SEND Local Offer Newsletter Spring 2025 - Issue 37

(https://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org)



Welcome to the 37th issue of the SEND () Local Offer newsletter. We have packed this edition with lots of information based on parent carers and young people feedback.

Published - 17/03/2025

Introduction

There are some fantastic short breaks, activities and support services included in issue 37 of the newsletter. We have worked hard to include local and national support services for all ages, based on feedback from parent carers.

We are very pleased to publish the SEND () Local Offer Annual Report 2024-25, alongside the parent carers SEND () Local Offer annual survey. You can view the full report on the following page Reading Directory | Local Offer Feedback & Consultations (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=pTV5YgqMfbQ) we hope the report provides insight in to the improvements and developments on Reading's SEND Local Offer to help parent carers, young people and professionals supporting local families to access up to date, accessible information. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the survey.

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, Special United (Me2) and other local SEND organisations in Reading to develop and maintain high quality information for local families.

The team have attended many community events to raise awareness of the Local Offer, including transition events at special schools, and organised by Reading Families Forum. 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.

BFfC along with partners and parent carers updated the Reading Directory | Reading Local Area - Ordinarily Available Provision & Graduated Response (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=NboCPuxKWWs) published on the SEND Local Offer in October 2024.

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



Winner of the £50 voucher Aras, and his family. Thank you for taking part in the SEND Local Offer annual survey 2025.

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

Independent Travel Training

Helping young people with additional needs to travel to school or college independently.

Who is it for? The training is FREE to young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) who are eligible for school transport assistance.

What does it involve? Learning to travel to school or college on public transport safely, with one-to-one training progressing from short, supported journeys to observed journeys and finally to independent travel.

What are the Benefits of attending?

- Increased self-confidence and resilience
- Learn Problem Solving Skills
- Supports independence in preparation for adulthood
- Opens up access to activities
- Independent travel is useful when finding and maintaining employment
- A greater feeling of safety in the community

Those eligible will receive a Reading bus pass for free home-to-school travel once training has been successfully completed

How to book: Contact the School Transport Service:

Call them on: 0118 937 2542

Email them at: school.transport@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Reading Directory | School Transport - Independent Travel Training (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=eqc5uU3fpsk)

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Reading Families Forum - well-being Conference Monday 9th June 9:30am - 2:30pm

Join other parents/ carers of children and young people with additional needs for a day of information and a bit of pampering!

Reading Directory | Reading Families Forum – Well-being Conference 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=gDY4TegGbFg)

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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. Please use the link below to view the information.

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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Dingley's Promise Inclusion Project

Are you confident you know what good inclusive early year provision looks like, and can advocate for your child in your setting?

We know parents want what's best for their children but don't always have the right information to confidently talk to professionals about what might support their child. We also know how important it is for families to work in partnership with early years settings and schools. Parents and carers will always remain the expert at in their own child's needs, but understanding what good inclusive practice looks like can open a whole new dialogue in working in partnership to meet need. More information on the course on the Local Offer -

Reading Directory | Dingley's Promise Inclusion Project (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/site.page?id=Y4o3ely0vG4)

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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



Last time I contributed to the newsletter I was optimistic that the government would quickly sharpen its focus on the needs of children with SEND () and we now await the publication of a white paper this Spring that is heralded to 'recalibrate' the SEND () system. We all know, however, that whatever that brings it will take a significant amount of time to implement system wide change at a national level and for some families that change won't be in time to make a positive difference for your children. In Reading we haven't been sitting back and waiting for national directives though, as our work to better meet the needs of children with SEND continues. Following the success of opening ARPs places in our primary schools, our focus is now shifting to secondary schools, where we plan to open a further 60 places, which we couldn't do without the support of local school leaders. The expansion of ARPs will be supported by our recent decision to continue to fund our RISE () Project – you may remember that this was originally funded by the DfE through the Delivering Better Value programme. The positive impact of RISE and its very positive reception by education settings and families has meant that we are confident that it is making a vital contribution to our ability to meet children's needs in Reading and so we are delighted that it will continue moving forward.

We have also continued to make progress in the expansion of special school places in Reading with our work to develop a new special school continuing at pace. It's a real team effort across our community of school leaders and the Council and we are very grateful to all involved for their commitment to ensuring that, where children do require a specialist school placement, there will be greater provision in the borough.

As always, my happiest moments come from getting out and about to see children in our settings. Towards to end of the summer it was great fun to join staff, children and families at Cressingham's beach party, where children were able to make full use of the fabulous new play equipment and outdoor spaces. In the autumn I had the pleasure of joining children and their families at Pinecroft, where staff celebrated individual children's successes across the year. At both events children were joined by their parents, brothers and sisters and wider family, and it was clear to see how both Pinecroft and Cressingham are often an extension to that family network.

I am very much looking forward to my long overdue visit to the Avenue School next month too and in May we will be joining Ofsted and CQC inspectors for our Area SEND Engagement Meeting. This will be a partnership meeting between inspectors, Reading Families Forum, health and children's services to talk through our self-assessment of services for children with SEND in Reading – our strengths and our areas for development and what we are doing to address them. We will, of course let you know how it goes.

Until then, as the evenings get lighter and the daffodils blossom it feels as though we are getting to the end of a long winter and as Easter approaches I hope you are able to enjoy the longer days and spending more time outside in the fresh air.

Take care

Lara

Blog – Carly Price, Strategic Lead for SEND Brighter Futures for Children



Carly Price – Strategic Lead for SEND ()

Over the last 10 years I have working across children's and adult's transformations programmes including Education, Health and Social Care to transform the way that support is provided to improve the outcomes of children/adults and their families. I have extensive working knowledge both operationally and strategically across Education, Health, Social Care, SEND () Services which allows me to shape and influence operational SEND services.

Prior to joining Brighter Futures for children, I worked for Buckinghamshire council as their SEND Transformation lead for 5 years. This work included developing Local Area SEF, and driving forward our improvement plan, and managing all aspects in preparation for the Local area SEND Inspection. Alongside this work I led the delivery of Buckinghamshire Delivery Better Value Programme. I have extensive experience of managing a large team including oversight of the SEND commissioning teams, which includes financial oversight of Alternative Provision, FE college's independent specialist provision within the High Needs Block.

I have a first-class honour's degree in Law and Education, and a level 6 qualification in Careers Information and Advice and Guidance (CIAG) with a passion for ensuring that children and young people are well supported into meaningful opportunities, unpinned by robust pathways for everyone including the most vulnerable.

I am excited about joining Brighter Future for children as the Strategic for SEND, to support the local areas partnership to deliver high quality outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

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/)**

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SEND Soft Play

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

· Meadway Sports Centre, Monday's 10.30 - 11.30am

· Rivermead Leisure Centre, Tuesday's 10 - 11am & Wednesday's 4-6pm

· Palmer Park Leisure Centre, Tuesday's 9 - 11am & Thursday's 4-6pm

Please click on the link for further informatin and booking details Reading Directory | SEND soft play sessions (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4NiQR9NEwac&familychannel=3)

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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. The interactive sessions will help your little ones gain confidence and develop memory, language and coordination skills in an exciting, enjoyable and multi-sensory way. Our classes are a great way to support your child's development and make new friends – both for the children and the adults too!

Baby Moo classes are for little ones up to first steps.

Mixed Moo classes are for children up to 5yrs – perfect for toddlers, siblings or friends with children of different ages.

Sibling and childminder discounts are available.

Further information can be found here Moo Music Reading – Moo Music (https://moo-music.co.uk/areas/reading/)

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
9.30 – 11.30am
Our House, Toutley Road, Wokingham. RG41 1QN

LADYBIRDS

When:

- March 7th
- April 4th
- May 2nd & 16th
- June 6th & 20th
- July 4th & 18th

Any queries please email nicki@bftf.org.uk (mailto:nicki@bftf.org.uk) or call 07925692277

Information can also be found here 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 (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. Each session also includes story-telling, craft activities singing and a snack. Friday Fledglings is run by Charlotte, a local teacher and Level 3 Forest Leader.

- Sessions are run on weekly pay-as-you-go basis but you will need to book in advance.
- Bookings open at 12pm on a Friday, one week ahead of the session you'd like to attend.
- Runs only during RBC () school term time.
- All are welcome to come along: parents, grandparents and childminders!

Call: 0118 3788660

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.

What we offer:

Fun & engaging activities like Trainmaster, gymnastics, and outdoor play (Little Muddy Boots)

Small, supportive groups to help your child feel comfortable

Specialised communication sessions to develop social skills in a nurturing space

Held during school breaks, ideal for keeping your child entertained and engaged

We're dedicated to creating spaces where children and their families feel welcome and supported. Whether it's developing friendships, exploring new activities, or finding calm through play, our sessions are a wonderful opportunity for your child to thrive.

These have a maximum of 6 families to help keep the environment calm and relaxing for the children.

I email you a booking form which you add your child's interests on. This helps me to plan the session and include resources specific for your child. This encourages the children to become interested and motivated during the session. This then leads to ways to encourage communication through play. I model strategies from speech and language therapists such as ready steady go, intensive interaction and I use visual aids.

Spaces are limited, so don't wait! Book your spot now and follow us for updates on future sessions and events.

Email us to book or ask questions! Let's create a joyful and supportive community together.

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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Early Years Expanded Childcare Funding Information for Working Parents

From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare was expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old. 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)

(https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=dRa1RB6GBgg)

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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.

Bookable on website.

Children to be supervised by an adult.

0118 986 6301E-admin@rosegardenearlyyears.co.uk (mailto:admin@rosegardenearlyyears.co.uk)

www.rosegardenearlyyears.co.uk (https://www.rosegardenearlyyears.co.uk/)

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Rose Garden Early Years Centre - Quieter Group (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 three specialist Early Years settings in Reading that you may also 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)
- **Butterfly Resource Base** at Norcot Early Years Centre (A Specialist resource base for children with Speech, Language and Communication Delays; Learning Needs; Sensory Needs & Social Communication Needs)

We have two mainstream resource bases in Reading that support your child with early intervention to support their development whilst accessing a mainstream early years environment.

- **Acorn Base** at Norcot Early Years Centre
- **Orchard Base** at Blagon Nursery School

These are for children who require early intervention & support with Speech & Language Needs, Social Communication Needs & Sensory needs but are able to access a mainstream curriculum. The vision is the children will receive support & intervention to be able to transition to mainstream nursery before starting mainstream school. The children will receive high quality interventions overseen by the centre's speech & language therapist. The centres are overseen by the maintained nursery school SENCO (); and the staff are highly skilled to support early intervention.

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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Brighter Futures for Children Reading Children's Centres

Children's Centres - Brighter Futures for Children

Our children's centres are bustling with lots of face-to-face activities. Is your child two or three-years-old? Why not join our six-week Ready, Steady, Nursery course to get them prepared for nursery life?

To see all the fantastic, free activities on offer, see the Reading Children's Centre Timetables

Email **reading.childrencentres@brighterfuturesforchildren.org (mailto:reading.childrencentres@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)**

Further information on all of our Children's Centre's can be found here Children's centres - Brighter Futures For Children (https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/under-5/childrens-centres/)

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Early Years Advisory Service

Supporting Early Years Settings in supporting children with SEND

• Meetings with settings and parents about their child's SEND

• Training Courses for professionals

• Network Meetings for Early Years SENCOs

• Advice to families & professionals

• Observations of children in the setting and advice.

• Advice on applying for additional funding and EHCP ()

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.

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.

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. Choose from a wide selection of small, medium or large toys at a minimal cost. Toys on offer range from Duplo sets and push & ride walkers, musical instruments and story sacks, to popular indoor games like marble runs, puzzles and Lego.

You can also hire larger indoor and outdoor games for children's parties. Staff will be available to help you when the Toy Library is open.

Tel: 0118 901 5950, email: **info@readinglibraries.org.uk (mailto:info@readinglibraries.org.uk)**

visit **www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries (https://www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/)**

Reading Central Library,

Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BQ.

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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

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

SEND Short Breaks Easter Holiday Sessions 2025

Chance to Dance - (dates include March, April, May & June 2025)

Short breaks are available for Reading children aged 5 years to 18 years old.

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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SEND Short Breaks - Easter Holidays - Reading FC SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-7) Play Camp

SEND play camp at The Avenue School from 10:00-13:00.

Age 5-10yr olds

Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Easter Holidays - Reading FC (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=IfirJvBV6Ps&familychannel=3)SEND (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-7) Play Camp

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SEND Short Breaks - Easter Holidays - Reading FC SEND () Sports Camp

SEND Sports camp at The Avenue School from 10:30-2pm.

Age 8-17yrs

Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Easter Holidays - Reading FC (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=a7uy7pzaLoQ&familychannel=3)SEND () Sports Camp

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SEND Short Breaks - Reading Play - Easter Holiday 2025

The Reading Educational Play and Support Team welcomes you to The Ranger Station as one of your SEND short break providers, we will be holding four sessions this half term.

Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Reading Play - Easter Holiday 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=kBd7Kn5CTp0&familychannel=3-7)

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SEND Short Breaks - Make Sense Theatre Easter 2025 SEND Holiday Clubs

Make/Sense Theatre run SEND specific holiday clubs with different approaches so that we can meet the needs of all young people. This includes clubs where we provide 1:1s and can cater for all behavioural, communication, personal care and medical needs.

Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Make Sense Theatre Easter 2025 SEND Holiday Clubs (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=lhFyh6bNDsQ&familychannel=3-7)

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SEND Short Breaks - Easter 2025 SEND Holiday Clubs (11 to 18 years)

Make/Sense Theatre run exciting Musical Theatre courses in the holidays for ASD (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-7)/MLD/SLD young people who can engage in the session independently or with minimal support.

Reading Directory | SEND Short Breaks - Easter 2025 SEND Holiday Clubs (11 to 18 years) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=bVqKpI2wIp8&familychannel=3-7)

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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

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.

Any queries email nicki@bftf.org.uk (mailto:nicki@bftf.org.uk) or call 07925692277

No need to book Our House, Toutley Road, Wokingham. RG41 1QN

22nd March.

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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Prospect Park Miniature Railway – SEND () Session

There will be a SEND () session on the trains at Prospect Park railway on Monday 14th April, 1.30 - 4pm. There is no need to book, you can just turn up. Donations will be taken for rides. There is free parking and toilets on site. Access via the A4 at RG30 2BE.

Please send all booking requests to booking@campmohawk.org.uk (mailto:booking@campmohawk.org.uk)

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SEND Sport After School Club, Reading FC Community Trust

The sessions offer a small group setting designed for SEND children with multiple sports and activities to promote motor skill development, boost confidence, and, above all, ensure fun!

Key Benefits:

- Football
- Badmington
- Xbox gaming room
- Build confidence
- Basketball
- Pool Table
- Improve socian and emotional skills

Every Monday 15:45 - 17:15 for 6 weeks at South Reading Leisure Centre

£180 per child for 6 weeks or £30 per session starting 24th February

For all enquiries and booking please conact: cclarke@readingfc.co.uk

Reading Directory | SEND Sport After School Club, Reading FC Community Trust (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4103-K0Hrus&familychannel=3)

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Reading Rockets

Junior Wheelchair Basketball Sessions for ages 11-17
Thursday evenings 5pm-6pm

Chairs Provided

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

Take a look at all upcoming access screenings!

There is a selection of subtitled, relaxed, baby+1 and silver screenings weekly.

To view exact screenings and to book your tickets, navigate using the filters on website.

To book a free carer ticket please contact the venue at info@readingbiscuitfactory.co.uk, or book at box office in venue.
There is 5 audio headsets available with Audio Description and sound amplification.

Please email info@readingbiscuitfactory.co.uk to book one of these.

Access Screenings (https://www.readingbiscuitfactory.co.uk/access-screenings/)

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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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. Throughout the year the centre provides a range of activities, facilities and natural space to encourage children with a variety of special needs to play, socialise and learn in a secure and caring environment. 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.

What we offer:

- **Family Days** in school holidays and on Saturdays in term time – children / young people need to be accompanied by a parent / carer but we have a team of staff and volunteers on hand to provide support and assistance
- **Short Breaks** activities for children / young people aged 8 to 25 who have High Functioning Autism / Asperger's Syndrome
- **Special events** including sensory sensitive fireworks displays and Christmas parties
- **Group sessions** / days for SEND support groups, schools and groups of families

Registration is mandatory for all services and advance booking is necessary for all sessions. Fees / charges for families are all voluntary but contributions from our service users are an important source of income so we do have suggested contribution levels. Please visit our website or get in touch for more information:

Web: www.campmohawk.org.uk (https://www.campmohawk.org.uk/)

Email: info@campmohawk.org.uk (about:blank)

Tel: 0118 940 4045

THE WOODLAND CENTRE TRUST, Highfield Lane, Crazies Hill, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8PU. Registered Charity No. 278681

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The Hub - Weekly Social Drop in at Starting Point

Drop-in Social Club

U18's Weekly Social Drop-in

Tuesdays 4-5.30pm

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.

Telephone 0118 995 2160

E-mail startingpoint@themustardtree.org (mailto:startingpoint@themustardtree.org)

Starting Point, Greyfriars Centre, Friar Street

Reading RG1 1EH

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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.

From 1:1 sessions for those who need extra help to group classes for more confident swimmers, we offer several options and classes for those swimming with disabilities.

We want to make swimming accessible, fun, and easy for everyone.

Our SEN () swimming sessions and SEND swimming classes have been specifically developed for those swimming with a disability.

Our instructors have gone through dedicated training, meaning they can deliver inclusive classes for people with different disabilities, impairments and access needs.

Most of our leisure centres are also wheelchair accessible with poolside mobility aids, allowing those with physical disabilities to participate. Please check which accessibility measures are in place at your local leisure centre (https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centres).

Please check which accessibility measures are in place at your local leisure centre. (https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centres)

Quick Summary below but visit centre webpages to find out more.

Inclusive Swimming: This is a bookable swimming session for anyone with a disability. This session has reduced numbers to provide a calmer atmosphere. Staff will be on hand to operate the Pool Pod for those who need support to access the pool (this is also available in any timetabled session)

SEND Swimming Lessons: SEND Swimming Lessons are classes suitable for Children with special educational needs and / or disabilities. These classes are smaller in size and therefore quieter. These classes have a ratio of 1 teacher to 5 Children.

Level Water: 1:1 swimming session for Children from 4 to 11 years old with a physical disability, visual impairment or hearing impairment. These specialist sessions are designed to give young people who can't currently swim or need more dedicated attention. The lessons are designed to build their water skills in a fun, safe and inclusive environment. You need to contact Level Water to be placed on their waiting list to access these sessions.

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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Inclusive Cycling - Palmer Park

Join us on a Wednesday morning at 10am-11am for this inclusive and relaxed session with a qualified cycling coach. A session that takes place on our outdoor velodrome, with our specially qualified coaches. They are casual, drop-in sessions, whereby participants get to use our specially adapted cycles to get cycling and feel the wind on their faces.

Further information and booking details can be found here Reading Directory | Inclusive Cycling, Palmer Park (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=X7_IEpPPpyU&familychannel=3)

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Foxhole Tavern - Dungeons and Dragons group

Foxhole Tavern is proud to support Fab4All.

Foxhole tavern is a Dungeons and Dragons Club for adventurers aged 11 and up. Offering a welcoming space to play, create, and connect. Held bi-weekly on Friday nights (18 +) and Sunday mornings. (11 yrs +)

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.

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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SEND Sport After School Club, Reading FC Community Trust

Reading FC Community Trust, are providing an SEND after school club – please use the link to find out more:

Reading Directory | SEND Sport After School Club, Reading FC Community Trust (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=4103-K0Hrus&familychannel=3)

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Dimensions – Autism Friendly Cinema Screenings

Vue Cinemas

https://dimensions-uk.org/dimensions-campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema/about/ (https://dimensions-uk.org/dimensions-campaigns/autism-friendly-cinema/about/)

Showcase Cinemas

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

NOW OPEN! Bigger Birthday parties, bouncier Activeplay, new toddler play, new sports pitches and even more BIG-TIME FUN!

The new Oxygen Activeplay centre in Reading has opened at location of the former Red Kangaroo trampolining centre, in Portman Road, off Oxford Road.

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

These sessions will take place on Wednesdays from 4.30pm to 6pm and on Sundays from 5pm to 6pm. Tickets cost £8 per child, with a carer admitted free of charge.

Click here (https://autismberkshire.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e0cfcb9f32dbd9bf921165a4e&id=f0a2864d9f&e=345402290b) for more details of the centre and **click here** (https://autismberkshire.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e0cfcb9f32dbd9bf921165a4e&id=e66b6992f1&e=345402290b) for more details of Peaceful Play sessions.

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

BRINGING COFFEE AND CREATIVITY TOGETHER IN NEWBURY

We are an award winning Pottery Painting Coffee House on Newbury High Street. Our studio is a family-friendly, relaxed atmosphere where you can come along to get your coffee fix and explore your creative side at the same time! Turnaround time for pottery is 7 days.

SEND SESSIONS

Being inclusive to all in our community is extremely important to us and is the reason that we began running our SEND sessions. These sessions are on the last Sunday of every month, from 10am-12pm. During these sessions, you can enjoy pottery painting in a quieter, calmer environment with specially trained staff with experience in SEND.

Tel:01635 523778

Email hello@theuglyducklingpottery.co.uk (mailto:hello@theuglyducklingpottery.co.uk)

Website[Ugly Duckling Pottery Painting Cafe (https://www.theuglyducklingpottery.co.uk/contact-us/)](https://www.theuglyducklingpottery.co.uk/contact-us/)

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)](https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=a53ZPvoSvyA)

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BOBiCats Disability Football Centres

The BBFA BOBiCats Disability Football Centres is a new initiative designed to inspire boys and girls aged 4-8 with any disability to get involved in football. BOBiCats Football Centres provide a high quality and enjoyable introduction to football as a first step into what we hope with be a lifelong passion for the sport.

If your child is aged 5-8 and interested in getting involved in a BOBiCats Centre then please see below from all current opportunities:-

Twyford – Thursdays 5:30pm to 6:30pm @ Piggott School, Wargrave, Reading.
Sessions are currently underway.

Thatcham – Fridays 6pm to 7pm @ Francis Bailey Primary School, Thatcham.
Sessions are currently underway.

Shinfield – Sundays 1pm to 2pm @ Ryeish Green Sports Hub, Shinfield, Reading.
Sessions are currently underway.

For more information on the BOBiCats or to register your child please contact Jonathan Coles 01235 558451 or email Development@Berks-BucksFA.com (mailto:Development@Berks-BucksFA.com) or see the website for current sessions

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Naturally Curious Play - Woodland Sessions

For children with Special Educational Needs

Naturally Curious Play

The next woodland play session for SEN children aged up to 10 run by Naturally Curious Play at the YMCA Outdoor Activity Centre in Ramptons Lane, Padworth, in West Berkshire, is on a Saturday, from 12.30pm to 2pm. **Check website or contact provider for dates.**

Each child attending will need a ticket (£12 per child, with discounts if two to four children attend) but parents/carers are admitted free of charge.

Changing facilities and toilets are available at the centre.

Details

This session is for families with children with Special Educational Needs Only.
All of our usual Naturally Curious Play fun but at the WEEKEND! With some added extras.

Instructions

*Please make sure that you are dressed appropriately for the weather of the day. It is recommended that you wear sturdy shoes, long sleeve top and trousers to every session to help protect against stings, insect bites, ticks and other natural hazards due to being in woodland. www.facebook.com/Naturallycuriousplaysessions (https://www.facebook.com/Naturallycuriousplaysessions/)

Further information can be found here [Reading Directory | Naturally Curious Play - Woodland Sessions (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=8GCfLVgylPY&familychannel=3)](https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=8GCfLVgylPY&familychannel=3)

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Arborfield Green Leisure Centre SEND sessions, every Friday afternoon.

From 4pm to 5pm, there is a SEND Gym session, with the music turned off to help create a calm atmosphere - places cost £4.50 per session or are free for centre members.

From 5pm to 6pm there is a SEND Active Play & Bounce session for children, limited to 16 places, which cost £4.50 per child.

A quiet space will be available at the centre during both sessions.

- 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/)](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.

Model railways and train sets for all abilities are set up and a range of train-related resources are available for participants to play/engage with.

Sessions take place each month in Reading and there are also occasional opportunities to visit train related attractions in the area, as well as activities for siblings.

You do not need to have a diagnosis of Autism to attend.

12b Southview Park, Off Marsack St, Caversham Reading RG4 5AF

Parking outside and 2 hours free parking in neighbouring streets.

Timings are:

The last Saturday of each month (always check website to check we are running)

Under 10's - 10am - 12noon

11-17yrs - 12noon - 2pm

Free entry. Free teas/biscuits. No need to book.

Email: mail@theenginshed.org.uk (mailto:mail@theenginshed.org.uk) or visit www.theengineshed.org.uk (http://www.theengineshed.org.uk/)

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/). By planned this means that they have identified what activity they want to do and have been in touch with the provider to enquire about availability. We have some information about activities in the local area on our website https://me2club.org.uk/local-activity-clubs/ (https://me2club.org.uk/local-activity-clubs/)

We accept referrals from professionals, or families can self-refer using the registration form on our website https://me2club.org.uk/about-us/ (https://me2club.org.uk/about-us/) once they have a place at an activity or are on a waiting list for an activity.

We ask that professionals wait to complete the form until the family has chosen their activity and that they include their details in the details of child's additional needs section of the form so we can contact them if we need to and so that we know who the referral has come from.

Me2 Club support young people aged 5-19 with additional needs and disabilities to take part in mainstream after school activities. They do this by recruiting and training volunteers to 'buddy' with young people at the activities so they can join in and have fun. For full details visit: https://me2club.org.uk/about-us/ (https://me2club.org.uk/about-us/?fbclid=IwAR02FK8a2-dWWxzlhDCnLhbfMVXZDPKsj4DC2Fg8LY5wPFH_HuH2Yc6d7Yg)

Me2 Club is for children/young people who live in Reading & Wokingham

Me2 Club is an inclusion charity for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. Our purpose is to tackle the social isolation and loneliness experienced by children who are not able to access mainstream leisure activities. We are unique as we do not require a formal diagnosis to offer support.

With our help children can access a wide range of activities including sports clubs, uniformed groups and drama classes, giving them a chance to build independence and vital life and social skills.

Me2 Club also runs an Inclusion Training Project for activity leaders, which aims to increase the inclusion of young people with additional needs into mainstream leisure activities.

If you think your child would benefit from this service please contact us on:

Call 0118 969 6369 or 07535 699840

Email: info@me2club.org.uk (mailto:info@me2club.org.uk)

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?

Me2 will help young people become **mental health champions.** We will support you to look after your own mental health and support others

Open to Reading & Wokingham young people with additional needs aged 10-20years

Enjoy takeaways and £10 vouchers for pieces of work the group do.

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

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.

The teenagers will meet monthly and be able to help choose activities and assist in planning and fundraising. The teenagers will be supported to do this and those who can't help plan or fundraise are nonetheless very welcome to come and just enjoy the activities.

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

READING MUSEUM

EVERY SATURDAY

Families, Free, drop in 10am - 4pm

Reading Museum and The Museum of English Rural Life have developed 'Museums, My Way', a series of free sessions for neurodiverse visitors of all ages. These sessions, developed with Autism Berkshire, provide a safe environment to explore both museums.

Reading Museum is offering a weekly break out space during our Saturday opening hours, aimed at neurodivergent visitors and their families. An area with tents, cushions and sensory toys will be available. Families can enjoy exploring the galleries using our sensory bags, then take time out to relax before continuing their visit. Siblings, families, carers and friends are all welcome.

These sessions include:

- sensory backpacks
- break out space
- self-led activities

All activities are optional and you can visit at any point during our opening times 10am - 5pm.

Visit www.readingmuseum.org.uk/your-visit/museums-my-way (https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/your-visit/museums-my-way)

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Museums My Way

Museum of English Rural Life (MERL)

Date for your diary: April 7th

THE MUSEUM OF ENGLISH RURAL LIFE

10:00 am - 2:00 pm (booking required)

Free themed sessions for neurodiverse visitors of all ages

Booking required

The Museum of English Rural Life

The Museum of English Rural Life, Redlands Road
Reading, Berkshire RG1 5EX

More information visit Merl Museum - Museums My Way (https://merl.reading.ac.uk/event/museums-my-way/)

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Grassrootz Youth Clubs

Grassrootz have 3 drop in Youth Clubs in the Reading area, Caversham, south Reading and Coley:

- Every Monday 6pm -7:15pm for ages 7-11 and 7:30-pm for ages 11-16 at Hexham Road Community Centre – free
- Every Tuesday 7pm – 8:30pm for ages 11-16 at The Milestone Centre, Northbrook Road, Caversham Park Village, RG4 6PF – £3 entry
- Every Friday 6pm – 7:30pm for ages 8-11 years and 8pm – 9:30pm for ages 11-16 years at The Coley Park Community Centre, 140 Wensley Road, Coley RG1 6DW – £2 entry

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

When: 2nd and 4th Saturday every month Term time

Where: The Avenue School, Conwy Close, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4BZ
The RAFT Club has been set up to provide support for families of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder living in Reading. The club employs 6 DBS checked play workers who organise activities for ASD children and their siblings aged 5-12 years.

For further details: Contact Michele Page Tel: 0118 947 1438,

Email: michelepage22@hotmail.co.uk (mailto:michelepage22@hotmail.co.uk)

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.

Holiday sessions every Wednesday 8am-9.30am

Click here (https://autismberkshire.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e0cfcb9f32dbd9bf921165a4e&id=df0bc3dfb5&e=345402290b) for booking information - carers' tickets are free of charge.
(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

These sessions include SIBSupport running from 10 - 11.30am and 11.45 - 1.5pm, Family Play from 10 - 12 and accessible climbing from 10 - 11am. To book in please email office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk or contact becky@swingsandsmiles.co.uk visit website www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk (https://www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk/)

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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.

Come and have fun - everything is accessible and everybody is welcome!

For further information, opening times and prices go to: www.fairytalefarm.co.uk (http://www.fairytalefarm.co.uk/)

Tel: 01608 238014 Email: info@fairytalefarm.co.uk (mailto:info@fairytalefarm.co.uk)

Reading Directory | Fairytale Farm (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=UlraFSL1hbc)

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Spiral House , The Sensory Nightclub

The North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford

Friday 30th & Saturday 31st May

Wander through the Spiral House, the sensory nightclub of dreams, where magic and wonder await you.

Reading Directory | Spiral House , The Sensory Nightclub (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=MfkA76KK0QY)

What's going on this Easter 2025?



Norden Farm at Easter

The Farmer and The Clown

Thur 10 Apr 11.30am and 2pm | £12 | £10 under 16s | Family and Friends (4 people) £40

This is a family show without words (for ages 3+ years). Flibbertigibbet Theatre worked with a Visual Language consultant and Deaf Access Support consultant, to ensure that the physical language created for the storytelling is clear and accessible for all audiences, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Anyone who does not speak English can still enjoy the show as language is not an issue.

https:/norden.farm/events/the-farmer-and-the-clown (https://norden.farm/events/the-farmer-and-the-clown)



How to Catch a Book Witch

Fri 11 Apr 11.30am | £12 | £10 under 16s | Family and Friends (4 people) £40

This is for 4+ years. It has been created with inclusion and accessibility in mind and including key word signing and integrated captions.

https://norden.farm/events/how-to-catch-a-book-witch (https://norden.farm/events/how-to-catch-a-book-witch)



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South Street Arts Centre Reading

April 4th & 5th **Whipped Up** and April 9th **The Farmer and the Clown** use following link for more information **Reading Directory | South Street Arts Centre - Children & Family Shows April & May 2025** (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=gnLdMVWakYM)

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Easter Egg Hunts in and around Berkshire

Easter Adventures at Basildon Park, 5 to 27 April

Check out the miniature mansion and run from pillar to post. Choose colours from the colour wheel and puzzle the mansion floor plan back in order.

Make your way along the trail and find activities for the whole family. The trail takes place between 5 to 27 April 2025, from 10am to 5pm, with last entry at 4pm. Come along and explore the beautiful parkland and gardens of Basildon Park.

Prices are £3.50 per trail which includes an Easter trail sheet, bunny ears and dairy or vegan and Free From* chocolate egg. *Suitable for people with milk, egg, gluten, peanut and tree nut allergies. Follow link below for dates, times and bookings.

Easter at Basildon Park 2025 (https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/oxfordshire-buckinghamshire-berkshire/basildon-park/events/5999e1d8-de74-46c0-9f65-f96e10ef42a0)

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The Megga Egg Hunt - Wellington Country Park

Wellington Country Park Megga Egg Hunt Easter 2025 (https://wellingtoncountrypark.co.uk/whats-on/the-mega-egg-hunt/)

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An EGGS-ELLENT ADVENTURE - The Binfield Easter Egg Hunt

The Hunt is back from Mon 14th to Sun 20th April 2025.

It's back for the 9th year and it's going to be another eggsellent hunt!

Simply buy a map for £3 from either Daphne's Coffee Shop, Binfield Village Stores or Foxes Den Café during the week and enjoy a fun walk around the village.

With coffee shops, playgrounds and a fantastic pub on the route, come & have a great day out.

Binfield Easter Egg Hunt (https://www.binfieldevents.com/eastereggh unt#:~:text=The%20Hunt%20is%20back%20from,fun%20walk%20around%20the%20village.)

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Easter egg hunt at Cliveden

This Spring, treat the whole family to an Easter adventure at Cliveden's School of Hop.

- Booking not needed
- Admission applies

Make your way along the trail and find activities for the whole family. The trail takes place between 5 – 21 April 2025, from 9:30 to 5:00pm, with last trail entry at 4:00pm, so come along and explore the beautiful gardens of Cliveden.

Prices are £3.50 per trail which includes an Easter trail sheet, bunny ears and dairy or vegan and Free From* chocolate egg. *Suitable for people with milk, egg, gluten, peanut and tree nut allergies.

Welcome to The School of Hop! This year, the Easter Bunny is very busy and needs some helpers to make Easter extra special. Grab your bunny ears and get ready to train to be an Easter Bunny in our fun and active Easter-themed trail. Expect games, activities and, of course, an Easter egg hunt!

Easter Egg Hunt at Cliveden (https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/oxfordshire-buckinghamshire-berkshire/cliveden/events/4ec3731d-07b6-413c-bc4d-24aeadc9e29f)

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Building for the Future, Easter Stay and Play sessions!

Reading Directory | Building for the Future, Easter Stay and Play sessions! (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=ZH2u3e2mfY8)

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SEN Easter Swimming Crash Course

Looking for a supportive, small-group swimming course designed for children with special educational needs? Join us this Easter holiday for a 4-day crash course that builds water confidence in a calm, structured environment.

Reading Directory | SEN-ONLY SWIMMING CRASH COURSE – SONNING COMMON (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=C_5TFYsspQQ)

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We've got an exciting line-up of inclusive sessions designed to support and engage children with SEND () this Easter half-term! Spaces are limited, so don't miss out:

Reading Directory | Together: One Step at a Time, (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=8Q4ZnHZNCsc)SEND () Sessions, Easter Half-Term

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Creating Floral motifs with artist Hadil Tamim at Whitley Wood Community Centre, Saturday 5th April 2025, 12-3pm, Only 15 places available, book your free space funded by Creative Lives.

Reading Directory | Easter Holidays, Creating Floral Motifs, Whitley Wood Community Centre (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=aDcmgUUYjgc&familychannel=0)

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Wild Day at Cowsey! 5th April, 11:30am - 3:30pm

Join Nature Nurture & Friends for a fun day out for all ages

FREE! NO NEED TO BOOK

Reading Directory | Look after The Cowsey (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=D9dMd2dyMOU)

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Gabby's Dollhouse Easter Takeover!

5th Apr 2025 - 21st Apr 2025

Gabby and her friends are taking over Fairytale Farm with activities running throughout the Easter holidays, and brand-new attractions for you to visit.

- Pandy's Scavenger Egg Hunt
- Create an Itty Bitty Blossom Garden with Creation Station
- Find Pandy prize draw: Win a Cat-Tastic Craft Bundle
- Face Painting: Become your favourite Gabby's Dollhouse character*
- Easter Garden Games
- Kitty Fairy Walk Board Game
- Kitty Fairy Walk Touchy Feely Boxes
- Mother Goose's Easter Parade springtime float
- Mouse Town's Scavenger Egg Hunt
- Pet our adorable animals

Two brand new attractions are opening at Easter in our new Wonderland area:

- Queen of Hearts Crazy Cues: An enchanting fusion of crazy golf and snooker—accessible to all!
- The Mad Hatter's Playground: Madcap fun for little ones – perfect for Under 4s!

And over the Easter Weekend (18th to 20th April)...

- Breakfast with Easter Bunny (https://www.fairytalefarm.co.uk/2025/03/23/breakfast-with-the-easter-bunny-2/): Decorate Kitty-shaped shortbread*
- Meet the Easter Bunny in the Rabbit Burrow: The Easter Bunny will read the Easter Kitty Bunny book and each child will receive a full-size Easter egg*

On Easter Monday (21st April)...

- Easter Monday Magic: Free immersive magic show
- Budding Magicians' Workshops*

*Extra charge

What's on events and workshops

Roman Life Session for Home Schooled Children

Next session on Monday 28th April 2025

Venue: Silchester Gallery, Reading Museum

Reading Museum is piloting a series of formal learning sessions for home schooled children.

Families will be able to book their children for the sessions through our ticketing system.

Please note:

We will set a deadline for booking each session: if at least 20 children are booked in by the deadline, we will confirm the session and send each family instruc minimum number is not reached, unfortunately we will not be able to go ahead and all tickets will be refunded in full.

- Price per child (minimum age: 5) - £6.50
- Accompanying adults and children less than 5 year old will enter for free but will not be able to take part in the sessions.

We hope that this new format will allow more home schooled children to enjoy learning in our Museum and we look forward to offering more sessions in the f

For information please email museum.education@reading.gov.uk (https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/museum.education@reading.gov.uk)

Forthcoming sessions:

Roman Life Session (https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/schools/sessions-museum/roman-life-session)

Monday 28th April 2025

10:00-11:45

Suitable for primary school aged children

(booking deadline 17/03/2025)

https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/roman-life-session-for-home-schooled-children (https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/roman-life-session-for-home-scl

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Mums Eat Free – Mother's Day Weekend

29th Mar 2025 - 30th Mar 2025

Make this Mother's Day Weekend unforgettable with a magical day out at Fairytale Farm! Bring your mum for a day of family fun, laughter, and adventure on 2 – and to make her feel extra special, we'll treat her to a delicious light lunch for FREE* when she's joined by two paying family members!

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Shlomo's Beatbox Adventure for Kids

Sat 3 May, 2pm & 4pm

Join world record-breaking beatboxer **SK Shlomo** (they/them) who makes amazing music with just a mouth and a mic, and has performed around the world Bjork, Ed Sheeran and Rudimental.

Their 5-star sell-out show ***Shlomo's Beatbox Adventure for Kids*** is back ✨

Anybody can become one of this sonic superhero's sidekicks in a world of funny sounds, brilliant noises, and cool music, whether they're aged 1 or 101

"A perfect show... sets young imaginations alight" ★★★★ The Times

International non-binary beatbox star SK Shlomo has collaborated with Bjork, Ed Sheeran and Gorillaz, toured the world and performed on main stages at fes Glastonbury.

Tickets £15.50

Age guidance: All ages

Running time: 60 mins (no interval)

https://whatsonreading.com/shlomos-beatbox-adventure-kids (https://whatsonreading.com/shlomos-beatbox-adventure-kids)

South Street Arts Centre, 21 South Street, Reading RG1 4QU

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DreamWorks Gabby's Dollhouse comes to Fairytale Farm

8th Mar 2025 - 31st May 2025

Gabby and the Gabby Cats are back with new adventures and magic, in a brand-new season of DreamWorks GABBY'S DOLLHOUSE! To celebrate new episodes Farm is featuring Gabby's Dollhouse activities and giveaways this spring.

https://www.fairytalefarm.co.uk/events/dreamworks-gabbys-dollhouse-comes-to-fairytale-farm/ (https://www.fairytalefarm.co.uk/events/dreamworks dollhouse-comes-to-fairytale-farm/)



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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 adc aged 4 to 11. She has more than 18 years experience as an educator specialising in art and SEND ().

For more information and to check dates, days and times contact Michelle Buckner:

Tel: 07840887854 Email: coloraart@hotmail.com (mailto:coloraart@hotmail.com)

Click here (https://www.facebook.com/people/Colora-Art-Tutoring/61560089105844/) to visit Colora Art Tutoring Facebook page for more information.

Click here (https://bookwhen.com/coloraart#focus=ev-slk7-20250317160000) for details of all sessions available, fees and to book places.

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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New Young Voices Project by Starting Point

Starting Point are involved in a new project where we are giving young people an opportunity to have their say on a few different areas.

The BOB integrated care system are committed to a long-term plan of people having ownership and control over their health. One size does not fit all and the young people to have their say, be heard and influence key decision makers.

They will be using participatory film session, to capture the views and experiences of local young people. They are passionate about hearing from all young pe
particularly interested in enabling young people who often get missed out. This includes young people with SEND () and ASC.
This project will be filmed by young people, for young people and will include young people learning how to film and record interviews, while also giving their
camera.

**If you are interested, please contact No5's Projects Coordinator via projects@no5.org.uk (mailto:projects@no5.org.uk?subject=Starting%20Point%20
%20Young%20Voices%20Project&body=Hi%20Abbie%2C%0A%0AI%20am%20interested%20in%20the%20Starting%20Point%20Young%20Voic**

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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 a
Our aim is to show that rail travel is open to all members of the community.

We have a dedicated accessibility team whose primary focus is to work with groups or individuals who need a little extra guidance and reassurance before tra
independently.

We offer tours of a station near you followed by a short train trip and can provide a bespoke approach according to your individual needs.

This service is completely free. Interested? Find out what we can do for you by contacting accessibilitymentors@gwr.com We look forward to welcoming you

accessibilitymentors@gwr.com (mailto:accessibilitymentors@gwr.com) dan.pearce@gwr.com (mailto:dan.pearce@gwr.com)

https://www.gwr.com/.../try-a-train (https://www.gwr.com/travel-information/passenger-assist/try-a-train)

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

The North Downs Line runs from **Reading through Winnersh, Wokingham,** Crowthorne, Sandhurst, Blackwater, Farnborough North, North Camp, Ash, Wanb
Shalford, Chilworth, Gomshall, Dorking West, Dorking Deepdene, Betchworth, Reigate, Redhill and Gatwick Airport.

If your school or college's nearest station is on the North Downs Line we can offer you free workshops and station visits and more. To book please contact Ma
Education Officer, maddy@southeastcrp.org

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+

Please find attached the following flyers:

- Try a Train flyer
- Go Train primary flyer
- Sustainable and Healthy Travel workshop flyer

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. The children rotate around the next three ac
in train pictures; role play with a ticket office (buying tickets with pretend money) and making and decorating a model train. Children will learn about the 'yell
it's important. We will also have picture of our different staff and will talk about their roles.

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

T: 07891 556897

E: info@southeastcrp.org (mailto:info@southeastcrp.org)

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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, p
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 n
you.

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

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The Sport Together group wants each of their festivals to be **free** for all attendees and to be able to offer a range of sporting opportunities, which can lead to continue involvement.

The aim is to run five events throughout the year, culminating joining up with Parallel Windsor 2025 event on Sunday 6th July 2025 Windsor 2025 (https://www.parallellifestyle.com/windsor2025)

We will be delivering a variety of sports and activities including Boccia, Cricket, New Age Kurling, Football, Multi Sports activities and Wheelchair Basketball o also end the day with our Start Together finish whenever 1 mile walk, push a chair, run, jog etc around the school sensory pathway - we will be setting up a G page for this to raise to money to go towards getting more events in place for 2025.

As always please ask if you have any questions but in the meantime may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Sport T CIC.

sporttogetherberks@gmail.com (mailto:sporttogetherberks@gmail.com)

https://sport2getherberks.org/ (https://sport2getherberks.org/)

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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 availa Berkshire website.

They cover topics including Understanding More About Autism, Sensory Differences, Supporting Behaviour, Emotional Regulation and Eating & Mealtime Chal a set of five workshops about aspects of autism in adolescence tailored for the parents and carers of autistic children aged 11 to 18 who are in mainstream e place on Wednesday or Friday mornings from 10am to 11.30am.

Full details and booking information are available at https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/autism-support-jan-2024/ (https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/au 2024/)

These workshops are open to parents/carers of autistic children and young people who are registered with a GP () surgery in the Berkshire West NHS () area (Wokingham and West Berkshire), who already have an autism diagnosis or are on the NHS waiting list for a Berkshire CAMHS autism assessment.

If you have any questions, email contact@autismberkshire.org.uk or call 01189 594 594 (option 1) and leave a voicemail message.

- Parents and carers whose children have recently been placed on the Berkshire CAMHS waiting list for an autism assessment can register for support fro service **click here** (https://www.reading-rocks.co.uk/things-to-do/easter-holiday-activities-and-events-in-reading) for Berkshire West Autism & ADHD S referral form for parents, carers and autistic young people

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ADHD: Medication, Treatment Choices and Outcomes

Parenting Special Children

This workshop aims to help parents/carers understand more about ADHD medication and therapies available for managing ADHD.

This workshop is delivered online via Zoom by a Berkshire CAMHS Consultant/specialist parenting practitioners.

For parents/carers of ADHD children and young people (diagnosed and undiagnosed). Held online via Zoom from 7-8:30pm starts 30th April

https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/adhd/adhd-medication-treatment-options-outcomes-workshop/ (https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/adhd/adhd-medication-treatment-options-outcomes-workshop/)

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Parenting Special Children

Time Out for Special Needs course for Hong Kong Families. The course starts on 29th April. Further information can be found on the SEND Local Offer **- Readi Time Out for Special Needs, Hong Kong families (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=FdRoWsfafHo)**

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Reading IASS () training for parents/ carers who live in Reading

SEN support in Reading schools

Training for parents/ carers who live in Reading.

These sessions will be held online via MS Teams and will cover:

- The legal framework
- SEND support in schools - what to expect
- EHCPs - what they are and when they are needed

Session Dates:

- For pre-schools: Tuesday 18 March 2025, 10-11am
- For primary: Thursday 20 March 2025
- For secondary: Wednesday 26 March 2025, 10-11am

For information and to book, please email iass@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Please include your name, home address and your child's date of birth.

Reading Directory | Reading IASS training for parents/ carers who live in (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=neGhVOgKjoE)Reading (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=neGhVOgKjoE)

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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/even

For Children

- The A Team: A monthly face-to-face group for autistic/ADHD girls (age 8-18) living in Berkshire. Usually held on Saturday, 10am-12pm. Next sessions: 2 May, June TBC, 12th July.
- Let's Get Creative for Adopted Children: A monthly face-to-face group for adopted children. Held on Saturday, 10am-12pm. Next sessions: 5th April, 3r 5th July.
- Let's Get Creative for Kinship/Connected Care Children: A monthly face-to-face group for kinship/connected care children. Held on Saturday, 10am-12p 26th April, 17th May, 21st June, 19th July.

Support Groups for Parents and Carers

- Adopter Support Group: A monthly face-to-face group which runs alongside our Let's Get Creative session. Held on Saturday, 10am-12pm. Next sessio May, 7th June, 5th July.
- Community Support Group Reading/Whitley: A monthly face-to-face group. Held on Friday, 9.15-11.15am. Next sessions: 4th April, 9th May, 13th June
- Dads and Male Carers Support Group: A monthly face-to-face group. Held on Tuesday, 7.30-9.30pm. Next sessions: 25th March (online), 8th April, 13t 8th July.
- Ethnically Diverse Communities Support Group: A monthly face-to-face group for families living in the Reading Borough Council area. Held on Wednesd Next session: 26th March. Further dates: TBC.
- Kinship Carers Support Group: A monthly face-to-face group which runs alongside our Let's Get Creative session. Held on Saturday, 10am-12pm. Next s April, 17th May, 21st June, 19th July.
- Neurodivergent Parents/Carers Support Group: A monthly online group for parents and carers who are neurodivergent, either diagnosed or self-identifi Reading Borough Council area. Next session: Tuesday 25th March, 7-8.30pm.

Courses and Workshops for Parents and Carers

- Time Out for Special Needs Course for Hong Kong Families: A face-to-face seven week course for parents of pre-school and primary age children with s Hong Kong, living in the Reading Borough Council area. Starts on Tuesday 29th April. Held in Reading from 11am-1pm.
- ADHD: Medication, Treatment Choices and Outcomes Workshop: Two online linked sessions for parents/carers. Starts on Wednesday 30th April, 7-8.3C
- Attachment Focused Re-parenting Course: Birth Parents/Families. An online seven week course aimed at birth parents/families of children affected by t adverse childhood experiences. Starts on Wednesday 7th May, 10am-12pm. Email tas@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk (mailto:tas@parentingspecialch further information and booking.
- Attachment Focused Caregiving Course: Adopters, Foster and Kinship Carers. An online seven week course for adoptive, foster and kinship care familie affected by trauma through adverse childhood experiences. Starts on Thursday 8th May, 10am-12pm. Email tas@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk (mailto:tas@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk) for further information and booking.
- Sleep and Anxiety Workshop: For parents/carers who have children and young people with additional needs who struggle with their sleep due to anxiety May, 7-9pm.

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Understanding Autism Parenting Programme

Join our three-week term-time programme for parents and carers.

This course provides an overview of the Living with Autism course, covering areas where parents commonly need support with their children such as play, sleep and toilet training. Each week will also include information about emotional regulation. All sessions will emphasise a growth approach to autism.

Reading Directory | Understanding Autism Parenting Programme (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=5qd2kTxRvGQ

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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@readir

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

SEND - Family Support



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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.

The company was founded and is run by SEND experts, not recruiters or agents. All questions will be answered by ASEND specialist consultants, who will refer to hundreds of associates all over the UK. These are all experienced SEND experts including headteachers and senior leaders, specialist teachers, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, educational and clinical psychologists and more.

team@asend.co.uk (mailto:team@asend.co.uk)

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.

How was your care?

Please tell us about the care you received from us. All your comments are really important to us and will help us to improve the service you receive. Please visit the iWantGreatCare website (https://www.iwantgreatcare.org/trusts/berkshire-healthcare-nhs-foundation-trust) and choose 'Children's Therapy Services'. Thank you.

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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.

- Thursday mornings 10.30am until 12noon at The Weller Community Centre, Amersham Road, RG4 5NA
- Friday mornings 9.30am-11am at Whitley Wood Community Centre, Swallowfield Drive.

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

We have a Facebook page called Fifi's vision FIFI'S VISION C.I.C. SEND Support Group | Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/401778524027627/) (https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=fifi%27s%20vision)

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

I supply tea, coffee and biscuits and a listening ear if any one needs to talk, it's a chance to meet other parents in same circumstances and I occasionally have professionals come into the group to give advice.

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. Please go to our website for more details: **https://berkshirevision.org.uk/children-and-family-support/ (https://berkshirevision.org.uk/children-and-family-support/)**

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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.

This service is specifically for children with a moderate or severe learning disability, as we know that these children are experiencing significant inequalities in accessing mental health support and require a more specialist mental health service to meet their needs.

01189 046660

CAMHSLearningDisabilityTeam@berkshire.nhs.u (mailto:CAMHSLearningDisabilityTeam@berkshire.nhs.uk)k

WebsiteBerkshire Health Foundation Trust website (https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/)

Learning Disability Transition Videos - click here (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=MBgW_DCtfao) to view the information and videos (January 2024)

Further information can be found here 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 - Neurodivergent Parent/ Carer support group

What is the Neurodivergent Parent/Carer Support Group?

Pilot monthly support group for Neurodiverse parents/ carers (diagnosed/ self identify).

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

Through shared experiences and discussions, we will explore a variety of topics and prioritize well-being.

Whether you're looking for new perspectives, practical tips, or simply a community that understands your journey, you'll find connection and support here.

mary.vdmerwe@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk (mailto:mary.vdmerwe@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk)

Further information can be found here Reading Directory | Parenting Special Children - Neurodivergent Parent/ Carer support group (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=NypQfJv-row&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.

Aims of the Support Groups:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment to share experiences and gain support with the unique challenges faced by families of children with additional needs
- Establish support/social networks for families
- Provide a half hour topic presentation relevant to parenting a child with additional needs. The remainder of the session will be for discussion of the topic and social support time

Children welcome under parent supervision. Refreshments provided. Please bring a packed lunch for sessions which run over lunch time.

For booking and further information please contact: Charlie Taylor on 07810 689679 or supportgroups@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

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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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.

We are independent of Brighter Futures for Children and Reading Borough Council. As a parent carer forum, we work with parents, young people, education, health and social care to improve services for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

Reading Families' Forum meet service providers regularly at SEND Strategy Board meetings and various other working groups, always working to improve SEND services and make families' lives easier.

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) on 01189 594 594. You can also get in touch with our advisers by completing our online contact form (http://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/contact/) or by emailing us at contact@autismberkshire.org.uk (mailto:contact@autismberkshire.org.uk?subject=Helpline%22) (for support for families of autistic children and young people) or adult.support@autismberkshire.org.uk (mailto:adult.support@autismberkshire.org.uk) (for support for autistic adults aged 18+ and their families).

Tel: 01189 594 594 E:contact@autismberkshire.org.uk (mailto:contact@autismberkshire.org.uk)

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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.

Alafia works in partnership with local statutory, voluntary and community organisations to facilitate access to services by BME families in Reading. We offer advice and advocacy support to our members, empowers members to participate in relevant health and social care forums and provide a relaxed environment aimed at reducing isolation, enhancing life skills and improving well-being of our members.

- They offer Home visiting and a short breaks service.

- A monthly support group
- A Tuesday tea & coffee club drop in 11.30-1pm . We will have a cognitive behavioural therapist available every Tuesday for support and more. If you would like to find out more please contact us.

For more information and support please contact Tel: 0118 951 0279 Email: info@acre-reading.org (mailto:info@acre-reading.org)

https://acrereading.org/alafia/ (https://acrereading.org/alafia/)

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

• Get support to help you in your caring role
• Find local services and sources of help
• Look after your health and wellbeing
• Connect with other carers
• Understand your rights
• Carers Assessments for Reading-based 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.

Reading Mencap: For Carer's of Children & Adults with Learning Disability in Reading:

Information & Advice and Carer's Assessments, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading RG1 5PE
Tel: Our new number is 0118 926 3600

Email: carers@readingmencap.org.uk (mailto:carers@readingmencap.org.uk) www.readingmencap.org.uk (http://www.readingmencap.org.uk/)

Age UK Reading support those caring for someone aged 50+, can be contacted on the following number 07716 418 941

Email: carers@ageukreading.org.uk (mailto:carers@ageukreading.org.uk)

CommuniCare: For all other Carers in Reading

Information & Advice and Carer's Assessments, 233 Kings Road, Reading, RG1 4LS,
Tel: 0118 926 3941: Email: office@communicare.org.uk (mailto:office@communicare.org.uk), www.communicare.org.uk (http://www.communicare.org.uk/)

Reading Directory | Special Educational Needs & Disabilities - Reading's Local Offer (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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Do you help look after someone who is unable to care for themselves?

If so, the 2-hour Urgent Community Response (UCR) service is here to help you!

How can the UCR team support you?

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.

The UCR team can keep the person you care for safe at home. They can respond within 2 hours of their health deteriorating, or if their emergency plans breakdown. This is achieved with the support of GPs, geriatricians, social care, advance nurses, therapists and other specialists. The team can carry out assessments, order tests and equipment, diagnose, and prescribe. This service can support in preventing the person you care for being admitted to hospital.

What situation is suitable for referral to the UCR team?

Carer breakdown

It is important to have an emergency plan in place, in case you become unwell and are unable to support the person you care for. The UCR team will be able to help if this plan does not work and the person is likely to be admitted to hospital.

If you think the cared for person could be admitted to hospital unless they are seen within two hours

For example: if they have had a fall but you cannot see any obvious injury; if they need urgent catheter care; if they need urgent support for their diabetes; if there is a sudden deterioration in their frailty or mobility; or if they have become increasingly confused.

How to contact the UCR team

Call 111 or Speak with your regular healthcare worker or GP practice for guidance.

Find out more:

www.england.nhs.uk/community-health-services/community-crisis-response-services/ (http://www.england.nhs.uk/community-health-services/community-crisis-response-services/)

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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.

The Reading & West Berkshire Carers Partnership can help you create an Emergency Pan setting out who should be contacted if you become unwell, delayed or involved in an accident and emergency support is needed for the person you care for.

As part of the Emergency Plan you can also be issued with a Carer's Card. This card helps to make others aware that someone vulnerable is dependent upon you. Details of the person you have nominated in the event of an emergency will be added to the card.

To find out more and to apply for a card, call 0118 926 3600 or email carers@readingmencap.org.uk (mailto:carers@readingmencap.org.uk)



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Introducing the Family Ambassadors

Who are Family Ambassadors?

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

There are 4 Family ambassadors who all work part time to ensure there is support available throughout the week. They are Elaine Howitt, Sally Phelps, Sian McCoubrey and Tamara King who have all experienced parenting a child that has needed a Tier 4 admission. You can contact them via email (details are below). Once you are known to the service you will be able to contact the family ambassadors by phone.

How do we work?

As soon as possible after referral to the Tier 4 service we aim to contact parents or carers to support them through the initial stages of assessment, and where relevant, admission.

If a child is admitted to a Tier 4 service, parents or carers will have an allocated family ambassador, but may be supported by more than one of the team during the time that their child is cared for in the Tier 4 service. You will be able to meet with your Family Ambassador via MS Teams, by phone and, in some instances, in person.

Further information can also be found here Reading Directory | Introducing the Family Ambassadors (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=frXkphNS4SQ&familychannel=3)

Visit our website for more information: www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/carers/family-ambassadors (http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/carers/family-ambassadors)

16-25 Preparation for Adulthood

Addington School's Opportunities Evening 2025.

The evening will be an opportunity for our parents/carers and their young people to find out about your services and how they can be accessed.

This evening provides a great opportunity for our students and their families to find out all the relevant information and knowledge that they need to make so decisions for their future. It also enables students to find out about leisure options that are available in the community and how they might develop their soci independence skills. We know that parents and carers value this as an opportunity to meet the relevant professionals and to discuss individual matters relati young person.

Date: **Tuesday 13th May 2025**

Time: **5pm - 8pm**

Location: **Addington School, Woodley, RG5 3EU**

6th Form Hall

Reading Directory | Addington School's Opportunities Evening 2025 (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=cdGXz_uUFbA&familychannel=3-10)

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The Hub - Weekly Social Drop in at Starting Point

2 Drop-in Clubs

U18's Weekly Social Drop-in

Tuesdays 4-5.30pm

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.

18-25 age group - Weekly Social Drop-in

Tuesdays 1pm-2.30pm

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.

Telephone 0118 995 2160

E-mail startingpoint@themustardtree.org (mailto:startingpoint@themustardtree.org)

Starting Point

Greyfriars Centre
Friar Street
Reading

RG1 1EH

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New Young Voices Project by Starting Point

Starting Point are involved in a new project where we are giving young people an opportunity to have their say on a few different areas.

The BOB integrated care system are committed to a long-term plan of people having ownership and control over their health. One size does not fit all and the for young people to have their say, be heard and influence key decision makers.

They will be using participatory film session, to capture the views and experiences of local young people. They are passionate about hearing from all young pe however are particularly interested in enabling young people who often get missed out. This includes young people with SEND () and ASC.
This project will be filmed by young people, for young people and will include young people learning how to film and record interviews, while also giving their camera.

If you are interested, please contact No5's Projects Coordinator via projects@no5.org.uk (mailto:projects@no5.org.uk?subject=Starting%20Point%20-%20Young%20Voices%20Project&body=Hi%20Abbie%2C%0A%0AI%20am%20interested%20in%20the%20Starting%20Point%20Young%20Voices%20(

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Building for the future plus (18 to 25)

Building for the Future launched BFTF Plus in June 2021 to support young, local, disabled adults who have left school or college in working towards achievin ambitions. We run regular workshops and social events – see our Facebook page for more: facebook.com/BFTFPlus (http://facebook.com/BFTFPlus). We alsc individual advice and support for young people who want to access work, education and cultural opportunities.

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

Foxhole Tavern is proud to support Fab4All

Foxhole tavern is a Dungeons and Dragons Club for adventurers aged 11 and up. Offering a welcoming space to play, create, and connect. Held bi-weekly on F nights (18 +) and Sunday mornings. (11 yrs +)

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 storytelling, dice rolls, and teamwork, players explore worlds, battle foes, and shape their own unique narratives.

Reading Directory | Foxhole Tavern - Dungeons and Dragons group (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=Ev_I

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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 are waitin 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 specialist M services, such as mental health and learning disability teams.

Help available from the Berkshire Adult Autism Support Service includes:

- Adult Support Helpline
- Advice appointments
- Autism advice workshops
- Problem-solving and advice sessions for autistic adults and their parents and carers – at the Atrium coffee shop at Greyfriars Church in Reading town ce
- Activity groups
- Regular newsletters about support services and activities across Berkshire

Click here (https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/) for more information about the service – and other support for adults provided by Autism Berkshire.

To contact the Berkshire Adult Autism Support Service, email adult.support@autismberkshire.org.uk (mailto:adult.support@autismberkshire.org.uk) or call 0 594 and leave a voicemail message including your contact details, so our team can get in touch.

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.

The UK has seen a huge surge in adult diagnoses of ADHD () & Autism, without the infrastructure to support people, so wer are creating a safe space for peop once a month.

If you need help understanding yourself, or perhaps even a loved one, come along!

Sundays, monthly

The Snow Goose Fernhill Road
Farnborough
GU14 9DX

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

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Berkshire West Autism & ADHD Support Service

Free places can be booked for the next online Transition to Adulthood workshop from the Berkshire West Autism & ADHD Support Service, which will take pla Tuesday, March 26.

This session will take a look at education options for young people, with a guest speaker from the Information Advice and Support Services (IASS) network, w answer questions.

The workshop, running from 9.30am to 11am, is open to parents and carers of young people, aged 15 to 25, who have a diagnosis of autism and/or ADHD, or for assessment, and are registered with a GP () surgery in the Berkshire West NHS area, which covers the Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire council ar

- Click the link for more details and to register for free places http://tinyurl.com/yc5b2ex9 (https://tinyurl.com/yc5b2ex9?fbclid=IwAR2mPsSn2BVu6Qk6xJymz4gI11o0PpynJVNO9h0GOjTT-RKghVKDx9HBvf0)

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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

We are a Berkshire-based not-for-profit community interest company formed to set up a coffee van to teach life skills to young people with severe/specific le disabilities.

There is a huge need for social enterprises like this in the U.K to focus on what our young people CAN DO to make a contribution to society, whilst increasing t independence, reducing social isolation, and contributing to good mental health.

We believe young people with learning disabilities have the right to work, to have the same opportunities as their mainstream counterparts and to live life to t

info@thebutterflycommunitycafe.com (mailto:info@thebutterflycommunitycafe.com)

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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Learning Disability Transition Videos

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

(https://www.bucksoxonberksw.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/transition-to-a

Click on the link for further information and to view the videos Reading Directory | Learning Disability Transition Videos (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=MBgW_DCtfao)

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Transition to Adulthood

Transition to adulthood is a whole new world to navigate!

At Parenting Special Children we are parents/carers of children with special needs/disabilities and we also need to know more about this very important stag

We are delivering termly workshops on Transition to Adulthood. These are funded by the Berkshire West Autism and ADHD Support Service (https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/berkshire-west-autism-adhd-support-service/), in partnership with Autism Berkshire (https://www.autismberkshire.org

They are available for families registered with a Berkshire West NHS GP surgery (Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham).

We have a set up a dedicated Facebook page for local and national information and resources. Search on Facebook for @psctransition (https://www.facebook.com/psctransition)

Further details and how to book please follow the link Transition to Adulthood - PSC (parentingspecialchildren.co.uk) (https://www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/courses/transition-to-adulthood/)

Tel: 0118 986 3532

Making finance decisions for young people: parent and carer toolkit (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-finance-decisions-for-you people-parent-and-carer-toolkit?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=00413530-e4b6-46e2-a32f-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.

Service Users have an opportunity to work as part of a team, learn new skills and experience work-related tasks in a structured, rewarding community enviro

John Potter 07941917081 branchingup@hotmail.com (mailto:branchingup@hotmail.com)

89th Reading Scout Activity Centre Jefferson Close Emmer Green Reading Berkshire RG4 8US

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, and Care Pl

Further information incuding how to access the programme can be found here Reading Directory | Supported Internship Reading 2025 - Shaw Trust (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

RoutetoRecruit
Supporting the Journey to Employment

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN THE SKILLS TO GET A JOB IN A DIFFERENT WAY?

Then a Supported Internship could be right for you A supported internship is a college course mainly carried out in the work place where you will learn new sl will help you find a job and find out what it takes to be a good employee.

Do you want to build the skills to get a paid job?

Do you find learning in the classroom difficult?

Are you 16 to 24 with special educational needs and an EHCP ()?

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)

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FEDCAP | Employment

Reading Directory | Fedcap Employment, Inspiring Futures. (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=zXN70FDZ (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 wellbeing.

The programme is designed for people who are:

- residents of Reading Borough Council
- aged 18 to 65 years, who are diagnosed with a learning disability and/or Autism (LDA)
- looking to get into the work environment straight away
- not currently in work and not receiving any benefits that require them to look for work, or simply need more support getting back into the workplace

Our Support Services

When the time is right, we'll match you to a suitable role or placement and support you all the way into the workplace.

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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 and make while trying out new activities.

Meeting on a Tuesday evening from 7.15 – 9.15pm, indoor activities in the club room at Alexandra Road, Reading include cooking, art and crafts, watching m indoor sports.

Members also get out and about in the local area – going bowling, canoeing and visiting the pub!

Call 0118 966 2518 or email clubsmanager@readingmencap.org.uk (mailto:clubsmanager@readingmencap.org.uk) if you'd like to arrange a taster session fc or someone you care for.

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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 advice ab equipment for health, assistive technology and daily living ideas.

Reading Directory | AskSARA: Advice and support to help with daily living (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page? id=Cehp3GPQH4Y)

Transition 16-25 - Preparing for Adulthood

Reading Directory | Transition 16-25 (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 - Decembe (https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/reading/enterprise/files/becoming_an_adult_guide_for_young_people_updated_3_october_2024_-_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_2

Counselling – Mental health support

Family Information Service has a dedicated page with information on local and national support click the folllowing 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.

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. 03444 775774 – Helpline 07537 416905 - Text service - Email: support@anxietyuk.org.uk (mailto:support@anxietyuk.org.uk) National charity helping people with Anxiety - Anxiety UK (https://www.anxietyuk.org.uk/)

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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.

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. All our mentors are very experienced and trained in working with neurodivergent individuals, including autistic young people and other conditions such as PDA, ADHD (), anxiety, trauma and PTSD. Counselling (for parents) Being a parent to a neurodivergent child or a child suffering anxiety can often be challenging, stressful and isolating. We believe it is vitally important to look after your own mental health to be the best support for your child. We are now proud to offer counselling for parents with one of our excellent counsellors. If you would like to enquire about sessions, please get in touch for more information. Email: mindjamdan@gmail.com (mailto:mindjamdan@gmail.com)

MindJam | Empowering and Supporting Young People (https://mindjam.org.uk/)

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No5 Young People Young People's Mental Health Helpline

Young people from 11-25 years of age can access this free helpline and receive a call from a trained counsellor. Talking to someone who won't judge you about how you're feeling is, in itself, helpful. No5's trained counsellors can also offer practical advice over the phone. Simply text TALK followed by your first name and postcode to 07786 202430 to request a phone call from a trained counsellor. The support line is open Monday to Friday. No5 Helpline is not a crisis line. If you are in crisis, please contact the Samaritans 24/7 phone line on 116 123. For more info on No5 Young People, call (0118) 901 5668, email info@no5.org.uk (mailto:info@no5.org.uk) or visit No5 - Free Counselling Services - Reading (https://no5.org.uk/)

Looking for Direction - See new service

Home Page - No5 Reading Signposting (https://signposting.no5.org.uk/)

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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. Driven by their experiences, we campaign, research and influence policy and practice. We also provide expert knowledge to professionals, parents and young people through our Parents' Helpline, online resources, training and development, outreach work and publications. Support for Young Minds YOUNG Minds Crisis Messenger Service is free 24/7 crisis support service across the UK. If you're a young person and need urgent support with your #MentalHealth, text YM to 85258. 0808 802 5544 (parent helpline) YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds (https://www.youngminds.org.uk/)

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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.

Depending on the age of the child or young person, we may work either directly with them or with their parents. We also work with school staff and offer support on different levels; with the aim of developing and supporting a whole school approach to mental health. Tel: 0118 937 6548 Email: MHST@brighterfuturesforchildren.org (mailto:MHST@brighterfuturesforchildren.org) Use the following link to find out more: Mental Health Support Team Reading Directory | Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=366vyJUhMeU)

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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.

Tel: 01225 789135 Email: office@ndti.org.uk (mailto:office@ndti.org.uk) About NDTi - NDTi (https://www.ndti.org.uk/about-us/about-ndti)

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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. SHaRON provides support and advice for families of young people with eating disorders; families of young people with autism or awaiting an assessment for autism; pregnant women and new mums with mental health difficulties.

Online peer support in Mental health | SHaRON (https://www.sharon.nhs.uk/)

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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. We also offer expert training and professional qualifications. Tel: 020 7923 5500 Email: enquiries@place2be.org.uk (mailto:enquiries@place2be.org.uk) Improving children's mental health in schools

Improving children's mental health in schools – Place2Be (https://www.place2be.org.uk/)

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. 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. 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.

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.

We provide grants for a range of essential items such as fridges, freezers and cookers, clothing, bedding, games, books and music, laptops and tablets, family breaks, sensory toys and more.

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.

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.

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.

Home | Disability charity Scope UK (https://www.scope.org.uk/)

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Purple Ella - Autism & Disability

Hi, I'm Purple Ella. I'm disabled and I make content about my life with autism, ADHD () and chronic illness (hEDS) Reading Directory | Purple Ella - Autism & Disability (https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=hwrn4hEhekI&familychannel=3)

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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)

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. 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. (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. Council for Disabled Children (https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/)

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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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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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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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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.

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. 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.

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. Sense | For people with complex disabilities (https://www.sense.org.uk/)



What's on at Reading Libraries during the Easter Holiday's

(https://www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/)

READING MUSEUM

What's on at Reading Museum

(https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/whats-on-reading-museum)



Young Voices Online Safety Summit - Goodie Bag

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



Norden Farm Spring 2025

(https://norden.farm/events/the-farmer-and-the-clown)

(https://www.readingsendlocaloffer.org)

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