



Activity/Parent Helper Tips

The Auskick curriculum and activities provided have been created to maximise session engagement and involvement for the kids. Volunteers and parent helpers are at the core of the program and what make Auskick the fantastic community program it is.

The new Auskick Curriculum format relies on having more parents engaged and involved to maximise our kid's enjoyment in Auskick. Below are some pointers when it comes to recruiting and retaining parent volunteers:

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS:

Would you help?

The major reason people say they do not volunteer is because no one has asked. Do not be afraid to ask for help from who have said they will help as they may just be waiting to be asked! This could require a personal approach in addition to an email to all parents, particularly those who have ticked the activity helper box when registering. The best way is to ask a parent and state clearly what help you are after.

Provide information and resources available that will make their job easier!

The Auskick curriculum and activities are all available online, with weekly sessions set out, and activity guides/resources provided. It is important when recruiting volunteers that you provide this information as it will provide comfort and encourage those who are potentially not as confident with the game to get involved! Setting expectations and providing information up front is important so that volunteers understand their role in your centre. View all content by [clicking here](#) or heading to Play.AFL/Auskick

EXAMPLE 1 – Group message to Level Coaches/Support Crew (1 grid)

Hi Level 1 Coaches and Support Crew,

Thanks for helping at last weekend's Auskick session! It was really appreciated, and the kids had a ball! Please see below your assigned activities for this week (Session 4).

- **Activity 1:** John
Frozen Feet - <https://play.afl/auskick/activities/frozen-feet?week=4&level=2>
- **Activity 2:** Hannah
Footy Racetrack - <https://play.afl/auskick/activities/footy-racetrack?week=4&level=2>
- **Activity 3:** Macca
5 Point Player - <https://play.afl/auskick/activities/five-point-player?week=4&level=2>
- **Activity 4:** Tim R
Round the Bend - <https://play.afl/auskick/activities/round-bend?week=4&level=2>

Have a look at your assigned activities, if you have any questions let me know, otherwise, if you can get down 10-15 minutes early to set up your grid that would be appreciated.

Look forward to seeing you Saturday. Any questions contact me on 000000000.



Activity/Parent Helper Tips

Once you have a support crew of parent helpers, it can be really handy to try some of the below tips to keep your crew engaged and involved in your Auskick centre.

KEEPING VOLUNTEERS MOTIVATED:

Create a team environment:

Encourage your volunteers to be innovative, and share ideas on the program. An atmosphere that encourages new ideas will energise the group, keeping it fresh and exciting. Auskick not only connects our kids, it's also a great program for connecting parents and families together which is what makes it a great social community program.

Instil pride:

The volunteers and support parents should feel included and engaged in the centre. Providing Auskick apparel, and name tags, are a great way to welcome and include all your regular parent helpers and leaders. Another means of doing this is by having a recognition section or weekly notification on your community centres Facebook page, emails or newsletter you may have. An example could be sharing a photo of your volunteer with a small bio, or with a success story of what they have done at your centre.

Develop a rapport- Check in regularly:

Checking in with your volunteers is critical to keeping them engaged and happy. Ask how they are feeling, if they are comfortable with the role they have been assigned, if they potentially want to swap roles. The personal connection lets the parent helper know that you care for them individually.

Watch for burn-out:

As an extension from above, try not to assign too many tasks to a volunteer, and watch for signs that a volunteer doesn't over commit, it's important to be flexible and find suitable and manageable roles.

Show your appreciation:

Verbal and direct feedback should not be underestimated. Recognition and positive feedback keeps volunteers motivated and makes everyone feel valued, and overall happier about helping. Volunteer appreciation nights, or hosting small events with your parent helpers such as trivia nights or a dinner at the midpoint or end of the season is also another means of expressing thanks to your volunteers