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HELP WANTED
Looking for teens who desire to use their skills and knowledge to teach younger students. No experience necessary. We will guide you in making a difference in your community through cross-age teaching. Contact a local teacher or youth development professional so you can invest in your future and others today!

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1 week from £249
2 weeks from £350

What is Cross-Age Teaching?

Cross-age teaching is simply when teenagers teach younger children knowledge or skills. As a teenage teacher, you will be responsible for teaching kids at least 2-3 years younger than yourself. You will be the main teacher in charge of a small group of students. Ideally you will spend several class periods instructing your students and developing relationships with them. Cross-age teaching happens in any number of places outside of school, too!

Why Should I Teach Younger Children?

Teaching younger children actually benefits you even more than the students you teach! It enables you to take what you have learned in your own classes and apply it to the real world by teaching it to others. It can help you revisit what you have already learned and solidify your understanding as you explain the information to younger students. You will feel like an expert in your area as others look to you for help and learning. Through the guidance of caring adults helping you, you will find a place where you belong and are needed as well as appreciated. Being a cross-age teacher will help you develop leadership skills and mature while giving you opportunities to be in charge and think on your own. You will likely find yourself taking your advice to heart and will better understand what your own teachers feel like as they try to help you learn and grow. You will be surprised by how much younger children like you and look up to you! Teaching is an amazing opportunity to get to know your students, show them you care, and be a role model for them. Many will want to grow up to be just like you so think carefully about what you would want them to copy from you. Being involved in cross-age teaching prepares you for your own future by helping you learn work skills and habits, including being prepared, arriving on time, and relating to others at work. It is a great chance for you to see what teaching is like. Who knows? You may want to become a teacher someday or pick a career related to the information that you teach. Working with children will also give you valuable experience if you desire to have your own kids someday.

The benefits of cross-age teaching extend well beyond yourself, too! You may not realize this, but younger children actually listen and respond better to messages taught by teenagers rather than adults!

You can teach and have an impact on younger children in ways adults can never do. Kids look up to you and want to listen to you and do what you say because they think you are pretty cool. They will learn from you and be excited about coming to your class each time.

What Do I Teach?

You can really teach just about anything to younger children! Maybe you have a skill that you would like for them to learn, like throwing a football, decorating a cake, launching a rocket, or designing a website. Maybe you are interested in a topic that you would like to share with others, like caring for a pet, traveling to another country, or eating healthy. Or maybe you feel very strongly about your responsibility to be a good role model for younger kids and would like to teach them about staying drug and alcohol-free or be their leader in a church youth program. The possibilities are endless, and the best part is that you get to teach about something that you really like!

What If I Don't Feel Qualified?

The greatest thing you have to offer is your desire to teach others and share what you know! Your interest in cross-age teaching is your best attribute. Caring adults will guide you, either youth development professionals or teachers, who will teach you and make sure you understand the material you are teaching to younger children. They will also help train you in some basic teaching skills as well as offer advice, feedback, and encouragement for you throughout your teaching experience. It is helpful if you have had some experience in leadership and working with others, but this is not required. You don't have to be the top student in your class or the best at your subject matter either to make an excellent cross-age teacher. You never know what you are capable of until you try!

How Does This Make a Difference in My Community?

You may not realize it, but you are one of the greatest resources in your community! You are the future, and you can be actively involved in creating positive change in your community even now. Helping younger students learn and being a role model through cross-age teaching is a great way to start. You are needed to make a difference in your community and provide more opportunities for young people to learn and grow.

How Do I Get Started?

The best way to get started with cross-age teaching is to contact a teacher or youth development professional who may already lead an organized program that you can join as a teenage teacher. Look for youth development professionals and programs in your community like 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, or Big Brothers Big Sisters. Also consider talking to people who lead local programs or church ministries. Teachers and school counselors are always looking for youth leaders who are willing to teach younger students, so contacting them is another great way to start. If you have some experience with leadership and cross-age teaching, you may even want to conduct your own workshop or class. Finding an adult, especially someone who works with youth regularly, to partner with you and help you as you organize and lead your cross-age teaching project will benefit you greatly. Get started changing lives today!

Where Can I Get Further Information?

Here are some resources and links that may be helpful as you get involved with cross-age teaching. The youth development organizations listed have links on their websites which you can use to contact local leaders.

- **Teens as Volunteer Leaders: A 4-H Afterschool Resource Guide**
- **The 4 P's of Planning a Presentation** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension 4-H Communications Series)
- **Youth in Action Bulletin: Cross-Age Teaching** (National Youth Network)

- **National Education Association Works4Me** (Tips and ideas for teaching)
www.nea.org/tools/Works4Me.html
- **4-H**
www.4-h.org
- **Boy Scouts**
www.scouting.org
- **Girl Scouts**
www.girlscouts.org
- **YMCA**
www.ymca.net
- **Boys & Girls Club**
www.bgca.org
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters**
www.bbbs.org

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