

ACTIVITIES & SHORT BREAKS as of January 2017
For Children and Young People with disabilities living in Bracknell Forest

Contact for General Information & Queries:

Jo Lillywhite at short.breaks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, telephone 01344 352733

Information on activities, support and advice can also be found on Bracknell Forest's Local Offer:
<https://bracknellforest.fsd.org.uk/kb5/bracknell/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=6>

1. **HOLIDAY & SATURDAY CLUB ACTIVITIES**
2. **REGULAR AFTER SCHOOL / WEEKEND ACTIVITIES**
3. **ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES**
4. **PARENT GROUPS & SUPPORT**

1. HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES (targeted schemes, mainstream & universal)

Targeted Schemes – for children and young people up to the age of 18 with disabilities including complex needs. These schemes are primarily for children and young people who are unable to access mainstream or universal settings with or without support ie due to their high level of need and support required mainstream settings are unsuitable. Providers work closely with the Short Break Services team to ensure settings meet the needs of children and young people and that activities accessed offer a suitable peer group.

Kids Holiday & Saturday Clubs - Targeted

Kids provide:

- Under and Over 11's holiday scheme
- Under and Over 11's Saturday club

Contact: Play & Leisure (Abby Strong or Molly O'Rourke); email: berkshire.office@kids.org.uk; telephone: 07748 889933 or 01344 774758

	Under 11's	Over 11's
Holidays	<p>Easter 2017 3rd, 4th, 5th April 10th, 11th April</p> <p>May half term 2017 29th, 30th, 31st May, 1st & 2nd June</p> <p>Summer 2017 25th, 27th, 28th July 1st, 3rd, 4th August 8th, 10th, 11th August 15th, 17th, 18th August 22nd, 24th, 25th August 29th, 31st August, 1st Sept</p> <p>October half term 2017 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th October</p>	<p>Easter 2017 5th, 6th, 7th April 11th, 12th April</p> <p>May half term 2017 29th, 30th, 31st May, 1st & 2nd June</p> <p>Summer 2017 24th, 25th, 26th July 31st July, 1st, 2nd August 7th, 8th, 9th August 14th, 15th, 16th August 21st, 22nd, 23rd August 28th, 29th, 30th August</p> <p>October half term 2017 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th October</p>

	Christmas 2017 21 st & 22 nd December February half term 2018 12 th , 13 th , 14 th , 15 th , 16 th February	Christmas 2017 21 st & 22 nd December February half term 2018 12 th , 13 th , 14 th , 15 th , 16 th February
Saturdays	8 th & 29 th April 2017 13 th & 27 th May 2017 10 th & 24 th June 2017 22 nd July 2017 16 th & 30 th September 2017 14 th & 28 th October 2017 11 th & 25 th November 2017 2 nd & 16 th December 2017 27 th January 2018 3 rd & 24 th February 2018 10 th & 24 th March 2018	8 th & 15 th April 2017 13 th & 20 th May 2017 10 th & 17 th June 2017 15 th July 2017 16 th & 23 rd September 2017 14 th & 21 st October 2017 11 th & 18 th November 2017 2 nd & 9 th December 2017 20 th January 2018 3 rd & 10 th February 2018 10 th & 17 th March 2018

Disability Challengers – Basingstoke, Farnham & Reading

This is an independent children's charity which provides over 25,000 play and leisure spaces to 1,200 disabled children and young people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL BOOKING LINE: 01483 230 939

Play and Leisure Team: playandleisureteam@disability-challengers.org, telephone: 01483 230 930
www.disability-challengers.org

Kids – overnight opportunities

Kids will be providing weekend/ overnight opportunities for young people age 12+, criteria apply. The weekends will provide various activity opportunities and young people will be expected to develop independence skills by shopping, cooking and taking some overall responsibility for themselves.

Bracknell Forest (Short Break Services) will subsidise the significant cost of these trips. **Parents can book one weekend only.**

Activity weekends (2 nights): The cost of the trip to parents will be £50 per place:

10th – 12th February 2017 – Avon Tyrell

3rd – 5th March 2017 – PGL Surrey

Contact: Abby Strong or Molly O'Rourke, email: berkshire.office@kids.org.uk; telephone: 07748 889933 or 01344 774758

Thumbs Up Club – Addington School

Woodlands Avenue, Woodley, READING, Berkshire, RG5 3EU

Holiday club for children with additional needs. The staff to child ratio is 1:2, and it can take children who require 1:1 support if they come with their own worker.

Activities include arts and craft, soft play, outdoor play, computers, visiting entertainers and themed days. Bracknell families can access this scheme if spaces are available.

Contact: Ian Stentiford, email: bookings@thumbsupclub.co.uk; telephone: 0118 947 1196 or 0118 927 2480

Universal Schemes – suitable for children and young people who:

- Have moderate learning difficulties
- Require low level and minimal supervision
- Can communicate in small group settings

Oakwood Youth Challenge

Please note that these activities are for children and young people living in Bracknell Forest. Group size is limited to 10 and booking is essential. Subject to space being available siblings can attend. If the group size falls below 6 then the session may be cancelled.

- Half day activity sessions from 1.30-4.30pm
- Age 8+ years
- £10 per session
- Payment in advance at time of booking
- **Dates:** Monday 13th February 2017
Thursday 6th April 2017
Monday 10th April 2017
Monday 24th July 2017
Monday 31st July 2017
Monday 7th August 2017
Monday 14th August 2017
Monday 21th August 2017
Tuesday 29th August 2017

Email: enquiries@oakwoodyouth.co.uk; telephone: 0118 9792253

John Nike Holiday Camp days

Children and young people can access the mainstream holiday club days; bookings should be made directly with John Nike, tele 01344 789000. If additional support is required, this can be provided directly via the Short Break Service, telephone 01344 352733. Once parents have agreed their preferred dates they should ask the provider to make contact with the Short Break Service to request funding to provide any additional staffing and or resources.

BA Sports

BA Sports holiday camps will be running from Bracknell Leisure Centre during the school half terms and holidays. Holiday camps are a fun and exciting form of childcare to suit modern working families, or to give parents some respite in the holidays.

Children at BA Sports will take part in a variety of original and diverse games and activities to keep them busy. Activities will include football, cricket, tag rugby, dodgeball, basketball, gymnastics, dance, arts and crafts, capture the flag, team games, obstacle course, swimming, Whoosh and many more.

Half day and full day camps as well as 4 hour sessions for 4 year olds will be available. For further details please visit <http://www.basportstar.co.uk/book-now/bracknell-leisure-holiday-camp/>. If you feel your child may require additional support please call the provider in the first instance on 07876829907 / 07502431693 or email info@basportstar.co.uk. Additional funding can be made available through the Short Break Service for additional staff, resources or training, contact 01344 352733.

2. REGULAR AFTER SCHOOL/ WEEKEND ACTIVITIES - Timetable

MONDAY	Football 5-6pm Free	Dance Club 5.30-6.30pm £6	Youth Club 11-25 yrs 6.30-8.15pm £2.00		
TUESDAY	Karate 6.45-7.30pm				
WEDNESDAY	Challenge Club 7.00-9.00pm £1.00	Paul's Karaoke £2.00			
THURSDAY	Siblings Group 4.30-6.15pm £1.00	Dance Club 5.00-5.50pm £5.00	FBC All stars 5.30-6.30pm £2.00	Ice skating 6.00-7.00pm	Sailing (April to Sept) 6.00-8.00pm £6.00
	3.4.5 Drama Club 7.00-8.00pm £6.00				
FRIDAY	Twinkle Twinkle (Parent & child) 1.15-2.45pm	CAYP Group 4.30-6.30pm	Youth Club at The Wayz (The Chill Out) 5.00-6.30pm	Youth Club at The Wayz (The Hang Out) 7.15-9pm	
SATURDAY	Siblings Activity Club 9.30-11.15am £2.00	Trampoline 12-1.00pm & 1.00-2.00pm £5.00	Football 2-4pm	Electric Eels 5.30-6.30pm in Windsor – see below	
SATURDAY	Dance 9.00-1.20pm £6.00-£8.00				
SUNDAY	Gymnastics 10.30-11.30am & 2pm				

MONDAY Football

5-6pm, Free

Pan Disability Football, football sessions for 16+ years. Everybody welcome.

Goals, Woodlands Avenue, Woodley, Reading, RG5 3EU

Registration forms available.

Contact: Daniel Rook, email: drook@readingfc.co.uk, telephone: 0118 907 2160

MONDAY Dance Club ('Move it Mondays')

5.30-6.30pm, £6

Inclusive dance experience; engage in fun activities, build confidence and make new friends.

Birch Hill Community Centre, Bracknell, RG12 7WW

Contact: Charlie Dixon, email: charlie.dixon@hotmail.co.uk, telephone: 07792901616

MONDAY YOUTH CLUB (11-25 yrs)

Monday Night Youth Club is organised and run by parents and volunteers for young people with disabilities and their friends who want to get together, hangout and have a good time while participating in an informal programme. The needs and expectations of any new young person will be discussed with their parent/ carer, the aim is to include everyone! Young people from 11 -16 years can join in too but must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

Parents and carers are welcome to stay to chat, relax and support each other. Tea & coffee is provided.

Based at K2, Kerith Community Church, term time only, £2 per session.

Contact: Michelle Garthwaite, email: michellegarthwaite@hotmail.com, telephone 07508 881245

TUESDAY KARATE CLUB – course of lessons

Great Hollands Primary School, Wordsworth Road, RG12 8QN

Contact: Daniel or Gillian, email: karate@silwoodparkkarate.co.uk, telephone: 01344 440328

WEDNESDAY Challenge Club

Youth & Community Centre, Priestwood, Court Road

Social Club for people with learning difficulties aged 16+; live music or disco every Wednesday.

For more information email: thechallengeclub@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07932 489 487

WEDNESDAY Paul's Karaoke (formerly Karaoke Nights)

Rose Room, Rose Street Methodist Church, Rose Street, Wokingham

This group meets on the middle two Wednesdays of each month (except August) and is open to anyone 16+ who has a learning disability.

Please call Wokingham Mencap for information: 0300 777 8539

THURSDAY Siblings Group

For siblings (8-13 years) of children with a Learning Disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Every Thursday (term time only) in Bracknell from 4.30 to 6.15pm (term time) at the Braybrooke Community Centre, Makepiece Road, Bracknell

Cost: £1 per person/ session

For further information, please contact 0300 7778539 or email: admin@bracknellmencap.org

THURSDAY Dance Club

After school – 5.00-5.50pm

Easthampstead Park Conference Centre - the old gym has been refurbished! Berkshire Ballroom – Whitefield Building

Contact: Kelly Wilkins, email: kellywilkins@hotmail.co.uk, telephone: 07725269138

THURSDAY FBC All Stars (7-18 yrs)

FBC All Stars is an inclusive sports club for people with a disability and their friends and family with an interest in sport. The club will run every Thursday term time only at the Sports Hall, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead, RG40 4ES

Contact: Beth Cutting, email: beth@finchampstead.com, telephone: 0118 9088158

www.fbcentre.com

THURSDAY ICE SKATING

John Nike LeisureSport, Bracknell

ALL AGES (Under and Over 11's) – 6.00-7.00pm

Contact: Charlotte Heston, telephone: 01344 789000

THURSDAY SAILING (8+ yrs)

Sailability based at Burghfield Sailing Club, Hanger Road, Theale, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 4AP. Sessions available from April to September 6.00-8.00pm and monthly on a Saturday 10.30am-4pm.

This activity relies on volunteers so carers bringing children and young people will need to remain on site and or support if required.

Contact: Sharon Bullock, telephone: 0118 9303604, email: info@burghfieldsailability.org.uk

www.burghfieldsailability.org.uk

THURSDAY 3.4.5 DRAMA CLUB (13-22 yrs)

Coopers Hill Youth & Community Centre, Bracknell, RG12 7UA

7.00-8.00pm

Sessions aim to increase and develop communication and build confidence.

Contact: Carla Bellis, email: carlabellis_345club@yahoo.com, telephone: 0118 9272109

FRIDAY Stay and Play Sessions (Parent and child)

Poppies Children's Centre, Kenneally, Broom Farm Estate, Dedworth, Windsor, SL4 4XP

Twinkle Twinkle is a voluntary group run by parents from Poppies Children's Centre. It offers a fun and supportive session for children aged 0-5 with Special Needs run on a weekly basis on Fridays. From 1.30pm Hartbeeps also delivers sensory play. Come along and chat to other parents whilst your child enjoys the toys and activities. Priority will be given to families who live in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Contact: Claire McIntosh, telephone: 07789 572397, email: childrens.centres@rbwm.gov.uk

FRIDAY After School Group; Autism Berkshire (CAYP)

Maple and Willows Children's Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell, RG42 1TU

This group is for children and young people 9+ years to 18 who have been recently diagnosed with autistic spectrum condition who live in Bracknell Forest. Great opportunity to discuss diagnosis while having fun and making friends.

Every Friday, term time only; 4.30-6.30pm.

Telephone: 0118 9594594, email: admin@autismberkshire.org.uk

FRIDAY YOUTH CLUBS; Wayz

Calfridus Way, Bracknell, RG12 9ET

The Chill Out - 5-6.30pm - the aim of this project is to boost social skills and other life skills of young people aged 12-16 yrs with moderate learning difficulties.

The Hang Out - 7.15-9pm 16-25yrs with moderate learning difficulties.

Contact: Gareth Mepham, email: gareth.mepham@berkshireyouth.co.uk

Telephone: 01344 483596 or 07928816186

www.xpresionz.co.uk/local-service/wayz-youth-centre

SATURDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CLUB

Bracknell & Wokingham Mencap, Crescent Centre, Lower Earley

9.30am-11.15am, term time only. Must call in advance.

Activities include arts and crafts and give children with learning difficulties and their siblings an opportunity to have fun together, in a fully supportive environment.

Please book, as limited spaces are available, £2 per session.

Contact Wokingham Mencap: 0300 777 8539, email: admin@wokinghammencap.org

SATURDAY TRAMPOLINING

Bracknell Trampoline Centre, Brackenhale School, Coningsbury, Bracknell, RG12 7BA

Every Saturday.

£5 per session, sessions are paid for termly.

12-1pm and 1-2pm. The centre runs two, one hour trampolining sessions for children and adults with special needs. Contact: 01344 306301

SATURDAY Football by Bracknell Cavaliers

Easthampstead Park School, playing fields.

Every Saturday 2-4pm

16+ but younger players welcome.

Contact: Chuck on 07510 064407 or email ctobiorah@gmail.com

SATURDAY Swimming lessons for Downs Syndrome

Electric Eels is a special club for 8 year olds with Downs Syndrome who want to learn to swim, perfect their swimming technique or get the chance to swim competitively. The club meets on a Saturday evening, 5.30pm to 6.30pm at Windsor Leisure Centre, Windsor (except Christmas,

Easter and August). To join, there is an annual subscription and a small weekly fee. Electric Eels are a non profit organisation and all money raised goes towards running costs. The committee, teachers and helpers are all unpaid volunteers. If you are interested in registering your child to join Electric Eels, please email, directorofswimming@electricceels.org.uk and Chair@electricceels.org.uk www.electricceels.org.uk

SATURDAY CHANCE TO DANCE

Special Needs Dance Classes, Martins Heron Community Centre

3-19 years, 9am-1.20pm, £6.00-£8.00

STYLES: Modern, Contemporary, Tap and much more

Booking required – Victoria Andrews – 07736343570 or via email vickieandrews50@hotmail.co.uk
www.sendanceclub.co.uk

SUNDAY Pinewood Gymnastics

5-16 yrs, 10.30-11.30am, a structured class. Paid termly

2-3pm – introductory / 'drop in class', £6 per session

Parents usually remain on site for duration of class. For enquiries and bookings, telephone: 01344 773 237

3. Activities for families

The Look Out Discovery Centre

Nine Mile Ride, Bracknell, Berkshire. RG12 7QW.

Exploration and education go hand in hand with an unforgettable, fun day out at The Look Out with 90 hands-on exciting science and nature exhibits. The Look Out also has a fully operational Changing Places toilet complete with shower toilet, adjustable sink, changing bed and hoist which is accessed via 'radar key'. Customers are asked to bring their own slings for use with the hoist.

Open daily 10am – 5pm with on site coffee and gift shop.

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/be, telephone: 01344 354400

Kids 'n' Action

Soft play area in Winnersh. Free to become a member, rates and further information can be found on website.

Contact telephone: 0118 9696700, www.kids-n-action.com

Swimming and lessons

Red Diamonds

(Wokingham, Bracknell and District Sports Association for the Disabled)

Provides sports facilities at Bracknell Leisure Centre for people with disabilities (all ages) including swimming, table tennis and snooker.

Contact: Keith Shepherd, telephone: 01344 640330, email: keith.shepherd2@ntlworld.com

Swim school, based at Licensed Victuallers School, London Road, Ascot:

www.ascotswimschool.co.uk/page11/page11.html

Swimming lessons in Harmans Water:

www.theswimschool.co.uk/index.php/about-us

The Engine Shed in Reading

This is a monthly 'train club' running at Katesgrove Children's Centre in Reading, for children and young people on the autistic spectrum (and those who are not!) and their families. Model railways and train sets for all abilities will be set up and a range of train-related resources will be available for children to play with.

Telephone: 0118 901 5664

www.theengineshed.org.uk/ or follow the facebook page for the club.

Alexandra Holiday House

Alexandra House provides unrivalled, wheelchair accessible, holiday accommodation for families or friends with an adult or child having profound disabilities. This lovingly refurbished and extremely well-equipped 3-bedroom bungalow lies on the edge of the North Devon village of Braunton, a few minutes drive to the beach and wheelchair friendly riverside trails.

Telephone: 0845 680 5431, email: hello@starfishbreaksnorthdevon.co.uk

www.starfishbreaksnorthdevon.co.uk

Cinema opportunities

A For Film - Vue Cinema - The Oracle in Reading. Tele 0871 224 0240

Turn up on the morning and buy tickets (priced £1.75 for children and their parents/carers or siblings) and refreshments from 09.10am. Lift present for wheelchair users. The lights will be up a little, the sound slightly down and all young people can clap their hands, shout express themselves and move around as much as they need.

To find out the film listings in advance, please contact Chris Roberts:

email: Chris_Standby@hotmail.com or phone 07711004034

Regal Picture House - Henley

2 Boroma Way, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2BZ

2nd Sunday of every month, 11am. Cost per ticket is £3.00 each for children / carers / siblings.

Join the mailing list leah.b@picturehouses.co.uk and put 'autism friendly regal' in the subject.

Please note wheelchair users must book a space in advance. Bookings & Info: 0871 902 5738

Monkey Mates Play Barn

Special Needs night 1st Friday every month, 6-8pm; £2 per child and siblings welcome.

www.monkeymates.co.uk, telephone: 0118 9892111

Our House

A purpose-designed centre for disabled children and their families in Wokingham. Families from surrounding areas such as Bracknell are warmly welcomed. There is a sensory room, soft play, a computer pod, play areas, a chill-out room for disabled teenagers, a fully accessible bathroom with large changing bench and hoist and a relaxing parents' area with lounge and kitchen. The centre is run by parents of disabled children who truly understand. If you would like to be added to their database for future events please email for further information jane@bfff.org.uk, telephone 0118 9706704

www.bfff.org.uk

4. PARENT GROUPS & SUPPORT

ADHD Directions

ADHD Directions is a parent run support group who support those affected by ADHD in a safe, non-judgemental environment by providing information and shared knowledge through informal meetings.

They are based in Bracknell however, they welcome anyone from anywhere! They meet regularly several times a month. For further details of where and when please contact Louise on 07725737771 or adhdirections@gmail.com

ASD Family Help

The ASD Family Help charity is a 'user led' independent and voluntary group that offers free support, advice, coffee mornings & evenings to individuals on the autistic spectrum, their parents, carers and professionals.

ASD Family Help also provides, at a reduced rate, social events for:-

- Male Parent/Carers
- ASD Adults/Children & their Families

Contact: 3frogs@asdfamilyhelp.org or text/phone: 07554 303328 to be added to our email listing.

Our membership is FREE. www.asdfamilyhelp.org

Autism Berkshire (formerly known as Berkshire Autistic Society)

Autism Berkshire is an established charity providing comprehensive services for all ages of people with autism, their families, carers and professionals working in the field.

Services include:

- Parent to Parent, Post Diagnosis Support Service - provided by a parent of a child with an ASD, non-judgemental support and a listening ear, signposting to other services and sources of help;
- A daily helpline for parents, carers, professionals and people with an autistic spectrum disorder for queries about diagnosis, benefits, health, education and more;
- Regular newsletters;
- Social and leisure activities for children and adults;
- Professional speaker evenings and much more

Autism Berkshire also hold support groups across the county. Bracknell Group meet monthly during term time at the Forest Park Community Centre, Horndean Road, Forest Park, RG12 0XQ. Sessions include a guest speaker, support, Q&A, plus an opportunity for parents to meet new friends. Email: contact@autismberkshire.org.uk or telephone: 0118 9594594
www.autismberkshire.org.uk

Behaviour Support for Parents

A 6 hour behaviour management course for parents/ carers of children and young people with disabilities. The course will be covered over two 3 hour sessions and would ideally suit parents who have not undertaken any behaviour management training or who would like a refresh. To book a place:

Email: joanna.gibbons@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Telephone: 01344 354042

Future dates: 15th & 16th March 10am – 1pm and 8th & 9th November 10am – 1pm 2017 at the Bracknell Open Learning Centre.

We are unable to provide childcare

Bracknell Parent Carer Forum

The Parent Carer Forum is a Partnership Forum between parents/ carers of children with additional needs and key professionals who work with them. It provides a networking opportunity and forum for consultation and participation in planning and developing services within Bracknell Forest. Key speakers are invited to discuss current services and new developments. This group is chaired by Debbie Warner (parent/ carer) and supported administratively by Dawn Crisp (Kids).

Dawn Crisp – email: dawn.crisp@kids.org.uk, telephone 07469154317 or Debbie Warner – email: deborah.warner2ntlworld.com, telephone 07967370734

Forthcoming meeting dates – please contact the Parent Carer Forum directly.

Childcare

As part of our continued commitment to provide adequate and appropriate childcare for children and young people with disabilities, we are pleased to advise that we have a bank of childminders who can offer this service. Childminders are currently meeting the needs of a wide range of disabilities including Autism, Opsoclonum Myoclonus Syndrome (OMS), Downs Syndrome, Epilepsy, Global Development Delay, Prader Willi Syndrome and Speech and Hearing impairments.

For further information please contact: Marion Wright, Childminder Inclusion Officer.

Telephone: 01344 312851 / 0776 8780071, email: marion.wright@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Contact a Family

Is the only national charity that exists to support families of disabled children whatever their condition or disability. There is a helpline for information or advice on any aspect of caring for a disabled child and this includes a child's education.

Freephone helpline: 0808 8083555, Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5pm,
email: helpline@cafamily.org.uk, www.cafamily.org.uk

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

The DFG is money given by central government to Local Authorities to assist disabled people to adapt their homes to meet their **assessed needs** arising from their disability. The DFG is for substantial building work and will only be paid for work agreed in advance. Conditions apply and

adaptations to properties funded by a DFG do take time. The start of the process is a referral to Children's Social Care to check eligibility and refer to an Occupational Therapist.

Contact: Children's Social Care 01344 352020

More information at

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/HomeAndHousingOptions/YourHome/DG_4000642

The Disabled Living Foundation

Provides impartial advice and information about daily living equipment and other aspects of independent living. They do not sell products but can help find the people that do. If you are a parent or carer of a disabled child, or a healthcare professional looking for ideas, advice and information about daily living equipment you may find the link below useful:

<http://www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk/children>

Disability Grants

www.disability-grants.org

This is a directory of grants for the disabled including grants for disabled children, disabled adults, Carers, disability groups and much more.

Grants from the Family Fund

The Family Fund are a registered charity and the UK's largest provider of grants to families, living on the lowest of incomes, raising disabled and seriously ill children. Their grants bring practical and essential help that is often a lifeline to a family such as washing machines, fridges, bedding, specialist toys and much needed family breaks. Further information including eligibility criteria can be found at www.familyfund.org.uk.

Email: info@familyfund.org.uk, telephone: 01904 621115

Family Information Service

The Family Information Service (FIS) provides a free and impartial information and signposting service on childcare, holiday activities and other services that support parents and carers of children and young people up to the age of 20.

Email: fis@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, telephone: 01344 353133

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/familyinformation

Family Support Advisors

The majority of schools across Bracknell Forest have a Family Support Advisor based within their school. This role offers a key link between families and their school. Parents and carers can access individual support for their family and discuss, in a confidential manner, any issues that may impact their child's education. The majority of the Family Support Advisors have been trained in "Pyramid for Parents" which is a programme aimed at promoting positive parenting techniques and has a strong emphasis on raising a child's self-esteem. In addition, many Family Support Advisors run regular parenting workshops which benefit the parents in their schools.

If you would like to discuss any issues regarding your child or family situation please contact your Family Support Advisor via your school. For more information regarding the Family Support Advisor role in schools please contact Wendy Such, Extended Services Officer.

Telephone: 01344 354094, email: wendy.such@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Funding available to support mainstream settings (Inclusion Fund)

The purpose of this fund is to improve access for children and young people with disabilities within a universal or mainstream setting. Children accessing these settings would typically require minimal supervision and have moderate learning difficulties and may need some initial support to build confidence. However, for some children additional support may be required on an ongoing basis.

This funding is accessed by the after school club or holiday scheme directly. Parents are required to discuss their child's individual needs with a provider and if additional support is identified, the provider should contact the Short Break Service. Parents pay the sessional rate, as any parent, and the Short Break Service provides the funding for the additional staff and or resources required by the setting. This support can be provided for up to 1 day per week during the school holidays in line with our targeted provisions.

For children and young people with more complex needs or who require a higher level of support, where a mainstream setting is not appropriate, activities and holiday schemes are available predominantly through Konnections and Kids.

If you have a query regarding suitability, please contact the Short Break Service tele: 01344 352733 or email short.breaks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

GO! Style – a unique ‘pick n mix’ pay as you go service

GO! Style is a unique service set up to support choice and equality. It provides individuals with the opportunity to independently purchase Short Breaks centred around individual need. It enables individuals to choose what they want to do and offers flexibility by using ‘Action Coins’ to purchase activities.

- Each coin has an identical activity purchase price and is unique to the individual based on their need for support. The difference in support costs will have been taken into account at the coin purchase stage.
- Coins includes the cost of a short break activity, a personal care or support element plus the cost of the GO! Brokerage/ admin.
- Those using personal funds may apply to purchase as many coins as they wish at a cost relevant to their level of assessed need for support.

For more information call 0118 9076312 or email: bookings@greatopportunities.org.uk

ICAN (SaLT charity offering support to parents)

ICAN offers support for children with any kind of speech, language or communication difficulty. The Manichem chemist in Bullbrook, Bracknell holds leaflets and information which focus on helping babies and young children learn the skills for talking. At the moment the main focus is on the under 5 age group.

Contact: ICAN on 020 7843 2544 and book a free and confidential call back from a speech and language therapist.

Useful websites:

www.talkingpoint.org.uk, www.hello.org.uk, www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk, www.ican.org.uk, www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk, www.afasicengland.org.uk

Konnections Support for Parents and Carers of children with SEND

(formerly Friday Mums Group), based at Kerith Community Church

This is a parent led coffee morning where parents can relax and share experiences.

10-12 noon term time only.

For further information please contact Nicky Harris, telephone: 07590848714

Little Darlings Support Group (West Berkshire Down Syndrome Group)

Lower Earley Baptist Church, Maiden Place, Lower Earley, RG5 3HE

Friday morning 9.30am-12 noon.

For more information and to check if the session is running please contact Charlie Williamson.

Telephone: 07847 327528, email: charlie@wbdsg.org.uk

Max Card (formerly CAN Card)

The Max Card can be provided to children and young people, living in Bracknell Forest, with additional needs, whether it is a physical, sensory, or a learning disability. The information provided will be used to produce a small ‘credit card size’ card which can be shown to certain organisations as proof of your child’s disability. Families will also benefit from discounts at over 775 attractions. Full details of participating venues can be found at www.mymaxcard.co.uk.

Information provided will:

- Help us maintain the Disability Register which supports our planning for future services and identifies any gaps in current service provision for children with additional needs.
- Ensure that families with a child with additional needs are kept fully informed of issues that may affect them, and to advise them of relevant new services and opportunities.

There is no cost to families for this card; if you require a second card for a parent not living at home then please let us know. Cards are renewed every 2 years and you will be required to complete a new form.

For an application form please email: short.breaks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, telephone: 01344 352733

Mencap

Bracknell Mencap is a branch of Wokingham, Bracknell & Districts Mencap. We are a self funded, local charity that works to improve the lives and opportunities of those with a learning disability or an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), their families and their carers.

Membership fee is £15 per annum.

We can provide one to one support with regard to issues such as benefits, direct payments and transition to adult services and help with form filling. We also support carers in meetings and assessments.

Monthly coffee mornings on the third Thursday of the month between 11am and 1pm

T.G.I.F (THANK GOODNESS IT'S FRIDAY) is a social group for people age 18 - 30 with a mild autism spectrum condition or aspergers. The group meets on the 1st Friday of each month.

Contact Vicki on 0300 777 8539.

Information, Advice and Support Service for special educational needs and disability (SEND) (formerly Parent Partnership).

Free, confidential, impartial information, advice and support for children, young people and parent/carers on all matters regarding Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). Support available face to face, by telephone or email. We also work in collaboration with Adviza to provide Independent Support for any parent/carers or young people (16+) having their statement of educational needs transferred to an Education, Health and Care Plan or those who have just requested an assessment for the first time.

Please call 01344 354011 or email: SEND.Support@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

SEND Local Offer

The Local Offer gives children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families information about support services that are available. The Local Offer will enable parents, carers, children, young people and practitioners/professionals to see clearly which service(s) and support across education, health and social care, are available locally.

For more information visit:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/localoffer>

<https://bracknellforest.fsd.org.uk/kb5/bracknell/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=6>

Peapods – providing support for families of children with physical disabilities

Peapods is a charity providing parent-to-parent support for families with physically disabled children. Having a child with a physical disability can be an isolating experience. Not only are there so many medical issues to learn about but so many activities become difficult to access and inappropriate for the disabled child. Peapods aims to help parents to feel less isolated, providing support, solidarity and friendship to families through a monthly Saturday club, social and family events and through a successful online forum.

For more information telephone Julie on 0118 9616534 or email peapods@peapods.org.uk or visit www.peapods.org.uk. Enquiries for events that Peapods arrange can be made by emailing: events@peapods.org.uk or telephone: 07052 455372.

Scope Response

Scope Response is a free and unique service that offers impartial and expert information, advice and support to disabled people and their families. It is a gateway to all Scope services.

Individuals, families and professionals can get in touch with Scope Response through the helpline and receive support in a number of different ways.

Telephone: 0808 800 33 33, email: response@scope.org.uk

Siblings

Utilising Children in Need funding, together with support from Bracknell Forest, Mencap continue to offer a **Siblings group in Bracknell** for siblings (8-13 years) of children with a Learning Disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Every Thursday (term time only) in Bracknell from 4.30 to 6.15pm (term time) at the Braybrooke Community Centre, Makepiece Road, Bracknell.

Cost: £1 per person/ session.

For further information, please contact 0300 7778539 or email: admin@bracknellmencap.org

Children's Activity Group - this group is available to all families living in the Wokingham and Bracknell Forest Borough areas providing the opportunity for children with learning disabilities and their siblings aged 5 - 16 to enjoy various arts and crafts in a supportive environment.

Cost: £2.00 per person/ session; parents/ carers to remain on site; there is a café available.

To find out more or to book please contact:

Telephone: 0300 7778539 or email: admin@wokinghammencap.org

www.wokinghambracknellmencap.org

Stepping Stones DS

Stepping Stones DS is a group run by parents, for parents and carers of children with Down Syndrome in North Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey. They meet up once a month for informal coffee mornings and also hold other events such as summer trips out, Christmas parties and social evenings for the grown ups. In addition to this they run training events for parents, carers and local professionals (such as pre-school and school teachers, portage workers, health visitors and speech therapists). They also have an extensive lending library with books and other useful resources which their members are welcome to borrow.

Contact for further information or support:

Emma 07541 572474 or Jo 07923 591710 (no texts), email: enquiries@steppingstonesds.co.uk

www.steppingstonesds.co.uk

The Sensory Consortium Service

A specialist education support service for hearing impairment, visual impairment and multi-sensory impairment. We support, extend and enhance the educational opportunities and achievements of children and young people from 0-19 years with a hearing and/or visual impairment from diagnosis to entry into the workplace.

We are a joint arrangement between all Local Authorities in Berkshire - Windsor and Maidenhead (host authority), Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Wokingham.

We are available to all families and schools within the six Local Authorities.

How children are referred:

- Pre-school referrals are received directly from health or field services, i.e. Hospital Audiology or Orthoptics Departments.
- School aged pupil are usually referred to us by their school or education authority.

Telephone: 01628 796786, email: Sensory.Consortium@rbwm.gov.uk

Berkshire Sensory Consortium

The Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service (SCS) run a range of activities and workshops for children and young people with sensory impairment to share experiences, learn new skills, grow in confidence and have fun. Some of these activities are run in partnership with other organisations and voluntary groups such as the Berkshire County Blind Society (BCBS) for children with a visual impairment. Full details can be found on their website, www.berkshirescs.btck.co.uk or contact 0118 987 2803

Under 5's

Support is available from the Child Development Centre (CDC) at Margaret Wells Furby, Great Hollands Square, Bracknell, RG12 8UX.

The CDC supports children aged 5 and under who have developmental delay, disabilities or complex medical needs.

Email: Julia.cox@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, telephone: 01344 354170

Workshops for Parents & Carers

FREE support for all Families in Bracknell Forest

These workshops are not Learning Disability specific and are open to all parents and carers.

For booking and more information about these sessions and other support available to parents and carers contact:

Email: parent.support@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, telephone: 01344 354250

Web: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parentalsupport>