

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do I have to live in?** Yes. The basis of our program is consistency and Mooseheart feels that having 24 hour live-in staff provides the stability so many of these children have been lacking. We want the Family Teacher position to be more than a job to you, we want you to become part of our family as well.
2. **Do I get a choice to which kids I work with?** In general, you will let us know (a form in the application packet) which age groups you prefer to work with. We also look at your experience and our needs. We take all factors, including gender, into consideration and try to match you where you will be strong
3. **Are there advancement opportunities?** Absolutely! The Family Teacher is our entry level position. If you have a Bachelors Degree or higher and 2 years residential experience, you can advance to many different positions on campus. We prefer to promote from within...many of our Administrative, Supervisory and Counseling positions are currently filled by former Family Teachers...even our Executive Director!
4. **What about married couples with children?** Due to housing accommodations, we are limited in this area. Normally, accommodating a couple with one child is not a problem, depending on our openings, the age group the couple wishes to work with, and the age/gender of the natural child. Sometimes we can accommodate a married couple with two children depending, again, on the age and gender of the children. We prefer that couples that are interested have children over the age of (1) one, and no more than two natural children that would be residing with them.
5. **We are not married, can we still be Family Teachers?** You must be a legally married couple (as defined by the state of IL) to be a Family Teaching Couple. However, if you are not married, you may be hired as singles, to live and work in different homes. Once you do get married, you may then become a Family Teaching Couple, working and living in one home together.
6. **I am married and I want to come, but my spouse does not want to be a Family Teacher. Can I still become a Family Teacher?** We hire couples as couples, and singles as singles. We do not hire a married person to live and work as a single, without their spouse. In addition, we cannot provide housing for a couple, and have only one employed as a Family Teacher. Both persons that are married must be hired as full time Family Teachers.
7. **I (we) have a child in college, can they come spend their summers and breaks with us?** It depends. This situation is looked at on a case by case basis. A few things factor in: 1) is there housing on campus or in your home, 2) is your home gender appropriate for extended visits, 3) Fingerprinting, a background check, and testing may be required for your adult child. This question should be asked at the time of a phone or on campus interview for more specific answers.
8. **Does our child (children) attend Mooseheart school?** Natural children of Family Teachers that are of school age will attend public (or private) school within the Batavia, Illinois school district. A bus does come to campus to take kids to and from school. Mooseheart employees can submit an application to the Superintendent of Mooseheart School requesting that their child be admitted as a student.
9. **During training, do we have to find daycare or does Mooseheart provide that?** Daycare is required during training, and is not the responsibility of Mooseheart. The Recruiter or Human Resources department can help by providing you with names and numbers of local daycare facilities. Also, keep in mind that once you are hired and employed by Mooseheart as a Family Teacher, if a workshop, seminar or training requires you to attend without natural children, you must find daycare for that event.
10. **Do you pay for relocation?** No. Relocation is at your expense.
11. **Do you provide transportation for the interview?** No. Travel arrangements and expenses are your responsibility, however...if you arrive by plane, train or bus, we will reimburse you for the cost a compact or midsize rental car. In addition, a hotel room is provided at our expense, the night prior to, and possibly the night of, your interview.
12. **Do I have time off during the day when the kids are in school?** No. During the time the kids are in school is your "down time", but you are still on duty. This time may be used for things like errands (on and off campus), paperwork, training workshops, meetings, staffings, Dr.'s appointments, etc. If a child is having difficulty in school, you could be called to help or if a child is sick...they stay home with you. You may also have time to run personal errands, go out for lunch, workout, take a nap, etc. **THE MORE ORGANIZED YOU ARE, THE MORE DOWN TIME YOU MAY HAVE. But...the time the kids are in school, again, is not time off.**

Packet information/frequently asked questions

- 13. I would like to continue my education. Can I take classes while working as a Family Teacher?** This is dealt with on a case by case basis. As a general rule, you would not be able to start taking classes before you pass your first major evaluation. This is due to the nature and intensity of the work as a full time Family Teacher. After you do meet criteria and pass your major evaluation, you may discuss this option with your direct supervisor. Again, it is all done on a case by case basis....every home and Family Teacher is different, but we do encourage people to continue their education.
- 14. What about time off?** Family Teachers get 2 days a week off (with one additional day off per month); but these days may vary from week to week depending on the needs of your home. On these days you are free to come and go as you please...this becomes your home, as it is the children's home. During the other 5 days a week, you are on duty 24 hours a day, including school time, weekends and overnight. Also, during your days off you DO NOT have to find alternative housing...again, this becomes your home! Vacation days are earned and everyone has up to 6 Personal days per year. *Please ask Human Resources how holidays are handled.*
- 15. Are you affiliated with a church or religious organization?** No, we are not funded, affiliated or owned/operated by any church. However, we do provide religious education, guidance, youth groups, Sunday school and Sunday church services. All religious aspects on campus are done under the Protestant Faith and the Catholic Faith. Children are required to attend church on Sundays, and Family Teachers who are **ON DUTY** on Sundays will be required to attend services with the youth they are working with. Family Teachers may have to attend a service that is not their preference...depending on coverage in the home. If the Family Teacher is off duty on Sundays, they are not required to attend services at Mooseheart.
- 16. Can I discuss my personal religious beliefs with the children?** Yes. It is acceptable for you to discuss your personal beliefs with the children, answer questions they have, set up bible study and/or pray with them. You cannot, however, push or force your beliefs, nor consequence a child for not wanting to participate. Discussions and activities must stay within the guidelines of the Model and not violate Youth Rights.
- 17. Do I have to have a Teaching Certificate or Education background to be a Family Teacher?** No. The title of Family Teacher can be confusing, but it is based on the Teaching Family Model, which is a behavior modification approach to raising children. We do, however, provide certification within our model on a yearly basis. (described in the Career Ladder information packet)
- 18. Do I have to sign a contract?** No. However, we do prefer that people make a personal commitment to a minimum of two years before accepting the position. This is not just a job, it is a lifestyle. Our children are here on average 4 years or more, we want our staff to be committed to two years or longer, as it is very difficult on the children to have people come into their lives for a short period of time and leave. The first 6 months is very difficult and trying, after all, you live where you work and the program is intense. However, the general consensus is that once you get over the 6 month hump, it gets easier and more comfortable everyday.
- 19. Do you allow pets?** No. There are no exceptions to this policy and this policy includes cats, dogs, and small caged animals.
- 20. Can my family come stay with me when they visit?** Not in the home you reside in. Due to all of the background checks and testing we do on staff, we cannot justify having a relative spend the night in the home without these things as well. We do have a lake cabin on campus that can be used at no cost for family members and friends of the same gender. You must spend the night in the cabin with them and be with them at all times while they are on campus.