

Case study | Hubs in action

Working with volunteers

Learn more about Community Hubs with these real-life examples. In this case study, Salwa Salem, coordinator of Meadow Heights Primary Hub, tells us about a parent who became a volunteer in the Hub and then went on to further training and employment.

What was the challenge?

Most hub coordinators are part time and you can't do all the work required in 16 hours a week. So you need to train people and parents want to learn new skills. At our school I ran information sessions for parents about transition from kinder to school. I chatted with one of the mothers there, Ghada, who wanted to find work. Ghada was a parent volunteer at our playgroup.

What worked? What didn't?

The lady running our playgroup was due to go on maternity leave. I talked to VICSEG, the community agency that employs the playgroup leaders. I said I'd prefer to have someone from our school community run the playgroup rather than someone from outside.

So we helped Ghada enrol to do a Certificate three in Children's Services and she got the job. I supported her every week to run the playgroup.

Now she's doing a Diploma in Children's Services, working four days a week. She's an inspiring role model to the other mothers, who say they want to be like Ghada.

“When parents become volunteers it can be the first step in a pathway to training, study and a job.”

Your advice?

Don't underestimate the skills that parents have and the things they are capable of. Look for strengths in people.

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Community Hubs is a national program that links families and their preschool children to services and support, learning opportunities or the wider community. Community Hubs makes it easier for families to access the assistance they need by bringing local education, health, community and settlement information and services into a familiar and friendly place such as a school or community space.

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