SEND Local Offer Newsletter Summer 2025 - Issue 38

(https://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org)



Welcome to the 38th issue of the SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=dJ7_CUV9SRo) Local Offer newsletter. We have packed this edition with lots of information based on parent carers and young people feedback.

Introduction

With the summer holiday approaching we have some fantastic short breaks, activities and support services included in issue 38 of the SEND () Local Offer newsletter. We have taken on feedback from parent carers, on how much they enjoy reading the 'blogs' therefore we have included more in this edition covering topics raised by parent carers and young people.

The team have also been out and about, taking the SEND () Local Offer in to the community, attending the Special United (Me2) events, Reading Families Forum conference, attending school transition events etc. young people and families have really valued our attendance in sharing information about key support and services available in Reading. Taking the service to the heart of the community where it's most needed is vital. The team is planning more outreach work during 2025, so look out for us at community events.

Community engagement and collaboration is an important part of delivering the SEND Local Offer and we continue to work with parent carers through Reading Families Forum, Parenting Special Children, Autism Berkshire other local SEND organisations in Reading to develop and maintain high quality information for local families. Schools and childcare setting have also been busy updating their SEND Local Offer Information reports for 2025, this ensures families have access to robust SEND information about schools and settings, helping them to make informed choices.

The SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-10) Team at Brighter Futures for Children held an SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-10) Post 16 Transitions event on the 17th June 2025. You can view the presentation from the event here (https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/reading/enterprise/files/final_transition_guide_with_background_-_june_2025.pdf)

We would really welcome feedback on the newsletter, to help us improve the content, look and feel etc. please feel free to email us any suggestions localoffer@reading.gov.uk (mailto:localoffer@reading.gov.uk)

Maryam Makki, Family Information Service Manager (including the SEND Local Offer)

Reading's Local Offer provides children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their families, information about what support is available in the local area. It helps parents, carers and young people clearly see and access the range of services that they may need. Visit www.readingsendlocaloffer.org (http://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org) Email localoffer@reading.gov.uk (mailto:localoffer@reading.gov.uk) Call on 0118 9373777 (option 2), Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Latest News

Latest News



Carers Survey 2025

Do You help anyone with shopping personal care, making appointments, cooking, remembering when they need to take medication, understanding their correspondence or helping with lonliness?

You may be an upaid carer!

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Carers Survey 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/site.page?id=iIhAKfYgZKk)

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Berkshire Neurodiverse Conference, 27.06.2025



Friday's Nurodiverse Conference event for Berkshire – over 100 people attend, representing all our schools and early years settings, the breadth of our health economy, early help, adult services, our Directors of Children Services and Directors from the Integrated Care Boards and BHFT (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=SaGYp-Bzo9s) were all there.

Reading Directory | Berkshire Neurodiverse Conference, 27.06.2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=SaGYp-Bzo9s)

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Final phase of childcare expansion: get 30 hours childcare – apply now

From this September, 15 hours childcare for working families with children under 3 will expand to 30 hours, meaning eligible working families can now apply for 30 hours of childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months until they reach school age.

This expansion is designed to support your child's early education and help you better balance work and family life. It's the final phase of the childcare expansion, which could save families up to £7,500 per year. **Apply for your childcare code by 31 August to start using the support from September**

What you need to do:

- Check if you're eligible (https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/): Working parents in England may be entitled to up to 30 hours of childcare per week for children aged **9 months to school age**, during term time (38 weeks per year).
- Apply online via GOV.UK (https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working): If you're eligible, apply now for your childcare code – you'll need this to access your hours.
- **Apply by 31 August**: To start using your hours from **1 September**, make sure you apply **before the deadline**.
- **Speak to your childcare provider**: Check that they offer the hours and confirm their arrangements.
- **Keep your code up to date**: you'll need to **reconfirm your details every 3 months** via your GOV.UK account. You'll get a reminder when it's time.

Already using 15 hours childcare for working families? You don't need to reapply for a new code. Simply continue to reconfirm your details every 3 months on your GOV.UK account and your existing code will update automatically to enable you to take up 30 hours from September.

For a step-by-step guide on how to apply, watch the video below with Early Years Educator, Steff, explaining the process, Click on the following link - **How to get help with the cost of childcare: government-funded support in England (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0B7F3eMG0Y)**

Click here to apply for your childcare code (https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

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Early Years to Primary Transitions – Parent carer information

If your child is starting reception in September, you may feel excited, worried - or a bit of both! This is an important milestone and there is lots of support available.

If your child is already attending a nursery or childminding setting, they will work with you and your child to prepare for this transition. You can also contact your local Reading children's centre (https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/under-5/childrens-centres/) to access a wide range of services and support.

Every child develops at their own pace and new skills can take time to learn. BFfC () have just launched a new webpage and weekly socials to help you support your child with their journey to reception. We will share lots of activity and routine ideas for you to practise with your child at home.

Check out the new page here Journey to Reception - Brighter Futures For Children (https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/under-5/3-4-year-olds/journey-to-reception/)

Find out more about Starting Reception (https://startingreception.co.uk/).

If you feel your child needs additional support speak to their key person or childminder. Transition guidance for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) can be found here: Under 5s with (https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/under-5/under-5-with-send/)SEND () – transition to primary FAQs.

If you have any questions or need to reach out for advice email early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org (mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

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Autism Central

Peer education programme, commissioned by NHS () England. It aims to build knowledge and understanding of autism and empower families and carers to advocate for autistic people they support. Local support helps families to get the right understanding and adjustments in place across the services they use.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Autism Central for Parents and Carers (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Rwf9033dojs)

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SEND Local Offer Annual Report

SEND Local Offer Annual Report 2024/2025 & Parent carer survey

Family Information Service/SEND Local Offer publish an annual report for parent carers, providing information on how we have collaboratively worked with families and young people to improve information, advice and guidance on the SEND () Local Offer. The report provides insight in to the work carried out by the SEND Local Offer collectively, and the impact and outcomes it has achieved for local families who have a children or young person with SEND. We also run a survey alongside the report to capture feedback from parent carers and professionals supporting local families. The report and survey can be found on the following link - Reading Directory | Local Offer Feedback & Consultations (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=pTV5YgqMfbQ)

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Reading Local Area - Ordinarily Available Provision & Graduated Response

This guide is to help everyone better understand what is available in Reading for children and young people (CYP) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) who do not need an Education, Health and Care (ECH) plan but still need specialist support.

We call this support the Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) and it covers everything you can expect to be available for children and young people with SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=NboCPuxKWWs) in Reading schools and educational settings.

It includes a wide range of support and resources to help CYP with SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=NboCPuxKWWs) get the support they need to succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

With this guide, we aim to make the OAP statement more accessible and understandable, helping you – and us –support your child's education more effectively.

It will, hopefully, go a long way to answering the 'when, what, where, why, who and how' types of questions you may have about support for SEND that should be available.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Reading Local Area - Ordinarily Available Provision & Graduated Response (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=NboCPuxKWWs)

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Transition 16-25 - Preparing for Adulthood

New, Updated Guide can be viewed here Reading Directory | Preparing for Adulthood - An information guide for parents and carers (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=X-RnQSXIa6I&familychannel=3)

Reading Directory | Transition 16-25 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-10)

Preparing for Adulthood Policy 2024 Preparing to Transition from Children to Adult Social Care (https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/reading/enterprise/files/preparing_for_adulthood_policy-october_2024.pdf)

Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) Process - Preparing to Transition from Children to Adult Social Care (https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/reading/enterprise/files/pfa_process_final-october_2024.pdf)

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Berkshire Neurodiversity Strategy Proposal Simplified

Background

A recent review of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system in England showed that the national system needs a major overhaul. The review made several urgent recommendations to improve the system, with one key issue being the rising costs for SEND services. Many local councils are at risk of financial collapse in the next two years unless the national government steps in.

A major problem is the long wait for children to be assessed for neurodivergence (such as ADHD (), Autism, etc.). These delays are causing children to experience more stress, difficulties at home, and struggles at school. This often leads to children needing more expensive specialist services that don't necessarily improve their outcomes. The earlier we can recognize a child's neurodivergence, the better we can support them in school and at home.

In Berkshire, the healthcare system has relied on traditional medical assessments, where children often wait up to two years to be evaluated. After the assessment, families often find that there's little support to help them manage their child's needs.

The Proposed Solution

Local healthcare leaders and educators see the value in changing the system to focus on early, preventative support instead of waiting for formal diagnoses. The goal is to create a system where neurodivergence is recognized early, and children get the support they need without waiting for a diagnosis.

A model from Portsmouth has been successful in reducing the demand for medical diagnoses by 65%. This proposal suggests that the local leaders in Berkshire (including schools and healthcare providers) come together to introduce a similar preventative system. The idea is to use neurodivergent screening tools to identify children who may need support early, rather than waiting for a diagnosis.

National Context

A recent national report highlighted the increasing demand for neurodivergent assessments and the lack of adequate support for children. The report noted that certain groups, like economically disadvantaged children and children from minority ethnic backgrounds, are not getting the support they need. The report suggests that instead of focusing on diagnosis, support should be based on children's needs, and that screening tools should be used to identify children who may need help earlier.

Berkshire's proposal takes inspiration from the national report, with a focus on using proven screening tools to identify neurodivergent children and offer early support.

The Proposed Steps for Berkshire

Berkshire's current neurodivergent referral system has caused confusion and distress for families and schools. In response to complaints, there's now a push for a more consistent approach to identifying and supporting neurodivergent children early.

This proposal suggests creating a collaborative approach involving families, school leaders, social care providers, and other partners to implement neurodivergent screening across Berkshire. The process will involve:

1. Communication: Informing local families and schools about the proposed changes.
1. Planning: Setting up a steering group to oversee the changes and review screening tools that could work best for Berkshire.
1. Testing: Running workshops in each local area to test how the screening tools work and adjusting them to fit local needs.
1. Training: Providing training for educators and other professionals on how to use the screening tools.
1. Implementation: Rolling out the new approach across Berkshire, with close monitoring of how it's working and making adjustments as needed.

This project is expected to take 18-24 months to fully implement. It will focus on improving the identification and support of neurodivergent children, with a clear plan for how things will be done consistently across the region.

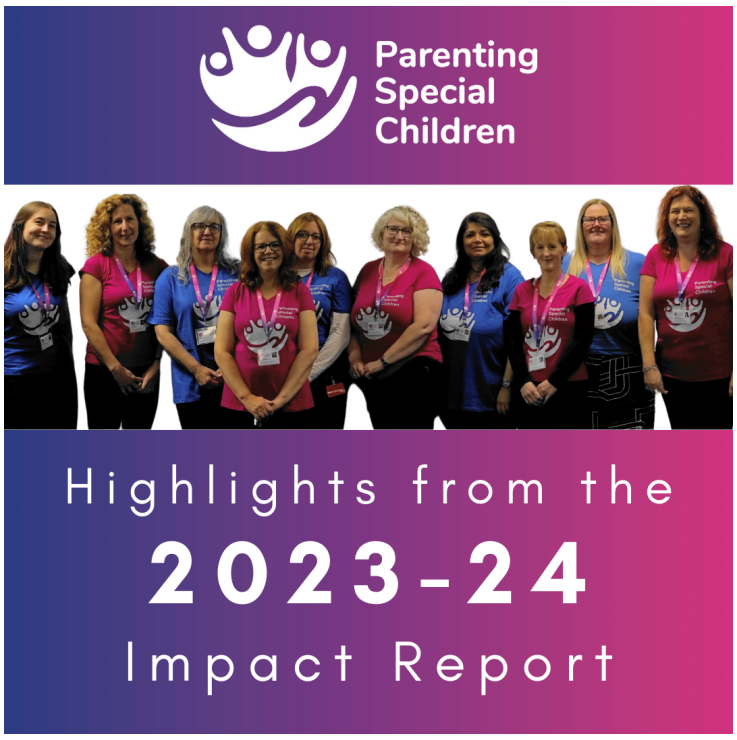
Conclusion

This proposal aims to improve the way Berkshire supports neurodivergent children by identifying their needs early and providing the right support. It involves collaboration between local authorities, schools, healthcare providers, and families. With the right tools and strategies, the hope is to create a more effective system that benefits all children, especially those with neurodivergent needs

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Parenting Special Children Impact Report 2023-2024

Message from Founder & CEO As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the profound impact Parenting Special Children has made in the lives of the families we support. This year, we have reached more families than ever before, providing essential guidance, care, and understanding to 2,135 parents and carers, 340 children and young people, and 435 professionals who work alongside them. Our support is not just a moment in time; families turn to us at different stages of their journey, often returning when new challenges arise. On average, through the years, families engage with our services at least twice, a testament to the lasting relationships we build. Use the following link to view the full report - https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Impact-report-1.pdf (https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Impact-report-1.pdf)



Blog - Lara Patel Executive Director Children's Services

Well I'm going to stop speculating in these posts what the government is going to do next for our children with SEND (), as my previous expectation of a Spring announcement has now been put back to the Autumn and who knows if/what we will receive then?!

As we draw to the end of another school year I know that will herald a wide range of feelings for many of you. For some a very welcome break and for others challenges in the loss of the routine that the school week provides. Personally, as a family we have just come through GCSE's, and I can relate to the anxieties they create and reflect that I have been lucky to have had key people in school who have worked hard to build confidence and manage those anxieties with my child - and for that I am very grateful.

In April we met as a partnership with Ofsted and CQC inspectors for our Area SEND () Engagement Meeting to talk through our self-assessment of services for children with SEND in Reading. We shared with inspectors our priorities moving forward including: moving towards a needs-led approach that aims to ensure children get the right support when they need it; working with both mainstream and specialist providers to increase the number of school placements and strengthening our work around preparation for adulthood. These are all areas of focus in our work to deliver our SEND Strategy.

I also made my long overdue visit to the Avenue School in April and it was definitely worth the wait. Symon (the head teacher) and his team gave me a warm welcome and their relational and individualised approach to caring and learning was clear to see. This was evidenced through the way in which different classes and spaces were adapted to small groups of children's needs, how staff interacted with children and talked passionately about their work at the school and through how the children welcomed me and Symon as we walked around the school. Most of all I was struck by the care and concern that the children showed for Symon who had sustained an injury to his hand - which showed the strength and mutually caring nature of the relationships they had developed.

Tomorrow we will be welcoming our children, parents carers forums, health and local authority colleagues from across the whole of Berkshire to our Berkshire Neuro Divergent Event in Reading. This is the launch of an exciting partnership initiative to identify and meet the needs of our neuro divergent children as early as possible. We are privileged to be joined by Inclusion Ambassadors and I look forward to sharing with you what they say and, most importantly, what do in response to what they tell us.

Whatever the summer brings for you I hope you find time to enjoy the sunshine and make memories, however big or small, and I look forward to catching up with you in the Autumn.

Take care

Lara

Blog – Andrea King, Strategic Transformation Lead for Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing & Families First Strategic Lead, Berkshire Neuro Diverse Preventative System Programme Lead



This last year in Reading has been spent listening often, and with care, to the lived experience of our children and our families with SEND ().

As I've sat and listened to many families and to many children who've taken time to explain how it feels to ask for help and support in Reading, one shared experience has stood out particularly – the time it is taking to understand neurodivergent strengths and needs. We have a very high volume of children in Berkshire West (Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire) waiting to see a clinician to understand their neuro divergent characteristics and that leads to long waiting times.

With NHS () colleagues, we have sat side by side with young people and caregivers, and also with all of our Headteachers and SENCOs in Reading. Our schools tell us clearly that until they can understand the neurodivergent characteristics of a child, it's really hard to know how to adapt their environments to support children better. Families tell us that to wait for a long time to see a clinician only to be told that you've been waiting in the room part of our system of help, is incredibly challenging.

And so, it's time we change.

In Berkshire, we have agreed to work together differently. Our six Berkshire Directors Children's Services; our Directors from Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West & Frimley Integrated Care Boards (ICBs); and our Directors from Berkshire Healthcare, have agreed to work together to change the system in Berkshire. This change will be co-designed with our families from the outset.

We want to introduce evidence-based practice 'screening'/'strengths and needs' tools that are well developed elsewhere in the country, which will enable many of our partnership workers (including schools and settings) to understand the neurodivergent characteristics of our children. These tools allow us to understand what adaptations we can make to support our children at home (as parents and carers); in schools, early years and further education settings; and in the community. These tools also help us identify whether the presenting needs of a child are related to neuro divergent characteristics, we recognise for example, that our children with complex trauma often present similarly and can end up in our neuro diagnostic pathways inappropriately. We must change this.
This approach still enables access to diagnosis for those children that need it, but it also moves our focus to responding to a child's need and strengths at the earliest opportunity, rather than focussing on diagnosis.

On the 27th June, families from our Reading Parent Carer Forum and the other parent/carers forums across Berkshire will sit side by side with Headteachers, SENCOs,

NHS leaders, early help, social care and many other colleagues, to look at evidence based national practice and to make a decision on which approach we prefer. And, crucially, how we might adapt this approach to be right for Berkshire and respond to what our children and our parents/carers have told us they need.

This is a big change, it will be complicated, at times we will disagree with each other – it will require patience and an unrelenting focus on improving outcomes for our children.

We know our children needed this yesterday – when with my colleague Miranda Walcott (our Designated Clinical Officer from the NHS) we sit and talk with older SEND () young people in Berkshire West, our young people tell us they wish they'd had this support years ago. Usually changes like this take about three years to implement, we're aiming to introduce this approach in half that time, in a year and a half, we recognise that this is ambitious.

If you are interested in getting more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Reading parent/carer https://www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk/

We'll come back to you in a future blog to let you know how we're getting on, but in the meantime, I leave you with the words of some of our children:

'Waiting (for ND diagnosis) felt like a dark hole'

'We need this (needs/strengths approach)'

'I needed this (needs/strengths approach) when I was younger. It would have really helped me'

Take care everyone, we'll keep in touch,

Andrea

Blog- RISE Summer Edition



As we approach the end of another academic year, we wanted to share some of the work we have been doing in RISE. Newcomers, new training offers, and new ways of working have all been underway! We are as ever, grateful to all schools, colleges, nurseries and other providers for their time and dedication to their children and young people and for continuing to work with us across an ever-changing landscape in SEND. A very happy summer break to you all!



Transition to Secondary – Eve Garrett, Specialist SCERTS/ Transition Offer

RISE, and the wider Brighter Futures for Children team, have been collaborating on producing a standardised approach across Reading for periods of transition.

Work is underway across Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Post 16 to review current processes supporting children as they move to the next stage in their

education and beyond. Within RISE, we have done some work on a pilot offer for children

moving from year 6 to year 7. Last year, we gathered your views and the views of some of the children, parents and other professionals, to ensure we are recognising where we can offer more support. This year, we have worked with a number of children who would benefit from additional support, all of whom had already been referred to RISE Regulation. Collaboration with primary schools to facilitate this has been vital and we are grateful for their input. A 10- week programme has been ongoing looking at secondary school readiness, tailored to individual needs and onward destinations for example looking at self-advocacy, understanding expectations, increasing autonomy and independence.

At the start of the next academic year, our intention is to visit the same children in their secondary settings to continue to offer support whilst they settle into their new environments. We will also be further developing the offer to roll out across Reading.

If you have any questions, comments or feedback on the current approach to transition in Reading, please do contact Eve at eve.garrett@brighterfuturesforchildren.org. (mailto:eve.garrett@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)



RISE Regulation - Nadia Newton, Consultant, SEND Curriculum Hannah Bryant, Inclusion Support Practitioner

We’re excited to share that the RISE Regulation team has grown! Please join us in welcoming two new Inclusion Support Practitioners, Helen and Hannah. They will be working closely with schools to help implement effective plans and strategies that support inclusive education:



“We have been settling into our new roles over the past few months, doing lots of training and observing different meetings. The main purpose of our role is to support schools in the implementation of strategies. This may involve working alongside 1:1’s or with a team around a child to develop confidence in the use of scripts, visuals and routines. We may do observations of the child and those who work with them to provide space for reflection and on occasion, we may provide

1:1 support for a short period of time togive the team around that childsome respite and time to build in capacity.

Blog – Victoria Andrews, Founder & Creator of Chance to Dance Stars



At Chance to Dance Stars, we believe in the power of dance to transform lives, build confidence, and bring joy to everyone, regardless of ability.

Founded in 2013 by Victoria Andrews, our dance school was born from the dream of creating a truly inclusive space for children, young people, and families in the disabled community - a place where budding dancers could shine, celebrate their individuality, and feel like stars.

We started out in 2012; I was a Nanny to a family whose son has Autism. He wanted to go to dance classes, so after researching the local community we headed off. After several trials we found that not all local dance schools were accessible. We came away feeling very deflated knowing another hurdle to access the same opportunities as everyone else was going to be difficult.

So, working closely with our local special needs schools they helped me to see if and where the demand was and WOW, we found so many families with budding dancers ready to have a dance school that was inclusive.

In 2013 we opened Chance to Dance in Reading with 2 classes running every fortnight. Over the years we became more known, and the demand was so overwhelming that we added more classes. In 2015 we found families were travelling from further afield to attend our classes, so we opened another Dance School in Bracknell, Martin's Heron.

In 2015, I ventured off to America, to work a special needs camp. 12 weeks later I came back and had to open my own. We have been running holiday camps ever since, 10 years this summer!!! We are a long way off offering an overnight camp like Camp America, but my dreams are still alive.

Welcome to 2025! We have got 12 dance classes between Reading, Coley and Bracknell we are catering for even more families. We have two Dance Movement Classes that cater for students who require extra physical support in order for them to get the maximum benefit from the class and a Dance Class for Adults. The other classes are split by many factors such as age, physical level, communication, ability to follow instructions and overall concentration. This also includes a Glee Class - singing and drama.

We were also successful in opening a performance group after performing at Lift Off for the 3rd year. Our performance group have represented Chance to Dance throughout Berkshire, showcasing how everyone deserves the opportunity to dance. We have even entered our first Dance SEND () Festival in Petersfield where all our group dances scored Distinction.

Since April 2022 we began working in partnership with Brighter Futures for Children offering Short Break Activity Days and holiday camps. We are now into our 4th year, and we are providing a service families now can't live without.

We also work alongside Bracknell Forest Council to provide 1:1 space throughout our current programmes and to offer HAF () SEN () Specific Camps.

In April 2025, we began our partnership with Wokingham Borough Council offering a sensory club respite session twice a month. This was after we were able to demonstrate the demand for our service from April 2024 to March 2025 with the help of Berkshire Community Foundation.

Chance to Dance Stars loves Dancing as we are about to perform our 13th Summer Showcase. Our annual Showcase has been held in small church halls right to Norden Farm Centre of the Arts. We invite family, friends and our local community to celebrate our achievements over the last year. Each class has spent the last year learning a routine or 2 that they wish to show, we get the audience to put their hands together and join us for a spectacular show with upbeat music, sparkly costumes and a very proud Teacher and Founder, Victoria Andrews. Dance Routines Choreographed by Victoria and the help of the students. With the success and enjoyment brought by the summer show, we are going into our 3rd Christmas Show, where we celebrate all things Christmas at South Street Centre of the Arts.

2024 was a really successful year for C2D, I won the Silver Pride of Bracknell Adult Award, and the volunteers won Pride of Reading Volunteer Award 2024. C2D wouldn't be the Community it is today if it wasn't for our amazing volunteers and now staff. They work tiredly to ensure we can keep offering our service to the disabled community and go over and beyond for every student we are lucky to meet and work with.

We would love to see you and your family at one of our classes soon! Please do support us in any way you can, this can be a donation, a table at our upcoming fundraiser, watching our shows, becoming a volunteer, becoming a patron, sharing our story with other families and business.

We have huge aspirations to have a building and a minibus to form partnerships with those who share our vision, this would allow us to share our expertise with the wider community, offering overnight respite and sharing our love and passion for the Arts. We believe EVERYONE deserves a standing ovation.

Thank you for hearing my story.



Blog –Millie Taff, Carers Lead, Transformation Team Directorate of Communities and Adult Social Care (DCASC)



As the new Carers Lead for Reading Borough Council, I am responsible for delivering our Joint All-age Carers Strategy and Action plan. The aim of my role is to ensure that the needs of unpaid carers in Reading are understood, supported, and prioritised as well as promoting the mental and physical wellbeing of carers within the community.

I was drawn to this position because of my personal experience as a carer. Having grown up alongside my two brothers, both with Autism, I witnessed the challenges (and successes!) of life with neurodiversity. Then, at the age of 17, I became a full-time carer for my Mum following a severe stroke. This life-changing experience has deeply influenced my understanding of the challenges that carers face, and it is my goal to use this insight to support others in similar situations.

In addition to my lived experience, my professional experience from my time working in the NHS () in a clinical role has given me firsthand exposure to both the cared-for individuals and carers themselves. I will use this insight to work with primary and secondary health care services to ensure support is given to carers wherever they access services.

One of my key objectives in this role is to raise awareness of carers' rights across the council, ensuring that carers' wellbeing is prioritised in all areas of service delivery. By promoting an understanding of the vital role carers play, I hope to foster a culture of respect and support that empowers carers to thrive. Ultimately, my goal is to implement the Carers Strategy and Action Plan in a way that leads to tangible improvements in the lives of carers in Reading, ensuring they receive the recognition, resources, and care they deserve.

Blog – Weronika Kowalczyk, Newest Member of Family Information service and SEND Local Offer Team.



Hello, everyone!

My name is Weronika, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the newest member of both the **Family Information Service** and the **SEND Local Offer Team**. It's an exciting new chapter for me, and I am eager to be part of such a passionate and dedicated group that works to support families in our community.

A little about me – I'm originally from Poland but have proudly called Reading my home for the past 20 years. It's here where I raised my two wonderful daughters, one of whom is neurodiverse. This experience has deeply shaped my understanding of the challenges many families face and has fuelled my passion for supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

In my previous roles, I worked as a **Teaching Assistant** with children with SEN () and EAL (English as Second Language), which gave me firsthand experience in the classroom, helping children succeed despite their challenges. I also worked as a **Programme Facilitator** at Probation, where I supported individuals in building stronger, more positive futures. Additionally, I served as the **Chair of my local Community Association**, which allowed me to stay deeply connected to the community and advocate for the needs of its members.

I've also been actively involved in my children's school life, serving on the **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**. Over the years, I helped organize and run a wide range of events, which gave me an even deeper appreciation for the role parents and communities play in shaping a positive and supportive environment for our children.

Outside of my professional life, I have a passion for music and have been singing in a **choir for the past eight years**. Being part of a choir has taught me the value of teamwork, discipline, and community, all of which I carry into my work today. It's a source of joy and connection for me, and I'm grateful to have this creative outlet.

In my new role with FIS () and the SEND () Local Offer Team, I'll be offering support, information, and advice to families about the services, resources, and opportunities available to them. Whether you're navigating educational pathways, seeking local support, or looking for guidance on SEND ()-related matters, I'm here to help make those connections.

I know that every family's journey is unique, and my aim is to offer a friendly, approachable service that listens to your needs and helps connect you to the right resources. I'm excited to work alongside families and professionals to ensure we are meeting the diverse needs of children and young people in our community.

If you have any questions, need support, or would simply like to connect, don't hesitate to reach out, we are always here to help.

Thank you for welcoming me into the team, and I'm looking forward to getting to know many of you in the near future!

Warm regards,
Weronika

Early Years - Under 5's information & activities

Early Years - Under 5's information & activities



BFfC Reading Children's Centres Activities

To access information on what is going on at our children's centre's & hubs around Reading please click on the link **Children's centres - Brighter Futures For Children (https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/under-5/childrens-centres/)**

Time for Twos

A six week course delivered in Reading Children's Centres, to help children aged two years with the first steps in getting ready for nursery.

A great opportunity for your child to meet other children and learn through play.

These sessions have a prompt start and require booking term time only.

Reading Directory | Time for Twos - Ranikhet (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ENkfHQNa9NE&familychannel=0)CC ()

Reading Directory | Time for Twos - Southcote CC (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=niwuxJakQGY&familychannel=0)

Reading Directory | Time for Twos - Whitley CC (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=RAj14jwBR-M&familychannel=0)

Reading Directory | Time for Twos - Sun Street CC (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Luye0ZJunTk&familychannel=0)

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Information from Brighter Futures for Children – Early Years Team

Brighter Futures for Children has just launched a new webpage and weekly socials to help parents and carers prepare their child for reception this year. Tips include practising skills together, establishing healthy routines and accessing local services, information, and support. The content builds on the 'starting reception' definition (https://startingreception.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Starting-Reception.pdf) recently developed by a coalition of early years organisations.

Click on the following link - Journey to Reception - (https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/under-5/3-4-year-olds/journey-to-reception/)BFfC ()

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Wizzybug - FREE Wizzybug powered mobility Loan Scheme for the under 5s

designability

About the Wizzybug Loan Scheme

We provide Wizzybugs free of charge to families in the UK. They are fully funded by donations which enables us to give them to young children to use until they outgrow it.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Wizzybug - FREE Wizzybug powered mobility Loan Scheme for the under 5s (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=rWOvwOuGvFs&familychannel=3-12-1)

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Are you looking for a Pre-School for your child aged 2-4 years?

Come and try a FREE trial session.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Are you looking for a Pre-School for your child aged 2-4 years? (https://ymcareading.org/parkside-preschool/)

(https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/site.page?id=b2IwpCsO4Og)

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Moo Music

Classes at Moo Music Reading are 40 mins of multi-sensory musical fun for 0-5yr olds. Music is an essential part of every child's development and the original Moo Music songs used at our sessions are positive, upbeat, fun and educational.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Moo Music Reading (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=MKDJqWhODnQ&familychannel=0)

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Ladybird Playgroup

Ladybirds is a playgroup for children under 5 with additional needs and their siblings.
Come and join us for activities, chat and support. No need to book

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Building for the Future - Ladybirds Playgroup at Our House (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=vK1_HuUtM_4&familychannel=3)

(https://www.bftf.org.uk/ladybirds)

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Friday Fledglings at The MERL (The Museum of English Rural Life)

An Inclusive Weekly Outdoor Session for Toddlers

Discover the benefits of outdoor learning and child-led play! Come and join in with activities inspired by the themes and collections of the museum, enjoy exploring nature, our mud kitchen, water play, sand-pit and more.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Friday Fledglings at The MERL (The Museum of English Rural Life) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=DiUVTcYd5fc&familychannel=0)

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Together: One Step at a Time - SEND () Play & Communication Sessions

Are you looking for a safe, inclusive space where your child can play, grow, and connect with others? Our SEND () sessions are specially designed for children with special educational needs and disabilities, providing a relaxed, low-number environment perfect for their unique needs.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Together: One Step at a Time - SEND Play & Communication Sessions (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ME7fShn0s_k&familychannel=3)

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Rose Garden Early Years Centre - Quieter Group



A quieter less overwhelming group. Children and parents with anxiety and SEND benefit from a small group. Free play, seasonal crafts, songs, pupper show ...

There is a lovely community around Rose Garden, enhancing lives and a unique support system.

Click on the following link - **Reading Directory | Rose Garden Early Years Centre - Quieter Grou**p (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=OSKPnbSuwFk&familychannel=0)

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Links to useful online resources

Speech and Language Therapy | Children Young People and Families Online Resource (berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk) (https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/children-and-young-peoples-integrated-therapies/speech-and-language-therapy/)

Health and Development | Children Young People and Families Online Resource (berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk) (https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/health-and-development/)

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Early Years SEND Settings and Resources

In Reading we have four specialist early years settings in Reading you may wish to consider for your child

- Snowflakes at New Bridge Nursery (A specialist resource base for children with ASD ())
- Dingley's Promise (A Specialist Nursery for children with additional needs)
- Orchard Resource Base at Blagdon Nursery School (a specialist resource base for children with speech, language and communication delays, learning needs, sensory needs and social communication needs)
- Butterfly Resource Base at Norcot Early Years Centre (a specialist resource base for children with speech, language and communication delays, learning needs, sensory needs and social communication needs).

Snowflakes at Newbridge Nursery School in Caversham offers 15-hour morning or afternoon term-time only places for children with autism or social communication needs and learning needs.

The specialist bases at Blagdon and Norcot offer 15 or 30 hour places term-time only for children who have speech, language and communication delays, social communication needs, sensory needs and additional learning needs. These bases are for children who require an individualised curriculum delivered in a low arousal and calming environment. There is a higher staffing ratio and access to high quality interventions as recommended by speech and language therapy and occupational therapy.

Dingley's Promise offer sessional places term-time only for children with complex, multiple and/or significant learning needs, physical and medical and social communication needs. It supports a dual placement for a child to attend a mainstream setting, assisting the setting as well as the family.

Snowflakes @ Newbridge (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ayLqe0LEJ20)

Dingley's Promise - Reading (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=JYyxN0_C82c&familychannel=0)

Norcot Years Centre (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=hkYUSIiy1Ko)

Blagdon Nursery School (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=2FaTKfMgD8g)

Please email early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org (mailto:early.years@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) to request the expression of interest forms for the specialist centre or mainstream bases or speak to professionals that are supporting your child.

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Healthy Start Scheme



Healthy Start helps you give your family the very best start in life

If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old you could get help through the Healthy Start Scheme to help buy healthy food and milk. You will also need to be in receipt of certain benefits for more details visit NHS Healthy Start - How to apply (https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/)

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Healthy Start Scheme (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=YOBne0X76QE&familychannel=0)

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Early Years Advisory Service

Supporting Early Years Settings in supporting children with SEND

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Early Years Advisory Service for SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Yi9x8mKB4q0&familychannel=3)

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Early Language Development Workshops

Our Early Years team are pleased to offer monthly online workshops covering early language development. They are designed for parents and carers and those working within early years settings. Please see link below for more information on the sessions and how to register.

Click on the following link - Early Language Development Workshops (https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/children-and-young-peoples-integrated-therapies/early-language-development-workshops/)

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Parent & Toddler Groups in Reading

Parent and toddler groups are informal sessions where parents, carers, childminders and their children can go to have fun and meet new people. Parents and carers stay with and are responsible for their children, throughout the session. Most groups meet once a week for between one and two hours and welcome children from birth to 3 or up to school age.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Listings in Parent &Toddler groups (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/results.page?familychannel=8-3)

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Reading Toy Library

The Toy Library is open again. Currently, the toy library is open for two hours on a Thursday morning, 10am to 12noon. Our toy library offers a fantastic selection of toys and games, catering for all ages, from babies to teens.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Reading Toy Library (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=5HnY79tez4o)

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Family Information Service - Dads Section

There is a dedicated page providing information and support for male carers - click here (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=PoDrbl6PSUI) to view the information

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Early Years Expanded Childcare Funding Information for Working Parents

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

This comes alongside the existing government childcare support, including **30 hours for 3- and 4-year-olds**, **Tax-Free**

Childcare and **Universal Credit Childcare**. Parents might be able to use more than one offer to help with their childcare costs.

Childcare is also expanding for primary-school children – from September 2024, parents in England are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, that runs from 8am until 6pm or later, also known as 'wraparound childcare'. If you are eligible for Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare, you can use the support to help pay for wraparound childcare.

Visit Childcare Choices to see what support you might be eligible for, now and in the future, so you can juggle work and life: Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK (https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/)



Targeted Two Year Old funding

Parents of two-year-olds may be eligible to apply for 15 hours per week term time (38 weeks) – that's 570 hours per year - free early education and childcare, if they are in receipt of certain benefits and a low income, or meet other criteria. visit our advice and guidance page for more details Reading Directory | Targeted 2-Year-Old Education & Childcare funding (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=24_JrgkoQLA)

Universal Three and Four Year Old Funding

All three and four-year-old children are eligible for 15 hours funded childcare a week term time (38 weeks).

For further information, please contact the Family Information Service on **0118 937 3777** (option 2) or email **fis@reading.gov.uk (mailto:fis@reading.gov.uk)** visit our advice and guidance page Reading Directory | 3 & 4 Year Old Universal 15 hours (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=e7FzsCULNcs)

What's On – Short breaks, holiday Clubs & Childcare

SEND Short Breaks Summer Holiday Sessions 2025



Chance to Dance

Chance to Dance

Short breaks are available for Reading children aged 5 years to 18 years old. We cater for children 5 years to 25 years at all our activities. (discounted short breaks not available for 19-25yrs) Chance to Dance Stars CIC will provide group activities for children & young people with disabilities to have new experiences with sport and dance, to have fun and to build upon social and physical needs.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks -Chance to Dance Stars CIC - Dance and Multi Activity Program (includes half terms & holidays) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=mqi7k57FEOc&familychannel=3)

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Reading Play

Reading PLAY

The Reading Educational Play and Support Team welcomes you to The Ranger Station as one of your SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-7) short break providers, we will be holding four sessions this half term. Ages 5 - 7 years, 8 - 12 years

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Reading Play - Summer Holidays 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=x5ae-yteea8&familychannel=3)

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Make Sense Theatre

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Make Sense Theatre - Summer Holidays 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=HVAi4WrFDIM&familychannel=3)

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Reading Football Club Community Trust

Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks -Summer Holidays- Reading FC (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=mVu5Lw87kZg&familychannel=3-7)SEND () Play Camp - 5 - 10 years - The camp is run by qualified coaches and support staff with experience in working with young people with disabilities. Over the course of the summer, we will work with the young people in multisport sessions, focusing on their engagement throughout the day whilst helping them develop fundamental skills in sport.

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Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Summer Holidays - Reading FC (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=pOQ-6gt36Ks&familychannel=3-7)SEND () Sports Camp - 8 -18 years. The camp is run by qualified coaches and support staff with experience in working with young people with disabilities. Over the course of the 3 days, we will work with the young people in multisport sessions, focusing on their engagement throughout the day whilst helping them develop fundamental skills in sport.

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Childcare & Holiday Clubs

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Childcare for Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities in Reading (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=P9_o6iTtDy8)

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Short Breaks Statement 2023-2024

Short Breaks Statement - easy read version for young people - 2023

Both of the above can be viewed on the Short Breaks page - click **here (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-7)**

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Link to the childcare area of the Reading Services Guide Reading Directory | Childcare (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/family.page?familychannel=1)

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Help us help you Disabled Children and Young People's Register

To help us understand your family's needs and plan for future services that may be required, we'd really appreciate it if you could fill in your details on the Disabled Children and Young People's Register. This is a secure database, managed by Reading Family Information Service, to capture information about all children and young people, aged 0-25 years old, with special educational needs and/or disabilities. All details provided are used anonymously to show the use of, and demand for services in Reading. By registering, you will have the opportunity to sign up for the free MAX card, which gives discounts on major attractions across the country, as well as locally. You will also have the option to create a care passport. This can be completed by the parent/carer, to provide information about the young person, which can then be used when attending short breaks, activities etc. Plus, by having your up-to-date details, we will be able to keep you informed of all the relevant information for your child and developments to our service. To find out more, contact the Family Information Service on 0118 937 3777 (opt 2) or email: localoffer@reading.gov.uk (mailto:localoffer@reading.gov.uk)

To register, complete an online form here (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/dcr.page)



What's on - Clubs, Groups & General Activities

Flyerz Hockey, SEND (), 5-18 years old

Click following link- Reading Directory | Flyerz Hockey, (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=GHo4fqRliLU)**SEND (), 5-18 years old**

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Thrive, Garden Explorers summer programme for children and young people with SEND, aged 11-17

The holiday will enable children and young people to undertake gardening activities to provide light exercise, help improve physical and mental wellbeing, have fun and explore natural environment.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Thrive, Garden Explorers summer programme for children and young people with SEND, aged 11-17 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=7lmHxHestbM)

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South Street , Youth Theatre

Click the followiung link - Reading Directory | South Street , Youth Theatre (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=l30iVQrZp6U)

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Dance Planet Studios - dance classes for all ages and levels

It all starts with one step.....

At Dance Planet Studio, we believe in more than just movement—we believe in the power of expression, connection, and confidence through dance. Located in the heart of Reading,, our studio offers a dynamic range of classes for all ages and skill levels, including ballroom, latin, ballet, and more.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Dance Planet Studios - dance classes for all ages and levels (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=qNYc5TfLZTQ&familychannel=0)

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SEND Soft Play



Better Leisure Centre's are offering SEND Soft Play across Reading!

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | SEND soft play sessions (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4NiQR9NEwac&familychannel=3)

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Inclusive Cycling, Palmer Park

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Inclusive Cycling, Palmer Park (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=X7_IEpPPpyU)

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Inclusive Gym Session - Palmer Park Stadium

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Inclusive Gym Session - Palmer Park Stadium (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=RrXKm8tQaDk)

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InteraKt Community!

Welcome to the InteraKt Community!

InteraKt is a local charity based in Newbury, West Berkshire. We support young people and adults with learning, physical and sensory challenges by providing a whole host of creative opportunities in dance, drama, arts & crafts, and life skills.

Our participants thrive in the safe, friendly and professional environment we provide, with regular access to creative classes enabling them to develop skills and maintain a strong sense of identity and purpose.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | InteraKt Community! (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=g7pxztglQtg&familychannel=3)

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Saturday Club

11am – 1pm Children with Physical disabilities/Downs Syndrome

3pm–5pm Children with ASD () and associated conditions

Put the dates in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Building for the Future - Saturday Club (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ABxeWQABsuk) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ABxeWQABsuk&familychannel=3)

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Reading Rockets

Junior Wheelchair Basketball Sessions for ages 11-17

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Reading Rockets - Wheelchair Basketball Club (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ZiX8r9qTafk&familychannel=3)

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Access Screenings at Reading Biscuit Factory

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Access Screenings at Reading Biscuit Factory (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=HG8TFroALGY&familychannel=3)

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The Thames Valley Adventure Playground

is planning to hold a variety show, called Stage of Stars, in April next year and is looking for performers with additional needs to take part.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | The Thames Valley Adventure Playground, Auditions now open! (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4N72unJvNRo)

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Camp Mohawk

Camp Mohawk is a day centre for children with special needs and their families, set in 5 acres of beautiful countryside, just outside Wargrave, Berkshire. Our facilities include adventure playgrounds, swings, sensory garden, play village, soft play and sensory rooms, art / craft room, music room, play lounge and, in the summer months, an outdoor, heated play pool. All this is set in approximately 5 acres of natural woodland.

Click on the following link - Wokingham Directory | Camp Mohawk: Day activity / play centre for children with special needs (https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=Hy0t4IR5bIo)

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The Hub - Weekly Social Drop in at Starting Point

Drop-in Social Club

U18's Weekly Social Drop-in

Play games, do some art, go on the Wii or just sit and chat.

A space to have some fun, spend time with others and chat to the Starting Point Team.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | The Hub - Weekly Social Drop in at Starting Point (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=NYWYG14ZAZU&familychannel=3)

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Swimming Lessons for Disabled Adults & Children

SEND Swimming With Better Leisure

At Better, we believe that swimming is for everyone, no matter what your support and access needs are.

That's why we offer a range of SEND (https://www.swimming.org/learntoswim/disability-and-swimming-lessons) and SEN () swimming lessons at many of our pools and leisure centres.

Click on the following link - Disabled Swimming Near Me For Adults and Children | Better UK (https://www.better.org.uk/what-we-offer/lessons-and-courses/swimming/disability)

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Foxhole Tavern - Dungeons and Dragons group

Foxhole Tavern is proud to support Fab4All.

Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) is a tabletop role-playing game where players create characters and embark on epic adventures guided by a Dungeon Master (DM). Through storytelling, dice rolls, and teamwork, players explore worlds, battle foes, and shape their own unique narratives.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Foxhole Tavern - Dungeons and Dragons group (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Ev_MnEqImts)

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Dimensions – Autism Friendly Cinema Screenings

Vue Cinemas

Click on the following link - https://dimensions-uk.org/dimensions-campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema/about/ (https://dimensions-uk.org/dimensions-campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema/about/)

Showcase Cinemas

Click on the following link - https://dimensions-uk.org/dimensions-campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema/showcase/ (https://dimensions-uk.org/dimensions-campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema/showcase/)

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Oxygen Active Play, Reading - SEN () Sessions

OXYGEN READING ACTIVITY PARK

It will be running regular SEN Peaceful Play sessions for children with additional needs, with trampolining and other fun activities available.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Oxygen Activeplay, Reading - SEN Sessions (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=OESYtpHbp1c&familychannel=3)

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SEND Soft Play - Loddon Valley Leisure Centre

A 3-storey soft play area for children up to 12 years old with additional needs, based at Loddon Valley Leisure Centre.

0118 931 2066 E: loddonvalley@pfpleisure.org

Further information can be found here Wokingham Directory | SEND Soft Play - Loddon Valley Leisure Centre (https://directory.wokingham.gov.uk/kb5/wokingham/directory/service.page?id=zPOncWfNcMU)

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Ugly Duckling Pottery Painting Coffee House

Being inclusive to all in our community is extremely important to us and is the reason that we began running our SEND sessions.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Ugly Duckling Pottery Painting Coffee House (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=a53ZPvoSvyA)

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Arborfield Green Leisure Centre SEND sessions, every Friday afternoon.

- Click the link for more details and to book online, or call the leisure centre on 0118 976 2288 SEND Sessions | Arborfield Green Leisure Centre (https://www.placesleisure.org/centres/arborfield-green-leisure-centre/news/send-sessions/)

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The Engine Shed

(https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=E0hgCZUGA4I)

New Venue!

A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

The clubs enable those with an interest in trains to come together with their peers to observe, play, talk and enjoy their hobby in a welcoming, safe and relaxing environment – and where parents and carers can have a chance to relax and talk in a supportive atmosphere.

For further details please click here Reading Directory | The Engine Shed (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=AYPZQaNBGj0&familychannel=3)

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Me2 Club

Me2 is our core service of matching children with volunteers at mainstream activity clubs. Once parents have an activity planned they can register with us by completing the form on our website https://me2club.org.uk/family-advice-and-support/ (https://me2club.org.uk/family-advice-and-support/).

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Me2 Club (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=E0hgCZUGA4I)

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Include Me2 - A Club for Young People with Additional Needs

NEW Opportunity for Young People with Additional Needs aged 10 - 25 years

Do you want to make a difference to Mental Health support in Wokingham & Reading?

Further information about Include Me2 Club can be found here Reading Directory | Include Me2 - New Club for Young People with Additional Needs (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ktICg0LrCSQ&familychannel=3)

To find out more or book, email ramona@me2club.org.uk (mailto:ramona@me2club.org.uk)

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Me2 TeenW&RD Short Break Club - for teenagers with additional needs

Me2 Club have launched a new club for teenagers with additional needs in Reading and Wokingham.

The club is for teenagers aged 13 – 19 with any additional need. A diagnosis is not required.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Me2 TeenW&RD Short Break Club - for teenagers with additional needs (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=5jssIPS92Z4&familychannel=3)

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Museums My Way

Reading Museum & Museum of English Rural Life (MERL)

Museums My Way - Themed sessions for neurodiverse visitors of all ages

Free sessions, developed with Autism Berkshire

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Reading Museum: 'Museums, My Way' collaboration with The MERL (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=K_3N3lb8R48)

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Grassrootz Youth Clubs

Grassrootz have drop in Youth Clubs in the Reading area:

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Grassrootz - Coley Park Youth Club (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=cpHbl2bQDJk&familychannel=0)

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Grassrootz - Girls Group @ Dee Space (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=zfB30XGlZdo&familychannel=0)

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Grassrootz - Friday Nights Under the Lights @ Prospect Park (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=XKbWXE29GJY&familychannel=0)

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Grassrootz Youth Club - Hexham Road Community Centre (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=dgK1s_jIzb0&familychannel=0)

Click on the following link - Follow their Instagram to find out more! (https://www.instagram.com/grassrootz.ltd/)

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The RAFT Club (Reading Autism Families Together)

Eligibility criteria: ASD children aged between 5 and 12 who are verbal, toilet-trained and do not need 1:1 level of care and would benefit from a play setting to encourage their social interaction and motor skills as well as support for parents/ carers

Further details can be found here Reading Directory | The RAFT Club (Reading Autism Families Together) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=1JfYEige0es&familychannel=3)

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Coral Reef Waterworld

in Bracknell runs regular Accessible for Everyone sessions tailored for disabled people of all ages and their families and carers.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Coral Reef Waterworld - New Accessible Sessions (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=9hvvB0pwlos&familychannel=3)

(https://everyoneactivecoralreefwaterworld.digitickets.co.uk/event-tickets/25503?catID=24809&)

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Ranger Station at Prospect Park in Reading

The Ranger Station is a destination for activities, entertainment and learning for families and children from across Reading and beyond – offering exciting new activities. Visit Ranger Station Prospect Park - Reading Play (https://www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/active-reading/ranger-station-at-prospect-park/) for more information

(https://berkshiremummies.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=27436b648a2436f10c1a13f88&id=006edf4bd6&e=beb7f6575b)

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Swings & Smiles

Support, friendship and play for children with special needs and their families. Swings & Smiles is a place to play for children with special needs and their families. It offers a unique environment where the whole family feels supported and where they can spend quality time together. Our services include play sessions, sibling support and outreach.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Swings & Smiles - For families who have children 0-19 with SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=0Esn1AztfYU)

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Fairytale Farm

A Sensory Wonderland

Fairytale Farm is the first family farm attraction where everything is designed around the needs of children with sensory, learning and physical disabilities, but which can be enjoyed by children without disabilities too. A truly inclusive experience.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Fairytale Farm (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=UlraFSL1hbc)

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What's going on this Summer Holidays 2025?



Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Building for the Future - Stay and Play (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=wOm0MMJaou8)SEND () Holiday Club

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Parallel Windsor, Festival of Inclusivity with Challenge Events for all ages, health conditions & abilities, Sunday 6th July 2025.

Parallel Windsor, which celebrates disability inclusion and wellbeing with lots of activities, entertainment and challenge events for people of all ages, health conditions and abilities, returns to Windsor Great Park for 2025 on Sunday, July 6.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Parallel Windsor, Festival of Inclusivity with Challenge Events for all ages, health conditions & abilities, Sunday 6th July 2025. (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=zb4g-uUQL8c)

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Coley Park Summer Fete

Join for a sun-filled day of family fun, food, and a thrilling fun run at the Coley Park Summer fete!!

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Coley Summer Fete, July 8th 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=0BCLyUOxRPA&familychannel=0)

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The Bounce, Indoor Inflatable Park in Reading, 24th July - 10th August 2025

SEN Session on 29th July @ 10:00am

Welcome to The Bounce Park Reading inflatable theme park. Spanning an impressive 4,762 square feet, our park features nine interconnected inflatables, creating a vast playground for endless family fun. With a wide range of activities, including a thrilling climbing wall, exciting obstacle course, exhilarating drop slide, and a dedicated toddler zone, The Bounce Park offers the perfect opportunity for an action-packed day out.

Click on the link to book your place Reading Directory | The Bounce, Indoor Inflatable Park in Reading, 24th July - 10th August 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=G1Pl9f1PA1M&familychannel=3)

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Chance to Dance, Dance Workshop @ Woodley

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Chance to Dance, Dance workshop, Woodley (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=GgzMCtz_H6A)

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SEND Soft Play



Better Leisure Centre's are offering SEND () Soft Play across Reading!

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | SEND soft play sessions (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4NiQR9NEwac&familychannel=3)

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Inclusive Cycling, Palmer Park

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Inclusive Cycling, Palmer Park (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=X7_IEpPPpyU)

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Inclusive Gym Session - Palmer Park Stadium

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Inclusive Gym Session - Palmer Park Stadium (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=RrXKm8tQaDk)

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Whitley Carnival - 20th July 2025

Welcome to Whitley Carnival! Step right up and prepare to be amazed by the colours, sounds and energy of Reading's brightest and best street party**.**

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Whitley Carnival - 20th July 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=8XB7jp5xsxw&familychannel=3)

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Sport Together Berkshire CIC

FESTIVAL OF INCLUSIVITY at GLL Palmer Park

Saturday - September 13th, 2025

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Sport together Berkshire CIC, Festival of Inclusivity @ GLL Palmer Park, 13 September 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Nw6scktTrkc)

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Museums, My Way

Themed sessions for neurodivergent visitors of all ages

Monday 1st September 2025 please use the following link Museums, My Way - The Museum of English Rural Life (https://merl.reading.ac.uk/event/museums-my-way/)

The Museum of English Rural Life

The session will offer:

- *sensory backpacks and ear defenders*
- *break out spaces*
- *themed facilitated hands-on activity*
- *themed gallery trail*

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Jelly Family Art Space, Sun, 20 Jul 2025 13:00 - 16:00

A session for artists to make together, everyone is welcome. Bring along your current project and work alongside other artists.

Click the followingg link - Reading Directory | Jelly Family Art Space, Sun, 20 Jul 2025 13:00 - 16:00 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=SfX-0-yb0aw)

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Find the Flock: Shaun the Sheep Trail

Get ready for a baa-rilliant summer adventure in Reading town centre! From **5 July to 31 August**, everyone's favourite woolly friend, **Shaun the Sheep**, is in town and he's bringing his fleecey friends along for the ride!

Head to visit-reading.com/shaunthesheep (http://visit-reading.com/shaunthesheep) for more details.

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Chance to Dance, Bracknell Summer Camp, 4th to 8th August

Follow the link to find information who to contact and how to book.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Chance to Dance, Bracknell Summer Camp, 4th to 8th August (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=dueaOyOVLcY)

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The Oxford University Museum of Natural History, free autism-friendly early opening event on Saturday, July 19, from 9am to 10am.

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | The Oxford University Museum of Natural History, free autism-friendly early opening event on Saturday, July 19, from 9am to 10am. (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=s-lrkJ0wsfE)

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Regatta for the Disabled, Henley, Saturday August 30th

Regatta for the Disabled offers a fun filled day on and by the River Thames for those with disabilities and their families/carers and offers accessible activities not always available to people of all ages and abilities.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Regatta for the Disabled, Henley, Saturday August 30th (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=UvTUmGng_Mg)

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Better Reading, More ways to Play, Summer Open Weekend 19-20 July, Start Your Summer The Active Way

We're delighted to invite you and your community to take part in Better Reading's Summer Open Weekend, happening on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July 2025 at Better Leisure Centre's across the borough (Rivermead, Palmer Park, South Reading and Meadway).

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Better Reading, More ways to Play, Summer Open Weekend 19-20 July, Start Your Summer The Active Way (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=mhU3uxvmOE0)

What's on events and workshops

Youth in Mind, Free mental health webinars.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Youth in Mind, Free mental health webinars (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=akXi7xU8d7E&familychannel=0)

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Parenting special children, Coffee Morning for families of children with special needs in Reading from Ethnically Diverse Communities Wednesday, 9th July 2025, 10am – 1pm

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Parenting special children, Coffee Morning for families of children with special needs in Reading from Ethnically Diverse Communities Wednesday, 9th July 2025, 10am – 1pm (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=pOtiSJs5F3E)

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Colora Art Online Art and Wellbeing Sessions



Michelle Buckner, from West Berkshire, is offering daytime and after-school online art and wellbeing sessions for autistic children and other children with additional needs, aged 4 to 11. She has more than 18 years experience as an educator specialising in art and SEND ().

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Colora Art Online Art and Wellbeing Sessions (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=JCNOcgj8v8g&familychannel=3)

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Great Western Railway (GWR) - Travel Training for people with SEND ()

Try-a-train

At GWR, we want our railway to be accessible for everyone, but we appreciate some people feel it is not for them or are anxious about station environments and rail travel.
Our aim is to show that rail travel is open to all members of the community.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Great Western Railway (GWR) - Travel Training for people with SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=6pDCXQfMVOg&familychannel=3)

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Southeast Train Partnerships - Free Go Train Workshops

Services for schools and colleges near to a station on the North Downs Line in Berkshire and Surrey

Services we provide:

Travel confidence and travel training courses; Go Train for Primary Schools; Sustainable & Healthy Travel Workshop (Yr 6); Try a Train; Careers Fairs & 16+

Support for the under 5's

We can run a 1 – 2 hour session which starts with the reading of “Stay Safe with Thomas the Tank Engine” book.

For further information please refer to website https://www.southeastcrp.org/ (https://www.southeastcrp.org/education-in-berkshire-and-surrey/)

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Network Rail, Our autism friendly guide to travelling by train.

This guide has been designed to show and tell you about some of the things you can expect to see while you’re using the railway. It will include information, pictures, sounds and links for further information. If you’re only looking for information about part of your journey you can use the contents page to skip to the section that is most relevant to you.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Network Rail, Our autism friendly guide to travelling by train. (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=okhcac14Fpo&familychannel=3)
(https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=okhcac14Fpo&familychannel=3)

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Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Reading Parenting Service (BFfC) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=8Tr2_GQzaGY)

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Berkshire West Autism & ADHD () Support Service

Dates for the Berkshire West Autism & ADHD Support Service’s free online autism advice workshops for parents and carers during the autumn are now available on the Autism Berkshire website.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Berkshire West Autism & ADHD Support Service (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4kKoLTo8vzI)

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Parenting Special Children Upcoming Events:

All of our events can be viewed and booked via our website here: https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/ (https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/)

For Children

- The A Team: A monthly face-to-face group for autistic/ADHD girls (age 8-18) living in Berkshire.
- Let's Get Creative for Adopted Children: A monthly face-to-face group for adopted children.

Support Groups for Parents and Carers

- Adopter Support Group: A monthly face-to-face group which runs alongside our Let's Get Creative session.
- Community Support Group Reading/Whitley: A monthly face-to-face group.
- Dads and Male Carers Support Group: A monthly face-to-face group.
- Ethnically Diverse Communities Support Group: A monthly face-to-face group for families living in the Reading Borough Council area.
- Neurodivergent Parents/Carers Support Group: A monthly online group for parents and carers who are neurodivergent, either diagnosed or self-identified, living in the Reading Borough Council area.

Courses and Workshops for Parents and Carers

- Sleep Workshop: for Professionals

  Starts on Monday 14th July

- ADHD: Medication, Treatment Choices and Outcomes

  Starts on Wednesday 8th October

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Wellbeing Hub Support for 2025:

Support for autistic children and young people, and their parents/carers. If you interested in taking part, please email us for more information: autism@reading.ac.uk

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | University of Reading Centre for Autism (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=hLO97peG8QM)

SEND - Family Support

Autism Central for Parents and Carers

The Autism Central vision is a world where parents and carers of autistic children and adults are knowledgeable about autism, confident in navigating services and empowered to maintain both their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of the autistic person they support.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Autism Central for Parents and Carers (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Rwf9033dojs)

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Chattertots - Down Syndrome Group

Chattertots is a small charity providing early intervention for children with Down Syndrome in Berkshire. Speech and language is the biggest hurdle for children with Down Syndrome. Early speech and language intervention helps children master these essential life skills.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Chattertots - Down Syndrome Group (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=B4GlAvwAerk&familychannel=3)

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Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Hidden Disabilities Sunflower (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=voFYFETAvn0&familychannel=3)

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ASEND Making SEND () Outstanding

ASEND is a unique SEND () company that believe that every child has the right to an education that helps them to overcome difficulties and achieve successful outcomes. Mission is: to provide expert services that enable children and young people to fulfil their potential and become productive, well-balanced adults.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | ASEND Making SEND Outstanding (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4HytBvi_GqM&familychannel=3)

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Speech and Language Therapy (CYPF services NHS () Berkshire)

We support children and young people to understand what is being said to them, express themselves and produce the sounds needed for clear speech. In some cases, speech and language therapists also work to help children with their eating and drinking.

We can also help with social communication skills and interacting with others, as well as specific conditions such as stammering or hearing impairment.

Visit our communication and hearing pages (https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/health-and-development/communication-and-hearing/) to find advice and strategies to support your child.

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FIFI'S VISION, SEND Parents Support Group

FIFI'S VISION
Empower. Ignite. Believe

Support groups for parent carers support for families and individuals who have additional needs.

Weekly we host Walk it Through/Park sessions and breakfast meet up.

We also run other sessions, family dinner nights, activities and day trips which details will always be shared on our closed group page.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | FIFI'S VISION, SEND Parents Support Group (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Nd3p1bTKoBs&familychannel=3)

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Berkshire Vision

Berkshire Vision is a charity supporting visually impaired people across Berkshire. We have a separate children, young people and families programme running through the school summer holidays.
(https://berkshirevision.org.uk/children-and-family-support/)

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Berkshire Vision (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=DM8aK5jpBPk)

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CAMHS Learning Disability Team

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has launched a new Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), the CAMHS Learning Disability Team.

The CAMHS Learning Disability Team is specialist mental health services to children and young people who have a moderate or severe learning disability and a significant or suspected mental health need.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | CAMHS Learning Disability Team (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=dZiifwroKlY&familychannel=3)

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Parenting Special Children Community Support Groups

Parenting Special Children has several established local community support groups for families of children and young people with additional needs.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Reading Family Information Service (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/family.page?familychannel=0)

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Parenting Special Children - Neurodivergent Parent/ Carer support group

A supportive, non judgmental space offering connection and shared understanding of navigating family life, balancing our own unique strengths and challenges.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Neurodivergent Parent/Carer support group for Reading based families. (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=2vzVDeYjuZk&familychannel=3)

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Reading Families' Forum

Reading Families’ Forum are the local parent carer forum. Our board of trustees and steering group are all volunteers and have children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities ourselves. We understand what it is like to care for a child with additional needs and to fight for the services are children and their siblings need.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Reading Families' Forum (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=PZvYS96zEyE&familychannel=0)

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Autism Berkshire Helpline

Autism Berkshire’s Helpline service is available by telephone and email.

The free and confidential service is available from Monday to Friday (except bank holidays).

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Autism Berkshire Helpline (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=yehhp1NVbtk&familychannel=3)

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Local Organisations who can help with Form Filling.

Communicare Reading Directory | CommuniCare (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=OT9CsOfWR6Y&familychannel=3)

Stepping Forward Reading Directory | Stepping Forward - A full life for everyone affected by disability (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=LtmGyGQ7Dgs&familychannel=3)

Reading Mencap Reading Directory | Reading Mencap (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=9Cun3yyYZ0M&familychannel=3)

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ACRE Family Support Team (Alafia)



The ACRE Family Support Team (formerly Alafia)

Supporting black and minority ethnic families with a child (0-25) with additional needs or disabilities.

Full details here Reading Directory | ACRE Family Support Team (Alafia) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=tgHL8hTvLzw&familychannel=3)

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Reading & West Berkshire Carers Partnership

Service for unpaid carers

Information, advice and support services for family carers in Reading and West Berkshire provided by the Reading & West Berkshire Carers Partnership. The partnership members - **Age UK Berkshire**, **Age UK Reading**, **CommuniCare** and **Reading Mencap** - all have a successful track record of working with carers.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Reading & West Berkshire Carers Partnership (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ORVKhnG6BaQ&familychannel=3)
(https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ORVKhnG6BaQ&familychannel=3)

(https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3)

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Continence Advisory Service

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust Continence Advisory Service

- We offer clinics across Berkshire, school & home visits
- Self referral as well as professional ie GP ()
- We offer assessment, administer prescription service and home delivery (Pads)
- We are available to support parents with education

Further informtion can be found here Reading Directory | Continence Advisory Service (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4I6vTmVqL-I&familychannel=3)

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If you help look after someone, either for a friend or family member, who could not manage without your support due to illness, disability, or a mental health problem, the UCR team may be able to support and help keep the person at home in a crisis.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Urgent Community Response for Unpaid Carers (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=REB5YH6n0XM&familychannel=3)

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Make an emergency plan

As a carer you need to know that if an emergency happens, replacement care will get sorted out speedily and efficiently.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Emergency Plan and Reading Carers Card (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=oqM5ao1kZmE&familychannel=3)



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Introducing the Family Ambassadors

Family Ambassadors provide peer support for parents and carers whose children need Tier 4 (usually inpatient) mental health care.

Further information can also be found here

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Introducing the Family Ambassadors (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=frXkphNS4SQ&familychannel=3)

16-25 Preparation for Adulthood

NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board

BOB ICB commissioned Reading charity, Starting Point and Realtime Film Company, to co-produce the films with more than 20 young people ac Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West who are neurodivergent including autistic Young People and those with a Learning Disability and a learn and manage the storyboarding, filming and editing process. Throughout the project, participants led the topics covered and were responsible w was finally produced. The overall aim of these films is to help other health, social care and education professionals and the general public better unc transitioning to adulthood for these young people.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Learning Disability Transition Videos (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=MBgW_DCtfao)

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Click on the following link - **Reading Directory | Elevate Summer Careers Fair on 10th July 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=1420nEkVi1I)**

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The SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-10) Team at Brighter Futures for Ch held an SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-10) Post 16 Transitions event or June 2025.

You can view the presentation from the event here (https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/reading/enterprise/files/final_transition_guide_with_background_-_june_2025.pdf)

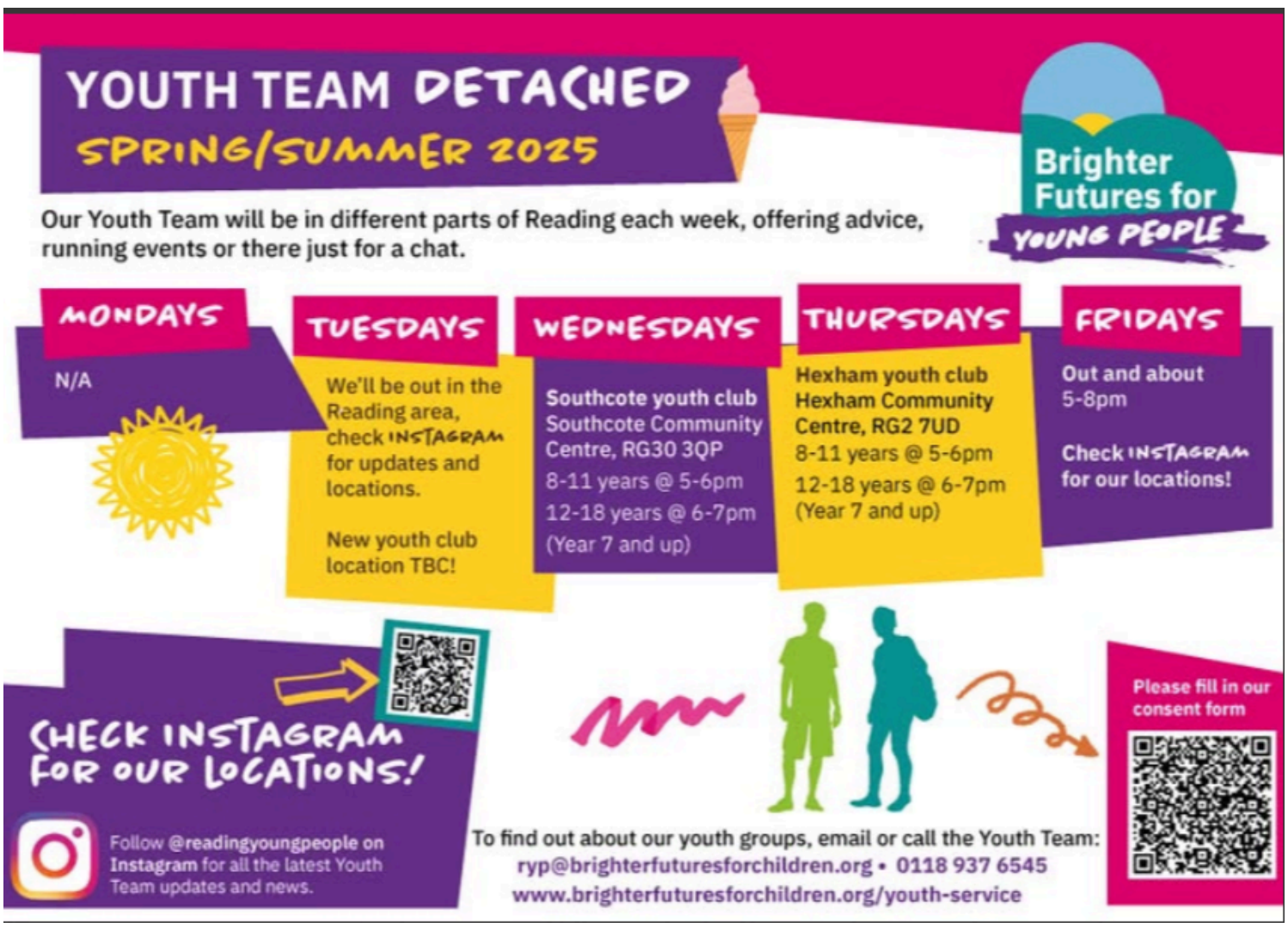
The SEND () team would also like feedback on the event and presentation; please use the link here (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ShareFormPage.aspx?id=pkVqe05HwEKbz_JYXZ8bMLOVG2vTmu5LixfL1WZUCAZUQklVNTMyRVBMUUpFUENYNDk4VUYwR1lZOS4u&sharetoken=nUI3FmLR3e53g to provide feedback

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Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Support group for adult siblings of autistic people, SIBS (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=XelJT0G73nI&familychannel=3)

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The Hub - Weekly Social Drop in at Starting Point

2 Drop-in Clubs: Under 18s, Over 18s - Weekly Social Drop-in

Play games, do some art, go on the Wii or just sit and chat.

A space to have some fun, spend time with others and chat to the Starting Point Team.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | The Hub - Weekly Social Drop in at Starting Point (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=NYWYG14ZAZU)

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Building for the future plus (18 to 25)

Helping young disabled people build a successful working and social life after school and college.

Further information can be found here: https://www.bftf.org.uk/bftf-plus-18-to-25-club (https://www.bftf.org.uk/bftf-plus-18-to-25-club)

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Foxhole Tavern - Dungeons and Dragons group

Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) is a tabletop role-playing game where players create characters and embark on epic adventures guided by a Dungeon M (DM). Through storytelling, dice rolls, and teamwork, players explore worlds, battle foes, and shape their own unique narratives.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Foxhole Tavern - Dungeons and Dragons group (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Ev_MnEqImts)

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Berkshire Adult Autism Support Service

Autism Berkshire provides the Berkshire Adult Autism Support Service to help adults aged 18+ in the county who have an autism diagnosis, or who a for assessment.

The aim of the service, which is funded by the NHS (), is to provide advice and support to autistic adults who do not meet the criteria for help from sp NHS-funded services, such as mental health and learning disability teams.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Autism Berkshire - Berkshire Adult Autism Support Service (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=13xfY8MqKcI&familychannel=3)

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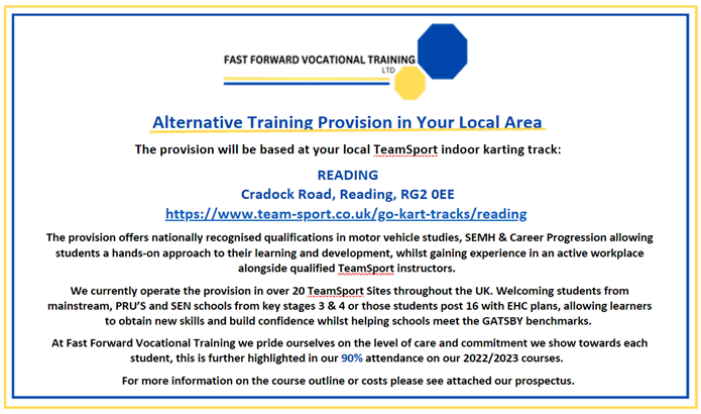
Neurodiversity Club

An informal meet up for people with Neurodiversity, diagnosed or not, we are here to meet like-minded people.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Neurodersity Club (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=y1U97weQwVc&familychannel=3)

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Fast Forward Vocational Training



Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Motor Vehicle Alternative Provision (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=5nWfvg5Lj7Q&familychannel=3)

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The Butterfly Community Cafe CIC

Work-life skills for a better future

A new enterprise to train young people with severe learning disabilities/difficulties

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | The Butterfly Community Cafe CIC (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=LRiYctlySuc&familychannel=3)

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Transition to Adulthood

Transition to adulthood is a whole new world to navigate!

 (https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/)

Parenting Special Children

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Parenting Special Children - Transition to Adulthood Workshops (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=M7psEpq44hs)

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Making finance decisions for young people: parent and carer toolkit (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-finance-decisions-young-people-parent-and-carer-toolkit?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=00413530-e4b6-46e2-faced10d7601&utm_content=daily)

This toolkit provides a guide for parents and carers to make financial decisions for a young person who lacks mental capacity.

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Branching Up

Branching Up is a Day Service providing work experience placements for adults with learning disabilities.

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Branching Up (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=tZ9Xb2nwnIM&familychannel=3-10)

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Supported Internship Reading 2025 - Shaw Trust

shaw trust

The program is co-ordinated by Shaw Trust in partnership with Reading Local Authority - Brighter Futures for Children

A fantastic opportunity on our Supported Internship programme, now available in Reading, for 16 to 24 year-olds who have an Education, Health, an Plan (EHCP).

Further information incuding how to access the programme can be found here Reading Directory | Supported Internship Reading 2025 - Shaw (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=zFUfiHMAxCQ&familychannel=3-10-2)

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Route to Recruit - Supported Internships

Further information can be found here [Reading Directory | Route to Recruit - Supported Internships (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=kXGHzvid2u8&familychannel=3)](https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=kXGHzvid2u8&familychannel=3)

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Click on the following link - [Reading Directory | Fedcap Employment, Inspiring Futures. (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=zXN70FDZVNk)](https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=zXN70FDZVNk) (https://www.readingiass.org/)

Supported Employment and Training Services in Reading

Supports Reading residents with autism and/or learning disabilities into the right work placement that support and improves their health and wellbei

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Gateway Club for adults with a learning disability

Gateway Club is looking for new members! The club, run by Reading Mencap, is a friendly, safe place for adults with a learning disability to socialise a friends while trying out new activities.
Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Reading Mencap - Gateway Club (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service id=KQrUCYl4FKc)

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AskSARA: Advice and support to help with daily living

AskSARA is an online self-assessment tool that helps to make daily living easier. By answering a few questions, AskSARA will provide personalised a about equipment for health, assistive technology and daily living ideas.

Click on the following link - [Reading Directory | AskSARA: Advice and support to help with daily living (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Cehp3GPQH4Y)](https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Cehp3GPQH4Y)

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Transition 16-25 - Preparing for Adulthood

[Reading Directory | Transition 16-25 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-10)](https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-10)

- Becoming an adult in Reading - Your guide to the process of leaving children's services and entering adult services - preparing for adulthood - D 2024 (https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/reading/enterprise/files/becoming_an_adult_guide_for_young_people_updated_3_october_december_2024.pdf)
- Preparing for Adulthood - Easy Read Guide - December 2024 (https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/reading/enterprise/files/preparing_for_adulthood_easy_read_guide_-_december_2024.pdf
- Preparing for Adulthood An information guide for parents and carers - December 2024 (https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/reading/enterprise/files/preparing_for_adulthood_guide_for_parent_carers-final_small-december_2024.pdf)

Counselling – Mental health support

Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

Helpline and local meetings for those to whom drugs have become a major problem. Tel. 0300 999 1212 (10am – 12pm)

National Domestic Violence Helpline

A team of highly-trained, female advisors who can help you understand options and increase safety. Tel. 0808 2000 247 (Open 24/7, 365 days a year)

Reading and West Berkshire Carers Hub

Individualised support that helps carers live life with independence, choice and peace of mind. Tel: 0118 324 7333 / Email: ask@berkshirecarershub.org

Recovery in Mind

Free, inspiring and empowering courses for adults in West Berkshire with mental health challenges. Email: helen@recoveryinmind.org

Refugee Support Group

Helping Refugees Rebuild Their Lives. Tel: 01189 505 356 Email: info@rrsg.org.uk

Samaritans

Talk freely with a Samaritans volunteer in a safe and confidential environment. Tel. 116 123, 24/7, 365 days a year. Email jo@samaritans.org

SANEline

Confidential emotional support, practical help and information for people with mental health problems. Tel. 0300 304 7000, 4.30pm-10.30pm, 365 days a year.

Shelter

Housing advice helpline. Tel. 0808 800 4444 (Mon-Fri: 8am-8pm; Sat-Sun: 8am-5pm)

Shout

24/7 Textline for anyone in a crisis anytime, anywhere. Text SHOUT to 85258

Talking Therapies Berkshire

Talking Therapies is a friendly & approachable NHS service that offers support if you're coping with challenges like depression, stress, anxiety or phobias. Tel: 0300 365 2000 / Email: talkingtherapies@berkshire.nhs.uk

TuVida

TuVida supports unpaid carers and the people they care for. We are a not-for-profit, charitable organisation working in England and Wales. Email: hello@tuvida.org, Telephone: 0115 962 8920

together FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

Steps for Help in a Crisis in Berkshire and Reading

Steps to help in a crisis

For immediate help:

If you are experiencing mental health crisis that is not an emergency but you need urgent help please call NHS 111. For a medical emergency, call 999 straight away.

If you are linked with a community mental health team, you can contact your care coordinator or duty worker as first port of call.

Useful organisations (A-Z):

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

National helpline and local meetings. Tel. 0800 9177 650 / Email: help@aamail.org

Beating Eating Disorders

Free helpline offering support. Open 365 days a year 9am–8pm Mon-Fri & 4pm–8pm weekends & bank holidays. Helpline: 0808 801 0677 / Studentline: 0808 801 0811 / Youthline: 0808 801 0711.

Bereaved by Suicide Service (Berkshire) – Victim Support

Free and confidential specialist support, and practical help, for those bereaved by suicide in Berkshire: Tel: on 08 08 16 89 111 / Email: BBS.support@victimsupport.org.uk

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

A range of mental health services accessed through the Gateway. Tel: 0300 365 2000 (Press 4)/Email: gateway@berkshire.nhs.uk

Berkshire West Breathing Space

1A Rupert Square, Reading, RG1 3HE
Email: breathing-space@together-uk.org
Phone: 0800 002 9091 – Lines are open Monday-Thursday, 5pm-11pm.

BWA - Against domestic abuse

Call Our Helpline Now: 0808 801 0882 helpdesk@bwaid.org.uk / www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk/

CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably)

Helpline for men who are feeling down, who need to talk or find support and information. Tel. 0800 58 58 58 (5pm-12am, 365 days a year) Webchat: www.thecalmzone.net/help/webchat/

Cruse Bereavement Care

Support and advice to children, young people and adults when someone dies. Tel. 0808 808 1677 (Mon-Fri: 9.30-5pm; Tue-Thurs: 9.30-5pm)

CommuniCare

Advice Information and Support: CommuniCare Advice Centre Drop in Service – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 10am. Te: 0118 926 3941 Email: office@communicare.org.uk

FRANK

Honest information about drugs. Tel. 0300 123 6600 (24/7, 365 days a year) Text: 82111. Confidential email and live chat: www.talktofrank.com/contact-frank

Mental Health Mates

Network of peer support groups meeting regularly to walk, connect and share without fear of judgement. Email: hello@mentalhealthmates.co.uk

Hopeline

Support for Young People under the age of 35 experiencing thoughts of suicide. Tel. 0800 068 41 41, Text: 07860 039967 (Mon-Fri: 10am-10pm; Sat-Sun: 2pm-10pm) Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org

Launchpad

Free drop-in service for housing and homelessness support in Reading. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am–2pm, at The Stables, 1A Merchants Place, Reading RG1 1DT. Call 0118 929 1111 or email: support@launchpadreading.org.uk

LGBTQ Domestic Abuse Helpline

Confidential support available Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, and Wed-Thur 10am-8pm. Tel: 0800 999 5428, Email: help@galop.org.uk

The Mix Helpline

Free and confidential support for young people under 25. Tel. 0808 808 4994. Live chat and crisis messenger: www.themix.org.uk/get-support

together FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

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Family Information Service has a dedicated page with information on local and national support click the following link to view - Young People & Mental Health (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=NjGDR1IGovc) - Me2, have created a great video which can be view on the young people mental health page.

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Together, Berkshire West, Breathing Space Service

The Berkshire West Breathing Space service is a safe, welcoming and supportive space for anybody aged over 18 experiencing emotional distress and struggling to cope. Whatever the reason for you feeling distressed or in crisis – we're here to help you.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Together - Berkshire West - Breathing Space Service (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=NEBDs8bvpC0&familychannel=0)

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Together for Mental Wellbeing

The Reading Community Outreach Service provides mental health support in the community within Reading to improve the wellbeing of people and help build resilience and independence to help combat issues that directly impact people's mental wellbeing such as experiences of poverty and inequality. Reading Community Outreach Service provide: Community support, Outreach and Peer support.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Together for Mental Wellbeing (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=by5VdwdlJEo)

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No5 Young People and Young People's Mental Health Helpline

No5 Young People's Mental Health Helpline

Text TALK followed by your first name and postcode to 07786 202430 to request a phone call from one of our trained counsellors.

Looking for direction? Signposting service:

Click on the following link - Home Page - No5 Reading Signposting | No5 Reading Signposting (https://signposting.no5.org.uk/)

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | No5 Young People – Young People's Mental Health Support (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=kbrCVhuUcrk)

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tellmi

New Digital Mental Health Service Launches for Young People Across Berkshire West.

The Tellmi app will be made available to all 11-17 year olds (up to their 18th birthday) living and studying in Reading, West Berkshire And Wokingham. Providing 365 day access to an age-banded, anonymous space to discuss feelings and seek support.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | tellmi (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=6WHCY_y3HMA&familychannel=3)

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MindJam

Mentoring MindJam offers emotional support and guidance for children and adolescents through gaming and game design. At MindJam, our aim is to support children who suffer anxiety, stress, social issues and other emotional needs and their parents.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | MindJam (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ZeJi2z9w1YI)

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Young Minds

Young Minds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

If you're a young person and need urgent support with your #MentalHealth, text YM to 85258. 0808 802 5544 (parent helpline)

Click on the following link - YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds (https://www.youngminds.org.uk/)

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National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi)

The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) is a not for profit organisation working to enable people at risk of exclusion, due to age or disability, to live the life they choose. We inspire and support policymakers, services and communities to make change happen - change that leads to better lives.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=186azsTyPPE)

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SHaRON

The Support Hope and Recovery Online Network (SHaRON) is a secure and confidential online platform, moderated by clinical staff, to enable parents, carers and young people to support each other and get expert advice.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | SHaRON online advice platform – (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=qXUwAr3r3so)BHFT ()

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Place2Be Improving children's mental health

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity with over 25 years' experience working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools. We provide mental health support in schools through one-to-one and group counselling using tried and tested methods backed by research.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Place2Be – Improving Children's Mental Health (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Wc1R26Cb9UY)

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Anxiety UK

The charity offers support, advice and information on a range of anxiety, stress and anxiety-based depression conditions. Helpline/text service/web-chat offers information on anxiety and self-help resources.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Anxiety UK (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=9ig3d9D0djA)

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Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

The MHST () will support children and young people with emerging, mild or moderate mental health difficulties which may be affecting day to day life.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=366vyJUhMeU)

National Organisation Supporting SEND

National organisations offering support to families who have children and young people with SEND ()

Cerebra

Set up to help improve the lives of children with brain related conditions through research, education and directly supporting the children and their carers, Cerebra helps children up to 16 years with neurodevelopment disorders and conditions, their parents, carers and professional practitioners.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Cerebra (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=JJq2uDiwtyM&familychannel=3)

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The Communication Trust

The Communication Trust is a coalition of more than 50 not-for-profit organisations working together to support everyone who works with children and young people in England to support their speech, language and communication.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | The Communication Trust (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=u-H9Yyhb2aA&familychannel=3)

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Contact - For Families with Disabled Children

FREE workshops and 1:1 support for families with disabled children from Contact.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Contact - For Families with Disabled Children (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=pNEdmuhpMeE&familychannel=3)

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Family Fund

We support families living across the UK who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person up to the age of 17. Our support is focused on those on low incomes. We believe that all families should have the same choices, quality of life, opportunities and aspirations.

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Family Fund (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=W-JqwwyF5Sc&familychannel=3)

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Anxiety UK

Anxiety UK is a national charity, helping to support people living with anxiety, stress and anxiety-based depression.

Click on the following link - https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/ (https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/)

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Epilepsy Action

There are many ways Epilepsy Action can help support you and your loved ones.

Our trained advisors can give you an idea of our services or provide the answers and resources you need.

Click on the following link - https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/news/epilepsy-action-launches-new-brand-inspired-by-people-with-epilepsy (https://www.epilepsy.org.uk/news/epilepsy-action-launches-new-brand-inspired-by-people-with-epilepsy)

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Scope - Navigate (Emotional Support for Parents/Carers)

We're Scope, the disability equality charity in England and Wales. We provide practical information and emotional support when it's most needed, and campaign to create a fairer society.

Click on the following link - Home | Disability charity Scope UK (https://www.scope.org.uk/)

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Sense Active - for Children & Young People

Activity videos to enjoy in the house or garden, new live yoga session specifically for children and young people, more quick challenges for pairs or groups. If you need any support accessing any of the activities please contact us on Sense.Active@sense.org.uk (mailto:Sense.Active@sense.org.uk)

Click on the following link - Reading Directory | Sense Active - for Children & Young People (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Oe6rmVerq-k&familychannel=3)

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KIDS

KIDS is a national charity, founded in 1970, that provides a wide range of services to disabled children, young people and their families in England.

Click on the following link - KIDS (https://www.kids.org.uk/)

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IPSEA

The Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (IPSEA) offers free and independent legally based education advice to parents of children with SEND (). They also provide training on the SEND legal framework to parents and carers.

Click on the following link - (IPSEA) Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (https://www.ipsea.org.uk/)

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Council for Disabled Children

The umbrella body for the disabled children's sector bringing together professionals, practitioners and policy-makers.

Click on the following link - Council for Disabled Children (https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/)

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Click on the following link - The Information, Advice and Support Services Network (https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/about-us-0/networks/information-advice-and-support-services-network)

Information, advice and support services for young people aged 25 old or younger and need extra help with learning and have a disability. There are lots of different ways to talk to a friendly advisor.

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Click on the following link - Down's Syndrome Association (https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/):

The Down's Syndrome Association have specialist advisers who can provide you with information and support on issues such as health, social care, benefits and education for people with Down's syndrome.

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Click on the following link - Sky Badger: (https://skybadger.co.uk/about-sky-badger/)

Sky Badger is a charity that finds help and adventure for disabled children and their families all over the UK.

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Click on the following link - PANS PANDAS UK (https://panspandasuk.org/)

Is the only UK charity supporting children and families living with these conditions. We provide information, and community support to patients and carers.

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AccessAble

AccessAble is here to take the chance out of going out. To give you the detailed information you need to work out if a place is going to be accessible to you. Their Detailed Access Guides tell you all about a venue's access. They are 100% facts, figures and photographs.

Click on the following link - Home | AccessAble (https://www.accessable.co.uk/)

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National Autistic Society

The UK's leading autism charity. Their goal is to help transform lives, change attitudes and create a society that works for autistic people.

Click on the following link - National Autistic Society (autism.org.uk) (https://www.autism.org.uk/)

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National Deaf Children's Society

The National Deaf Children's Society is the leading charity for deaf children and their families.

Click on the following link - National Deaf Children's Society | Supporting deaf children (ndcs.org.uk) (https://www.ndcs.org.uk/)

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Sense

Sense gives legal advice and assistance to deafblind individuals or their family members and supporters.

Click on the following link - Sense | For people with complex disabilities (https://www.sense.org.uk/)



Summer activities at Reading Libraries

(https://library.reading.gov.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME)



Young Voices Online Safety Summit - Goodie Bag

(https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/site.page?id=s7RFch7hVlQ)

READING MUSEUM

Summer Holiday Fun at Reading Museum

(https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/summer-holiday-fun)

Brighter Futures for Children
Reading SEND LOCAL OFFER

(https://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org)

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