

Peer Researcher Job Description

Job title:	Peer Researcher
Number of roles available	8
Service:	Research, Impact and Evaluation team
Contract Type	Casual worker
Reporting to:	Research Manager
Salary range:	£20 per hour/£140 a day (plus travel expenses)
Start Date	10th June 2026
Work pattern	Flexible (approximately 21 days in total, spread out flexibly across June, July, August, September and October 2026)
Location:	Flexible/at-home (plus occasional attendance at in-person training and events).
Application Deadline	Please apply by 31 May 2026 . We will look at applications as they arrive and may fill the roles earlier, so we encourage early applications.

Context: About Coram and the team

Coram is the UK's first and longest continuing children's charity. Established in 1739 as The Foundling Hospital, today we are a group of specialist organisations, working with over one million children, young people, families and professionals each year to support vulnerable children and young people from infancy to independence, creating positive change that lasts a lifetime.

Purpose of the role:

Coram is working on a new research project called "**Parenting in the Digital Age**". This project aims to:

- learn more about how parents of babies and young children use digital devices (e.g. smartphones, tablets, wearable devices) as part of their everyday life as parents;
- understand what shapes parents' device use and how they feel about balancing digital life with caring for young children;
- test small, realistic changes that could help reduce digital interruptions.

The project is being funded by the [Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood](#).

Main duties and responsibilities:

As a peer researcher on the project, you will help us understand how parents of young children use digital devices. Your main responsibilities will include:

1. Attend 3 days of training in June 2026

You must attend **online training sessions** on:

- Wednesday 10th June (online, 10am-2pm)
- Thursday 11th June (online, 10am-2pm)

You must also attend **ONE of the following additional days training**, depending on your location:

- Central London – Monday 15 June (in-person, 9.30am-4pm)
- Blackburn with Darwen – Wednesday 17 June (in-person, 9.30am-4pm)
- For Peer Researchers in other locations – Tuesday 23 June (online/in-person TBC, 9.30am-4pm)

During the training, we will teach you everything you need to know to feel confident in your role.

2. Join a minimum of 6 workshops and regular check-ins with the research team

You will take part in a minimum of 6 workshops with other peer researchers and the Coram team. In these workshops, we will plan the project together and make decisions about the research and findings.

- Most workshops will be online
- A small number may be in-person in either London, Blackburn with Darwen, or another location.

You will also take part in a **weekly 30-minute online catch-up** with the Coram research team.

3. Carry out research with 3–4 parents in your local area

You will work with 3 or 4 parents of children under 5 whom you already know through your own networks (for example, friends or acquaintances but not close family).

The Coram team and peer researchers will work together to decide exactly what activities will be carried out with families. We expect the tasks may include:

- Inviting parents to take part in the research
- Interviewing each parent in person for about 60-90 minutes about their digital device use
- Doing a 2-3 hour in-person observation with each parent, focusing on how they use their devices during everyday life

Optional responsibilities

These are extra tasks that you can do, but you don't have to:

- Helping to share what we learn (e.g. writing a short blog or a section of the final report)
- Being featured in short videos or social media posts about the project
- Presenting the final findings to policy makers and other organisations in March 2027

Person Specification

Essential Requirements

- You are currently the parent or the primary caregiver for a child that is 6 years or under (*This lived experience is the most important part of the role*).

- You are interested in finding solutions to support parents to feel more confident in managing their digital-device use and to stay connected with their children
- You can attend the training dates (see above)
- You can commit to 21 days (147 hours) of work between June and October 2026. You can work these hours flexibly at times that suit you, although some tasks will need to be completed each month.
- You can speak and write in English.
- You can travel within your local area to meet with parents for interviews and observations.
- You have access to a computer and the internet (this is for the online workshops, keeping in touch with the team and uploading research documents).
- You are well organised and able to manage your time.
- You are comfortable talking to people and helping them feel relaxed during conversations.
- You understand the importance of keeping personal information confidential and not sharing with others.

Desirable (but not essential)

It would be great if you also:

- Are interested in learning more about research and how studies are carried out.
- Enjoy working as part of a team and sharing ideas with others.
- Feel comfortable trying new things and giving honest feedback about what works and what doesn't.

Benefits

Peer researchers will:

- be paid at £20 per hour for all hours spent in work and training for the project;
- receive training on how to conduct social research, delivered by experienced Coram researchers;
- be matched to a Coram researcher working on the project for ongoing support;
- be refunded for any travel undertaken as part of the role;
- be provided with a certificate of completion of the project;
- be provided with a reference for future job applications upon request.

How to Apply

Please email your application to Katharine.Stockland@coram.org.uk by 31 May 2026. We will look at applications as they arrive and may fill the roles earlier, so we encourage early applications.

What to include in your application

Please include:

- Your name, phone number, and email address
- A short description of yourself
- Your answers to the questions below (brief answers are fine!)
- A CV, if you would like— but this is optional, you do not need one to apply.

Application questions

1. Why are you interested in this role?
2. Why do you think you would be a good fit for this role? *(Have a look at the 'Essential Requirements' above and tell us how you meet each one. You can keep your answers short.)*
3. What do you hope to learn or take away from this project?
4. Would you be able to attend the following dates for training?

Both of the following online sessions:

- Wednesday 10th June (online, 10am-2pm)
- Thursday 11th June (online, 10am-2pm)

And ONE of the following additional days training, depending on your location:

- Central London: Monday 15 June (in-person, 9.30am-4pm)
- Blackburn with Darwen: Wednesday 17 June (in-person, 9.30am-4pm)
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5. An important part of this role is having lived experience as a parent or carer of a child that is 6 years or under. How old is your youngest child?
6. Are you over 18 years of age?
7. Have you read and understood our privacy policy (this can be found [here](#))

8. Where would be the most convenient place for you to attend in-person training?

What happens next

If you meet the requirements, we will invite you to a short phone call with the Coram research team. This call is a chance:

- for us to get to know you
- for you to share how you meet the job requirements
- for you to ask questions and learn more about the project

If you need any adjustments or support for the phone call (for example, extra time, a different format, or communication support), please let us know when arranging your interview.

What documents and checks will be required?

If you are offered the role, we will need to complete some standard onboarding checks. These are required for all staff and researchers working with Coram. They will include:

- **Right to Work in the UK.** You will need to provide documents that show you are legally allowed to work in the UK (for example, a passport, visa, or other approved ID).
- **DBS Check.** We will carry out a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check because the role involves contact with families. We will guide you through this process — you don't need to arrange it yourself.
- **Two references** We will ask for two referees who can confirm your suitability for the role. These can be from anyone who has known you for more than 5 years but who is not a close family member.

For more information

If you have any queries about the role, you contact Katharine Stockland directly at Katharine.Stockland@coram.org.uk.