

Application form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Mobile number _____

Email _____

Date _____

Contact Details

If you are interested in becoming a Host Carer and providing short breaks please contact:

Home Link Coordinator / Social Worker
Children's Services Centre
St. Mary's Road
Dunmanway
Co. Cork

Tel: (023) 8855505 or 086 0278982

Email: homelink@coaction.ie



CoAction

www.coaction.ie

Home Link



**A Home Based Respite Scheme For
Adults & Children With Intellectual
Disabilities and Autism**

Information For
Host Carers

Who are We?

CoAction West Cork provides quality services to support children and adults with an intellectual disability, and children with autism. This is achieved by helping each service user reach their full potential, working in partnership with their families and carers within the community.

What is Home Link?

Home Link is a home based respite scheme which will match CoAction clients with local host families or individuals who can provide them with short breaks on a regular basis. Breaks can be anything from a few hours during the day to a few days a month and could include overnight stays, weekends, short breaks or holidays.



What are the Benefits of Home Link?

- Home Link provides a break to our clients' families, giving them a chance to recharge their batteries.
- CoAction clients can form new friendships outside the home.
- Short breaks help develop independence, build social skills and broaden horizons and experiences.
- For host families there is a real opportunity to learn more about people with intellectual disabilities/autism, form new friendships and experience the joy of spending time with them.

Who Can provide Home Link?

People from all walks of life and experience are welcome to apply to become Home Link host families. Previous experience of caring for a person with an intellectual disability/autism is not necessary, as full training and ongoing support will be provided. Personal qualities and a genuine desire to share in the care of a child or adult with an intellectual disability/autism are much more important than formal qualifications and experience.

However, it is vital that:

- You enjoy the company of adults and children.
- You work with all the people in the adult or child's life.
- You have room in your home for an extra person.
- You do not have a criminal record.

What Support do I receive?

- Every Home Link carer has a social worker to support them.
- Support is available from other professionals who may already be involved with the client and their family.
- An expenses allowance is paid to home link carers.
- You will receive training on the extra tasks involved in caring for an adult or child with an intellectual disability/autism.

I am interested, what happens next?

Following your enquiry, a social worker will visit to give you more information. Your social worker will prepare a confidential report, which is presented to the Home Link co-ordinator for approval. Garda clearance, medical and reference checks will be undertaken.