

# Chelmsford & District Nearly New Sale FAQ for Volunteer Helpers



We currently hold Spring and Autumn Nearly New Sales in Chelmsford. The sales are a great way for parents to either buy baby and child related items, or sell them with a percentage of the sold price going to the NCT charity.

**Q: Do I have to be a member to help out or be a seller at the sale?**

**A:** No, everyone is more than welcome to come and help at the sale. In the event of the sale being oversubscribed, then priority will be given to NCT Members and those who have offered to volunteer.

**Q: Can I still shop at the sale if I am volunteering?**

**A:** Yes, you are more than welcome to shop whilst being a volunteer. This gives you the opportunity to shop before the general public. You can select goods whilst you are sorting them for the sale, but there will be time given once the rooms are ready for more “serious” shopping.

*NB: Whilst we appreciate helping does provide an excellent opportunity to buy goods before the sale opens, we do feel that there should be an even balance between shopping and helping. Should we feel that perhaps helpers are there purely for the early shopping and not helping prepare for the sale, we will have no alternative but to refuse their help at future sales. We do regret having to take this course of action as 99% of helpers do work extremely hard, it is thankfully the minority that don't.*

**Q: What jobs are volunteers asked to do?**

**A:** The list of jobs and times we have available are as follows:

**Friday Evening - 7pm – 9pm**

Jobs will include setting up the tables/clothes rails etc. (lifting and bending involved so not suitable for those with a bad back or pregnant)

**Saturday Morning - 9am-11am – PLEASE NOTE THIS TIME IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO THOSE HELPING ON FRIDAY EVENING.**

To help with the sorting of clothes/equipment and toys. You will also have the opportunity to shop and purchase goods before the start of the sale. Please indicate if you would prefer to be in the clothes hall or equipment/toy hall.

**Saturday All day – 8.30am – 5.30pm**

Jobs include sorting clothes/equipment, sorting for collection or sorting labels and clearing up afterwards. You will also have the opportunity to shop.

**Saturday Afternoon – 3.30pm – 6.00pm**

Jobs include sorting the unsold clothes/equipment, returning unsold items to the sellers and clearing up afterwards.

**Q: Can my husband/partner help?**

**A:** Yes they are more than welcome. We do need men to help where possible on the Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, around 3pm, for helping to unload and load our van with the tables/clothes rails etc, which can be extremely heavy.

**Q: Can my children come with me when I am helping?**

**A:** Unfortunately, it is not possible to bring your children with you, if you are helping at the sale. It is extremely busy with people dropping off their sale items, boxes being carried from one area to another and people generally moving between the halls and tables. Therefore, for Health and Safety reasons, we ask that you do not bring your children with you.

**Q: Are there refreshments if I am there for a long time?**

**A:** The Café opens in the morning, serving hot drinks, muffins, pastries and cakes. If you are helping all day, please bring a packed lunch with you and there will be time to sit down and have a restful lunch!

**Q: How do I volunteer to help?**

**A:** If you would like to help at the sale please contact [nnsHelpers.chelmsford@nct.org.uk](mailto:nnsHelpers.chelmsford@nct.org.uk). Please put "Volunteer" in the subject title of your email. We will then send you full details of what is involved and the link to be able to register on-line.