and understanding presence.

KEEN London provided a reference for Volunteer B after they had completed 10 sessions. This reference highlighted several key attributes that set Volunteer B apart. Their reliability was outstanding; they were consistently punctual and committed to their scheduled sessions, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility. Their positive communication skills were evident in every interaction, both with the athletes and with the wider team of volunteers. Volunteer B was great at listening, displaying empathy, and fostering a supportive and encouraging environment. The strength and quality of this reference significantly boosted Volunteer B's adoption application and they have since adopted a 6 year old girl with ADHD.

Interested?

Apply at www.keenlondon.org/volunteer

Or email: volunteer@keenlondon.org