



## What About The Children?

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*'Raising awareness of the never-changing emotional needs of children in our ever-changing society'*

Registered Address: Feldon House, Chapel Lane,  
Newbold on Stour CV37 8TY  
[www.whataboutthechildren.org.uk](http://www.whataboutthechildren.org.uk) tel:0845 602 7145



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Patrons: Sir Micheal Morpurgo, Rebecca Abrams, Sir John Timpson

### **What About The Children? requires a Company Secretary/Treasurer**

The successful candidate will have accounting experience to fulfil the role of Treasurer and Company Secretary for our small, unique children's charity.

The role requires a high level of trust and the ability to work independently. The successful applicant will work from home, keeping the necessary information to provide quarterly financial reports to the trustees, monitoring income and expenditure and setting up on-line bank payment of invoices. The successful candidate will have some experience of drafting annual financial reports for presentation and approval at the Annual General Meeting, submitting approved report and other necessary returns to Companies House and Charity's Commission.

Management committee meetings of the charity take place 6 times a year in central London, the successful candidate will be expected to attend a minimum of 3 meetings to present a financial report, and in addition chair the Annual General Meeting, usually held in March. The successful candidate will support the management committee in keeping the charity on a sound financial footing. Some empathy with the aims of the charity are required.

What About The Children? accounting year is 1st January through to 31st December. What About The Children? has no fixed assets, office or paid staff. All funding comes from donations.

For more details about this position please contact Lydia on 07710230362 or email [enquiries@whataboutthechildren.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@whataboutthechildren.org.uk)



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**What About The Children?** is a national charity that has been working since 1993 to promote better public understanding about the importance of the emotional wellbeing of children in their first three years. The charity is entirely run by volunteers and financed through donations

**What About The Children?** has no religious or political affiliations nor does it represent any particular group of professionals. It is an organisation made up of people who share a concern about young children and have come together to speak out about the importance of ensuring babies and very young children's emotional needs are met. The message that the period of development, from conception through the first 30 to 36 months, is key to future mental and physical health is increasingly confirmed by research. The charity is supported by leading child care specialists, doctors, health professionals and politicians in the UK and abroad.

**What we do and our key message** We promote prevention rather than intervention as the key to a long term strategy to ensure the emotional wellbeing of children, by reducing the potential for harm and secure their future physical and mental health. When their first 3 years are right, it brings huge benefits not only to the child but for the whole of society. We are calling on government, professionals and employers to institute policies and practice that better support parents with children under three, offering information and services that will enable them to provide their children the consistent, responsive loving care which we know is vital for optimum brain development and future physical and mental health.

We contribute to government consultations, we are represented at All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG's) and involved with other national groups and coalitions concerned with children, for example the Early Childhood Forum, Save Childhood Movement and The WAVE Trust. We have links with other like minded groups and academics internationally, for example Brainwave Trust in New Zealand and Babywerk in the Netherlands. We host an annual conference and a series of biennial Goodman Lectures. Our website [www.whataboutthechildren.org.uk](http://www.whataboutthechildren.org.uk) has a broad range of information, details about our conferences, research summaries and our work as activities to promote the emotional health of babies and children under three. All our published documents are free to download.

### **Why we focus on children under three?**

The brain grows to 90% of adult size by the age of three. From neurobiological research we know that during the earliest months of life the right hemisphere of the brain is developing particularly rapidly. This is the functioning area for intuitive skills needed for relationships, emotions and empathic understanding. During this period the majority of the synaptic links between the brain cells are formed; consistent, close, loving emotional contact is vital for stimulating this synaptic development. We know from the research on Romanian orphans, deprived of loving care in their first 36 months that their brains, at age 3, were measurably smaller than those of healthy well nurtured babies, in some cases by as much as one third. The research evidence shows beyond doubt that the first 3 years of life, from conception, shape a child's future for ever, out of all proportion to the rest of childhood. This raises



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important questions not just about children and their families but more importantly about government policies, local services, communities and society as a whole.

Our annual conferences bring together Health Visitors, Midwives, early years professionals, family support organisations and many others who work in the private and voluntary sector supporting children and families to hear the latest research from key national and international figures. Our biennial Goodman Lecture provides an opportunity for world renowned figures to explore particular issues in more depth, The Goodman Lecture Papers can be accessed from our website.

These include:

- 'Are we betraying children and childhood and if so what's to be done about it' Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green
- 'What happens in the womb can last a lifetime' Professor Vivette Glover
- 'It's the relationships Stupid!' Sir Denis Pereira Gray OBE, HonDSc. FRCP, FRCGP, FMedSci.
- 'Emotional Neglect in the Early Years: causes, consequences and practical solutions' Dr. Margot Sunderland.
- 'Children at Peace with Themselves: The importance of nurturing an emotionally secure generation' Dr. M Suzanne Zeedyk

The FAQ's on our web site provide information about the parent / infant bond, attachment and what this means for new parents. We are very keen to 'sign post' other organisations and charities that provide help, support and services to children and families, these are accessed from the Links page on our website.

We are developing our use of social media, Twitter and Face book to communicate key information more broadly and have recently established a monthly What About The Children? Blog. You can sign up to receive our E news, conference information and Blog from the Contact form on our website.

For more information about our work please go to <http://www.whataboutthechildren.org.uk>, email us at [enquiries@whataboutthechildren.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@whataboutthechildren.org.uk) or telephone us on 0845 602 7145 (voice mail) please leave a message and we will get back to you.

If you would like to make a donation please use the Just Giving button on our website or send a cheque to What About The Children? Feldon House, Chapel Lane, Newbold on Stour CV37 8TY.

**What About The Children? celebrates 25 years of speaking out about the importance of the emotional wellbeing of under threes in 2018.**