Volunteering teaches kids the importance of giving back to their communities. It also helps them grow as people, build strong self-esteem, develop social and life skills, and show appreciation. Families can use these kid-friendly volunteer ideas to encourage their children to make a difference in their community and help them cultivate compassion, empathy, and a passion for helping others.

1. **Clean up the neighborhood.** Grab a trash bag and some rubber cloves and pick up trash and litter and items that can be recycled. Get other families involved to build connections and community pride.

2. **Get moving for a good cause.** Participate in events like 5K runs or fun runs that donate funds raised to a local charity that's near and dear to your child's heart.

3. **Collect items for a homeless shelter or food bank.** Find out their biggest needs, and design flyers to hang up at school and hand out to neighbors that explain how to donate to help neighbors in need.

4. **Don't forget the animals.** Organize a collection of pet supplies to support an animal rescue. Look into what types of items rescues need. Then ask family members, your school, neighbors, and friends to help out.

5. **Hold a lemonade stand.** Volunteerism and an entrepreneurial spirit come together when kids hold a lemonade stand in the summer—or sell baked goods and hot chocolate in the winter. Pick a charity and donate a portion of the proceeds to it.

6. **Decorate paper lunch bags or placemats.** Senior communities love donations of items like lunch bags or placemats. Encourage your child to get creative with designs as they learn how important it is to support our “grandfriends.”

7. **Give back to those who support the community.** Hand out cookies or water bottles to mail carriers, delivery people, and trash collectors to show appreciation. Deliver a meal or treats to the local firehouse or police station to thank them.

8. **Donate books to a little library.** Many communities have little libraries where people can borrow books to read. Have your child select some books they're willing to donate so another kid can enjoy them.

9. **Help a neighbor.** Older kids can help neighbors mow their lawns or weed in the spring and summer, rake leaves in the fall, and shovel snow in the winter. Giving back on a personal level helps them build relationships and see firsthand the impact they're having on their community.

10. **Go beyond volunteering.** Beyond traditional volunteer opportunities, consider taking your child on a field trip to expose them to important social issues. Keep the momentum going and set volunteer goals to keep kids excited about their next opportunity to make a difference. By trying out different types of volunteer ideas, they will learn what they're most passionate about.

Source: 50 Kid-Friendly Volunteering Ideas