JOIN OUR TEAM

The Recharge Club™

Application Information Pack

Everything You Need to Know About Working With Us

SEND Play Worker — Employed, Bank, Volunteer & Student Placements

Role:	SEND Play Worker (Weekend)
Employer:	NutriDive Ltd, trading as The Recharge Club™
Location:	Preston, Lancashire
Sessions:	Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 am–10:00 pm (staff on shift from 9:30 am)
Ways to join:	Employed, bank, volunteer, or student on placement
Pay (paid roles):	£14.00 per hour
Contact:	joinus@therechargeclub.co.uk
Version:	1st July 2026

Thank you for thinking about joining The Recharge Club™. This pack tells you honestly and clearly what we do, what the role involves, and what you can expect from us — so that you can decide, with your eyes open, whether it is right for you. Please read it before you apply.

1. A Warm Welcome

Thank you for your interest in The Recharge Club™. We are a specialist weekend respite club for children and young people aged 8 to 15 with special educational needs and disabilities, and the people who work here are the whole reason it works.

I started The Recharge Club™ because I know, as a parent and as a professional, how hard weekends can be for families raising a child with additional needs, and how little there is out there for them. Our job is to give those children and young people a warm, safe and genuinely fun day, and to give their families a proper day to themselves. If that sounds like work you would find meaningful, I would love to hear from you.

Mrs Michaela Cmorej BSc(Hons) ANutr
Director and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Michal Cmorej
Deputy Director and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

2. About The Recharge Club™

We support children and young people aged 8 to 15 with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities — not autism alone, but the full range of needs a young person may have. Everyone attends together in one mixed-age group, with support tailored to each individual.

Our sessions run every Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Children spend their day in a calm, sensory-informed environment with a team that gets to know them well, alongside our resident therapy dog, Mia. We follow the Playwork Principles: play is offered and invited, never forced, and our role is to support and enrich each young person's play rather than to direct it. Everything we do is built on warmth, patience and a genuine belief in inclusion.

3. The Role: SEND Play Worker

As a SEND Play Worker, you are the heart of the day. In a typical session, you would:

- Welcome children warmly and help them feel safe, settled and valued.
- Offer and facilitate play and activities — cooking, arts, music, games, movement, outdoor time and life skills — at a level that suits each child.
- Follow each young person's Individual Support Plan, adapting to their interests, communication and support needs.
- Support communication in whatever form a young person uses, whether spoken, written, or through Makaton, symbols or a communication aid.
- Use a Positive Behaviour Support approach: stay calm, read the signs, and help young people to regulate.
- Support personal care and mealtimes sensitively and respectfully, and help keep the space safe and welcoming.
- Work closely with the team, share information appropriately, and help Mia do her gentle work.

4. A Day With Us

Every day is different, but here is the shape of a typical session, so you know what to expect:

9:30 am	On shift: team briefing and reviewing each young person's plan before they arrive.
10:00 am	Arrivals: a warm, consistent welcome and time to settle in.
11:30 am	Morning programme: individual and group activities led by interests.
1:00 pm	Lunch: a relaxed, social mealtime, all dietary needs met.
2:00 pm	Afternoon: choice-led activities, outdoor time and movement.
5:00 pm	Check-in: a quieter, calmer transition with regulation support.
6:00 pm	Dinner, then a wind-down evening chosen by the young people.
7:00 pm	Preparing for collection, and warm handovers to families.
10:00 pm	End of the day.

5. What We Are Looking For

You do not need every qualification to apply. We welcome people who are working towards, or willing to work towards, the right training — what matters most is who you are. This role could suit you if you have some of the following:

- Genuine warmth, patience and a calm nature.
- Some experience with children or young people — paid, voluntary, on placement, or as a parent or carer (lived experience is valued).
- An openness to a play-based, child-led way of working.
- Reliability and availability on Saturdays and/or Sundays.
- A good team player who is non-judgemental and committed to inclusion.
- Ideally, a Level Three qualification in Playwork, Childcare or a similar area — or a willingness to work towards one.

6. Being Open With You

We would rather you applied knowing exactly what the role asks, so here is the honest picture:

- Weekend working. Our sessions are on Saturdays and Sundays — that is when families most need us, and it is when you would work. If you are looking for a Monday-to-Friday role, this is not it, and that is completely fine.
- Long, active days. Sessions run for 12 hours, and you would be on shift starting at 9:30 am. These are full days, on your feet, giving a lot of yourself.
- Personal and intimate care. Some of the young people we support need help with personal care, including intimate care, given sensitively and in an age-appropriate way. This is a genuine and valued part of the role.
- Supporting behaviour. Some young people communicate distress through their behaviour, which can be challenging at times. We use a Positive Behaviour Support approach and never leave you to manage this alone, but it asks for patience and a steady, calm manner.
- Demanding and rewarding. This is real work with real families, and it can be tiring, both physically and emotionally. In our experience, it is also some of the most meaningful work there is.

- An enhanced background check. Because you would be working with children, everyone we take on has an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, including the children's barred list. This is a standard and expected part of joining us.

7. Training, Support and Development

You will never be thrown in at the deep end. Everyone completes a full induction, including a briefing on every child, before working with children. We provide the training the role needs — such as safeguarding, paediatric first aid, food hygiene, autism and SEND awareness, and Positive Behaviour Support — and we support people to work towards relevant qualifications. You will have a supportive team around you and regular supervision.

8. Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment

The Recharge Club™ is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and we expect everyone who works or volunteers with us to share that commitment. Every appointment follows our Safer Recruitment Policy and is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check including the children's barred list, satisfactory references, and verification of identity, right to work and qualifications. We ask about this openly from the start because keeping children safe comes first.

9. How to Apply and What Happens Next

Applying is straightforward, and we read every application with care:

- Complete our Online Application Form — a quick application form for joining us.
- If shortlisted, you will be invited to a friendly, values-based interview that includes some safeguarding scenarios.
- If we would like to offer you a place, the offer is conditional on the successful checks, and you will complete our Full Application Form – one form covers everything. We will guide you through each one.
- Once your checks are complete, you will complete induction before your first session.

To apply, complete our online application form on www.therechargeclub.co.uk/join-us or ask anything at all; please contact us at joinus@therechargeclub.co.uk . We are always happy to have a chat first.

10. Ways to Join Us

There are four ways to join the team. Whichever route you choose, you are fully vetted, inducted and briefed on every child before your first session, and volunteers and students always work under supervision and are never counted in the minimum staffing ratio. Here is what each route involves.

Employed Play Worker (regular)

A contracted, paid role working regular weekend sessions. This suits you if you want a dependable weekend commitment and a place at the heart of the team.

Commitment	Regular Saturdays and/or Sundays, on shift from 9:30 am, sessions 10:00 am–10:00 pm.
Pay	£14.00 per hour, paid through our payroll, with the usual employment rights and holiday entitlement.
Best for	People wanting a steady, ongoing weekend role.

Also good to know	A written contract sets out your full terms; a probationary period applies.

Bank / Relief Play Worker

Paid, as-and-when work covering sessions when we need extra hands. This suits you if you want flexibility rather than fixed weekends.

Commitment	Flexible — you are offered sessions and can accept the ones that suit you; there are no guaranteed hours.
Pay	£14.00 per hour for the sessions you work, paid through our payroll.
Best for	People who want to fit work around other commitments.
Also good to know	You are vetted, inducted and briefed exactly as regular staff are.

Volunteer

Giving your time on a voluntary basis. This suits you if you would like to make a difference, gain experience, or give something back to your community.

Commitment	Agreed with you, around your availability.
Pay	Voluntary and unpaid; we reimburse reasonable, agreed out-of-pocket expenses.
Best for	People exploring this kind of work, or wanting to contribute locally.
Also good to know	You always work under supervision, are never counted in the ratio, and sign a simple volunteer agreement.

Student on Placement

A supervised placement as part of a college or university course. This suits you if you need practical experience in a specialist SEND setting.

Commitment	The days and hours your course requires, agreed with us and your tutor.
Pay	Unpaid placement; reasonable, agreed expenses may be reimbursed.
Best for	Students on relevant courses needing a placement.
Also good to know	You work under supervision, are never counted in the ratio, and we liaise with your tutor. A placement agreement is signed by you, your provider and us.

However you join us, you will be made welcome, well supported, and part of something that genuinely matters to the children and families we serve. We look forward to hearing from you.