**Job Description**

**Ref:** JD/NCL

**Job Title:**Family support Worker

**Rates of Pay:** £14

**Area:**Newcastle

Personal Assistant required to assist our son who is 13 years old He has autism, learning disability and is non-verbal. He is mostly happy and sociable little boy and likes to be around people.

The main purpose of this job is to work alongside us caring for and supporting our son, enabling him to access the community more, doing activates he enjoys such as swimming and horsing

The role is also to assist with our sons’ social aspects of his daily life however there is also some personal assistance required, this includes support with bathing and getting dried and dressed.

Our son is non-verbal and has his own way of communicating. Once you get to know him you will come to understand his way of letting you know what he wants and if there is something wrong. He does also use picture symbols, but this is inconsistent.

You will also support with eating and drinking plus toileting when needed.

When you are always out in the community with our son it’s important that you aware of his whereabouts. He has no awareness of danger and if something catches his eye he can be distracted and want to go over to whatever it is he has seen. You will need to always ensure his safety, assist with communicating and encourage with trying new activities.

A large part of the job will be to participate with our son in activities such as swimming so he can get the most from them and to help support his developing social skills.

As our sons Family support worker, you will work mainly alongside us and under our direction to meet his needs.

Previous experience of working with children is essential, particularly children with Special Needs, we are looking for somebody who is reliable, punctual, and prepared for some flexibility in their working hours. You must also be able to respect our privacy and understand the need for confidentiality in all areas of your work.

Our sons Personal Assistant must be able to handle all aspects of behaviour associated with autism. Some physical skills will occasionally be required e.g., Supporting our son down from play equipment. Good general health is important. We consider patience and enthusiasm to be essential attributes for this job.

**Main Duties**

As our sons and the family's needs will vary it is important that the Personal Assistant is flexible about what the work involves and agrees to undertake any reasonable Personal Assistance tasks, we request e.g., accompanying the family on outings. You will be required to carry out the following tasks on a flexible basis:

# **Personal Assistance**

 Preparing simple snacks and drinks and support with eating

 Helping with toileting, including washing hands and changing clothes if necessary.

# **Social Assistance**

Supporting with fun and stimulating activities inside and outside of the home.

Spending time playing with and talking to our son.

Supervising to ensure he is safe and generally responding to his needs.

**Person Specification**

To be our son's personal assistant you should:

* Have experience of working with disabled children or adults. Particularly adults with Asperger’s Syndrome/Autism and challenging behaviour.
* Have a positive attitude towards disability
* Be willing to work under our direction
* Be able to work flexibly to meet our son's needs
* Be a non-smoker
* Not drink alcohol when working for me
* Have good general health
* Be a driver and have a clean driving licence (preferred)
* Be reliable and trustworthy
* Be a good timekeeper
* Be able to work at short notice
* Be able to work in different settings
* Not discuss our household and domestic circumstances with others, other than with my specific permission
* Keep information gained in the course of your employment confidential
* Be able to respond appropriately in an emergency
* Be able to accept responsibility and work on your own initiative
* Respect our son's privacy and that of our family and friends
* Be patient when doing repeated tasks
* Have at least basic reading, writing and number skills
* You do not need any formal qualifications, but you must be willing to learn how to do the job under my direction.