

News & Views



Wakefield Information Network
Issue 29 Summer 2017

Hello and welcome to News & Views!

Welcome to the Summer edition of News and Views. Keeping you up to date with things that are happening, as well as providing you with useful information currently available around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

See inside for

- Summer Playschemes
- Parent Participation news
- Plus lots of activities and things to do



NHS
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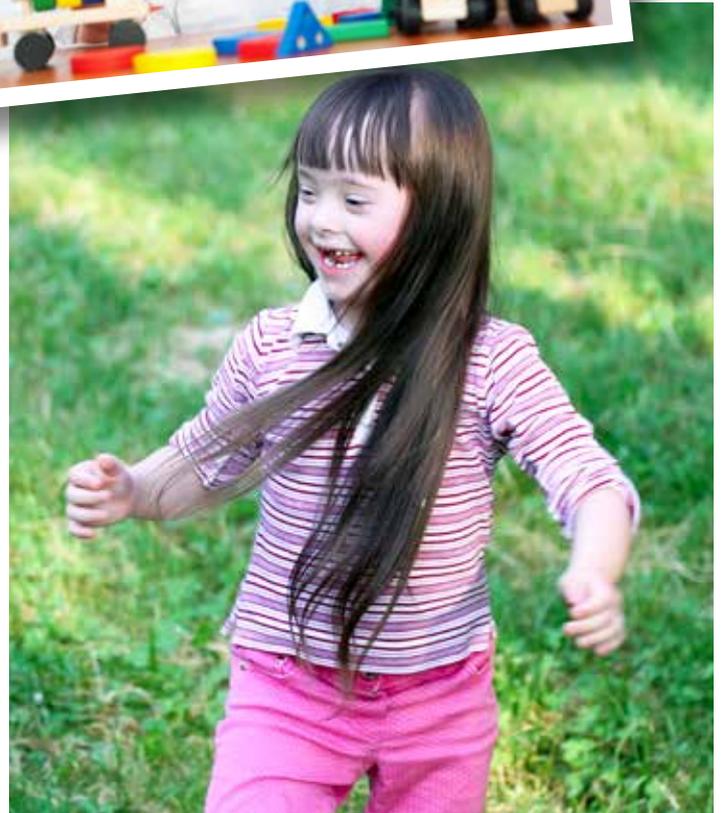
Summer Playschemes

Summer Playschemes for disabled children and young people are once again being organised and subsidised by Wakefield Council and will be delivered by a range of providers. The Playschemes are aimed at children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities who are able to manage without constant one to one support. All play schemes have higher staffing ratios than most groups, usually one member of staff between two or three children

The summer schemes will offer your child the opportunity to enjoy group activities in a supportive and safe environment with staff who have experience of working with disabled children and young people.

We are busy finalising the summer timetable and every family registered on the Information Network will be sent information about the Summer Playschemes and details of how to apply for a place by the second week in June. The information is also available on the Local Offer website here <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/summer-playschemes> and is sent to schools, social workers and other support staff working with families.

If you are not already registered on the Information Network, you can contact KIDS WESAIL on 01924 379015 for an application form or you can download one from here <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/wakefield-information-network>



Have something to say?

If you have a story you would like to share, a service you want to recommend or even if you would like to know more about a particular provision or group please get in touch.

We also want stories from children and young people to share too, no matter how big or small.

If you do have a story or idea to share but need help with getting your ideas down on paper, please get in touch. We are happy to work with you to make your ideas into an article.

Send any ideas or ask us to contact you by email to SEND@wakefield.gov.uk or post to SEND Transformation Team, Wakefield Council, Room 230, County Hall, Wakefield WF1 2QW.



Money savers



A **Max Card** is a concessionary card for families with children with additional needs, aged 0-19 years, to make days out and activities more affordable.

At the moment, there are over 580 attractions nationwide that offer families free or discounted admission upon production of a Max Card and it's growing all the time. To find out about attractions and activities in Yorkshire visit the website here <http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk/browse/yorkshire> we have included some of the popular attractions on page 12.

Max Card are always interested in hearing about popular attractions you might like to see added to their directory of places that accept the card, you can email them the details to hello@mymaxcard.co.uk or call them on 0113 394 7951.

If you don't already have your Max Card, contact KIDS WESAIL on 01924 379015 for more information and an application form.

Cards cost a one-off fee of £3 and are valid for 2 years.



[mymaxcard.co.uk](http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk)

Activate is a leisure card for those on benefits that provides a discounted rate of approximately 20% on a wide range of exciting activities and sports provided by Sport and Active Lifestyles. Activities include swimming, badminton or table tennis, golf and more.

You can also use your Activate card at some of the leisure centres in Barnsley and Doncaster. A full list of these are on the Council website here <http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/sport-and-leisure/aspire-health-and-fitness-memberships/activate-leisure-card>.

Cards cost £2 each and are valid for 12 months. To find out if you might be eligible and to apply, you can contact KIDS WESAIL on 01924 397015.



The **CEA or Cinema Exhibitors' Association card** is a national card scheme developed for UK cinemas by the UK Cinema Association. The scheme was introduced in 2004 and is one of the ways for participating cinemas to ensure they make reasonable adjustments for disabled guests when they go to the cinema; in particular it will allow for a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them.

The card is available to disabled children from 8 years and above that meet the eligibility criteria for the card. Cards cost a one off fee of £6 and are valid for 12 months.

You can find out more information or apply for the card by contacting KIDS WESAIL on 01924 379015 or by visiting the website www.ceacard.co.uk

Having your say



Parent Participation News

Back in March, TEAM, Wakefield's Parent Carer Forum, hosted a Listening Event for parents and carers to come along and share their thoughts and concerns about services and support for children and young people with SEND.

Helen Sweaton, Service Manager for Special Educational Needs Support Services (SENSS) from Wakefield Council attended to listen to what parents and carers had to say.

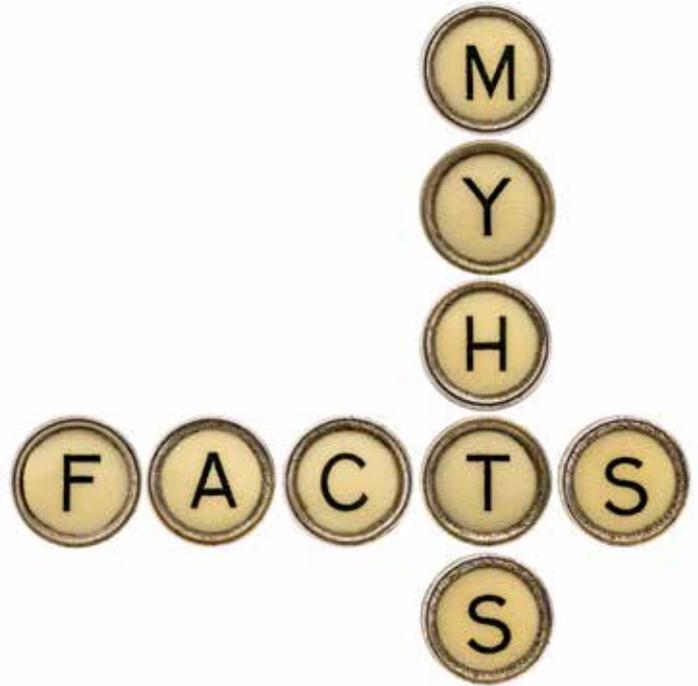
“It was a very *productive* event, with lots of really important *feedback* being *shared* and discussed”
- Helen Sweaton, Wakefield Council, Service Manager for SENSS

Lots of topics were discussed across education, health, care and information services and all the feedback from the event has been pulled together by TEAM and the SEND Project Team at Wakefield Council. A summary will be looked at by the SEND Transformation Board to agree any action that needs to happen next about the issues raised, wherever possible.

If you do have any comments or concerns you would like to raise with us, before the next Listening Event, you can email them to SEND@wakefield.gov.uk or you can send them to teampfc@hotmail.com to raise on your behalf. You can also give your feedback to KIDS WESAIL on 01924 379015 or email at wesail@kids.org.uk.

TEAM will be holding more Listening Events throughout the year, keep an eye out for them on their Facebook page @ TeamWakefield.

To give you an idea about what came up at the event, we have included a response about the top three concerns here.



EHC Plan Review Meetings

“Some parents have been told that EHC Plan review meetings must be a maximum of 1 hour. Also, some parents are upset that not all services attend EHC Plan Review meetings. This makes them feel like their child is not important enough.”

The Council doesn't set any maximum time limit for EHC Plan Review Meetings. Review meetings will vary in length, depending on the individual child's needs.

It is always very difficult for all services involved with a child to attend their review meetings. Many practitioners are working with a large number of children and are not able to cancel clinics or sessions to attend each child's review meeting.

“Felt *honest* but not negative and felt *genuinely* listened to”
- Parent

However all practitioners involved must contribute to a child's review process and update their assessments and reports. The review process is about much more than just the review meeting.



Having your say



Personal Budgets

“Families are not seeing any advances with Personal Budgets and don’t feel there is enough information out there to encourage families to take them up.”

In Wakefield, Personal Budgets used to be allocated to children and young people under 18 years who requested them as part of their EHC Plan or opted for Direct Payments to organise their Social Care support. This changed in Autumn 2016; a Personal Budget is now available for more services. The Council has also been training more staff to better understand Personal Budgets so they can support families to make informed choices.

Last year, only 40 children and young people had a Personal Budget. On 31st March 2017, there were 175 children and young people in Wakefield with a Personal Budget allocated and 70 of these were receiving it by Direct Payment.

Although the number has gone up, we know we still need to do more to raise awareness about Personal Budgets and the choices and support available to families to help them manage it.

“For all the things that didn’t seem to be going well, it was a lovely session
- parent

To help us, we would like to work with young people and parent/carers to put together a family friendly leaflet about Personal Budgets. If you would like to be involved in this, please contact TEAM on 07880 203670 or email teampcf@hotmail.com or the SEND Project Team on 01924 302410 or email SEND@wakefield.gov.uk.

We also plan to add sessions about managing a Direct Payment to the Parent Training Calendar for next academic year.

There is more information about Personal Budgets on the Local Offer website here

<http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/personal-budget>



SEN Support in Schools

“Parents are very concerned about SEN Support in schools and academies and don’t feel that this is positive, on the whole.”

The SEND Code of Practice says, if your child receives SEN Support, regular meetings should be held between you, your child and the school to make sure your child is making progress and plans are working, sometimes called the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process. We also suggest you agree a timeline with your school about how often reviews will take place. Your school should also have a copy of their SEND Information Report available to view on their website.

“I felt like we were being listened to too. Yes it gives you hope
- parent

Services who work with schools tells us that the majority of schools are putting in place good and positive support, but might not always be good at explaining things to parents. Others may not communicate with parents as often as families would like. We also know there are some where they may not be putting in the right support. We are working with schools and the Regional Schools Commissioner to help make sure all children and young people are receiving the support they need.

The Council has just finished delivering update training to all school SENCOs about the Assess, Plan, Do, Review approach to SEN Support. The training focused on putting the child/young person at the centre of these reviews and involving parents and carers throughout.

If you don’t think your child is getting the SEN Support they need please talk to your child’s school about any concerns you may have first. If you are not happy with the response they give you, each school will have information on their website that tells you about their Complaints Policy, showing how you can forward your concerns to the Governing body.

More information about SEN Support is on the Local Offer website here

<http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/sen-support>

You can also contact the SEND Information Advice and Support Service for more information or, if you can’t access the information on the website, by email at SENDIASSWakefield@kids.org.uk or call 01924 379015.

Things to do



stride theatre

Stride Theatre is a fantastic local group offering theatre classes that help build confidence as well as develop social and communication skills. Please note that Stride Theatre

is not a performing arts school. The group is run from the centre of Wakefield and has existing classes from ages 18 months and upwards at a cost of £5 per session.

You can see full details of the ongoing timetable on the Local Offer here <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/stride-theatre>

Rebecca Simpson, owner at Stride, will also be running some additional fun days during the summer holidays for children aged 5+ and adults.

Children's Days

VENUE: Stride Theatre, Custom House, Wakefield, WF1 1QA

WHEN: 28 July, 4 August, 11 August, 18 August

TIMES: 9am - 3pm, From 8am - Early drop off available for work commitments

COST: £15 per day in advance or £18 on the day, additional £4 for Early drop off

CONTACT: For more information or to book a place please contact Rebecca by email at rebecca@stridetheatre.co.uk or call 01924 806024

INFORMATION: There will be four days for children aged 5+, each having its own theme like making a film, creating a show or performing a dance. However, it will be more important that they have fun and really enjoy their day.

Parents will need to provide their child with a packed lunch for the day however, refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

Film Club

VENUE: On location and at Stride Theatre, Custom House, Wakefield WF1 1QA

WHEN: 2 August, 9 August, 16 August

TIMES: 10am - 2.30pm

COST: £10 per day in advance or £12 on the day

CONTACT: For more information or to book a place please contact Rebecca by email at rebecca@stridetheatre.co.uk or call 01924 806024

INFORMATION: Young people aged 18+ can take part in three Film Club days. The first two sessions will be out on location somewhere locally like Newmillerdam, weather permitting, having fun and making friends. The group will get the chance to decide if they want to make a film, a music video or a documentary. The third day will be back at Custom House where participants will get the chance to use a green screen, do interviews and learn to edit.

All participants will be expected to either make their own way to the location or travel by public transport with Stride Staff. Parents and Support staff are welcome to attend the Film Club sessions as well.

STOP PRESS

Would you be interested if Stride Theatre came to Castleford?

Stride Theatre are looking at holding even more classes in Castleford, giving you more choice about when and where you can attend. If you would be interested in attending, please let Rebecca know (contact details above).

Into the Sky

Pontefract Group

VENUE: Pontefract Racecourse, Pontefract Park, Park Road, Pontefract WF8 4QD

WHEN: Fridays

TIMES: 10am - 2pm

COST: £30 per day which is the equivalent of £7.50 per hour

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Cath on 07776 230045 or email intotheskywakefield@gmail.com

Horbury Group

VENUE: Old Mill, Wakefield Road, Horbury, Wakefield WF4 5HJ

WHEN: Mondays

TIMES: 10am - 2pm

COST: £30 per day which is the equivalent of £7.50 per hour

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Cath on 07776 230045 or email intotheskywakefield@gmail.com

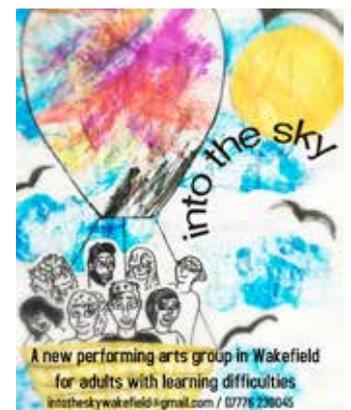
INFORMATION:

Into The Sky is a weekly performing arts and social group for adults with learning disabilities run by the facilitators of the long standing and very successful Cross The Sky Theatre Company, Barnsley.

Their groups are aimed at adults aged 18+ who want to develop their performing arts and social skills, to have a creative outlet and develop confidence. It will also allow them to make new friends

and have lots of fun.

The group may also be able to offer some travel training or support getting to the venue if needed.



Things to do



VENUE: Havercroft & Ryhill Sports & Youth Centre, Mulberry Avenue, Ryhill, Wakefield WF4 2BD

WHEN: Second Saturday each month - coming up on 10th June, 8th July

TIMES: 10am - 12noon

COST: £2.60 per family group

CONTACT: For more information, contact Gail Tombs on 07762 018136 or email gailtombs@btinternet.com

INFORMATION: The 'Wheels For All' initiative is a nationally recognised programme which promotes a quality cycling activity for all children and adults, especially those with disabilities and additional needs.

Havercroft Wheels For All, one of 50 such centres in England, has a fleet of specially adapted bikes which makes cycling accessible to all who find it difficult to ride a two-wheeled cycle.

Our monthly sessions at Havercroft take place in a safe, traffic-free environment and are led by qualified Cycle Leaders who have the knowledge to work with participants and promote their confidence and mobility.

We welcome individuals and their family members, so that everyone can be involved in a fun, sociable and healthy activity, all for one low charge.

Helmets are provided for everyone taking part and all children must be accompanied.



VENUE: Wakefield Sports Club, Eastmoor Road, Wakefield WF1 3RR

WHEN: Tuesdays

TIMES: 7pm - 8pm

COST: £2.50 per session, £15 membership fee for regular attenders

CONTACT: For more information, contact Dr Tom Heyes on 07966 228505 or email wakefieldflyerz@gmail.com

INFORMATION: Flyerz hockey club started in 2014 for disabled people from 8 years to adults. The club has approved coaches and volunteer helpers on hand to help participants have fun while they learn new skills.

All the existing players have a disability with some having learning disabilities or autism spectrum disorders. Each of the players has said they really enjoy the sessions and they have also become fitter since they started to play.

Anyone wanting to take part will need to make sure they wear comfortable sports clothing and shoes as well as a drink of water. All the other equipment such as hockey sticks will be provided.

Wakefield Flyerz has had the chance to play hockey and socialise with other Flyerz clubs so it's a fantastic way to get out and make new friends.

During the summer the club plays on an outdoor pitch with a different indoor venue used from October to March.

Occasionally there may be a need for the club to miss a week, but you can keep up to date by checking on Facebook /FlyerzWakefield or Twitter @flyerzhockeywake or contacting them beforehand.

The Mulberry Club

VENUE: Rycroft Leisure Centre, Mulberry Avenue, Ryhill WF4 2BB

WHEN: 22 May, 29 May, 5 June, 12 June, 19 June, 26 June, 3 July, 10 July

TIMES: Ages 7-11 years 6pm - 7pm, Ages 12-18 years 7pm-8pm

COST: £2.50 per session

CONTACT: For more information, contact Gail Tombs on 07762 018136 or email gailtombs@btinternet.com

INFORMATION: The Mulberry Club is a specialist and supportive club for young people with additional physical and learning needs. Our experienced and well qualified coaches deliver lots of multi-skills activities that are focused on:

- Playing games and having fun!
- Improving mobility skills, co-ordination and confidence.
- Improving social skills and making new friends.

The Mulberry Club is based in a spacious and well-equipped Sports Hall. The Sports Centre also offers good accessible changing areas and a lounge with refreshments where parents and carers can relax and socialise during sessions.

Things to do



VENUE: Castleford Xscape, Colorado Way, Castleford WF10 4TA

WHEN: Thursdays

TIMES: 60 minutes sessions at 1pm and 4pm

COST: From £5

CONTACT: For more information, please call the Park on 01977 529920

INFORMATION: Trampolining has been shown to help with a wide range of sensory, developmental and physical disabilities. In our DISABILITY sessions, the whole park and its facilities are made exclusively available to members of recognised disabled groups and societies and caters for a wide range of disabilities.

Our tailored DISABILITY Sessions with specially trained marshals offer a completely dedicated yet fun environment focussed on sensory engagement, offering therapeutic exercise to participants.

Operating with reduced sound and lighting, we have a range of specialist equipment available for use during classes, including Sensory Tents and Balls.

We work closely with organisations focussed on disabilities, The National Autistic Society for example, to make sure we offer appropriate and beneficial activities, so please call us to discuss your specific needs. You can also download a copy of the GRAVITY guide for visitors with additional needs here <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/gravity> to see if this activity would be suitable for your son or daughter.



VENUE: The Old Quarry Adventure Playground, Sycamore Avenue, Knottingley WF11 OPJ

WHEN: Thursdays

TIMES: 3.30pm - 5.30pm during term time, 3pm - 5pm during school holidays

COST: FREE

CONTACT: For more information, contact The Addy on 01977 670953 or email theaddyouthy@gmail.com

INFORMATION: We provide lots of activities including: crafts, sports, party games, den building, trampoline, bouncy castle, cooking, baking, adventurous play equipment and sensory play. Children can do anything from sitting round a fire roasting marshmallows to building a go kart and racing it round the playground.

Children are able to play with their brothers and sisters, mums and dads, grannies and grandads; all those they love, while having fun and making new friends. The children have the freedom to choose what to do and play freely. Staff members and volunteers are there to support them and enable them to have the best time possible.

Every child who comes to us is unique. One young girl loves to paint, however she also likes to taste the colours. The next time she came, we made some edible paint so that she could paint and taste as much as she liked. We adapt to the children's needs to enable them to be more independent and have fun.



VENUE: Portabello Community Centre, Portabello Road, Wakefield WF2 7JJ

WHEN: Tuesdays, 5.30pm - 8.30pm for ages 13+
Fridays, 6pm - 9pm for ages 15+

COST: £1 per session

CONTACT: For more information, contact Karen or Craig Binns on 07414 903807

INFORMATION: Fusion, is a youth group aimed at teenagers and young adults, who have high functioning Autism or Aspergers, meeting weekly, to support and encourage each other in an environment where 'our normal is normal'.

Participants in the clubs get the chance to take part in lots of different activities like 10 pin bowling, games nights, coast trips, BBQs, camping trips, playing rounders and lots, lots more. However, there is no pressure to join in the organised activities, they can just come along to sit and chill, play on the Playstation 4 or Xbox One, relax in the sensory room, have time out in the quiet room, or play pool - it's really up to them.

One thing that is guaranteed is that they will have fun and make new friends who understand their condition.

Things to do



Stay, Play and Learn

for ages 5 years and under

VENUE: The Trinity Church Centre, Church Street, Ossett WF5 9DW

WHEN: Every Wednesday

TIMES: 10.30am - 11.30am

CONTACT: For more information, contact Sally Smith (Health Visitor) on 01924 288670

INFORMATION: The aim of the group is to allow you as parents to socialise and support each other in a relaxed and informal atmosphere where you have regular access to professional guidance and other services.

You can choose to bring your child with you or just come alone for an opportunity to come along and speak to other parents with similar experiences to your own.

Stay, Play and Learn uses Child-Led Play and allows parents to access weekly support to allow your child to develop at their speed, regardless of any problems and delays they may be experiencing.

Your child will be able to get involved in lots of fun activities with you including messy play, sensory rooms and food and texture experimentation. You will also have access to speech and language support and 1 to 1 support from the health visitor, play workers and Nursery Nurse.

All of these development opportunities will be undertaken in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment surrounded by parents, children and professionals who are aware of the unique needs your child may have.

Shake, Rattle and Roll Classes

VENUE: Unit 10, South Bailey Gate Industrial Estate, Pontefract WF8 2NL

WHEN: Mondays, 9.15am and 10.15am for 18 months +, 11.15am for 3 months - 18months

Fridays, 9.15am for 3 months - 18 months, 10.15am for 18 months +

COST: £3 per child

CONTACT: For more information and to book, contact Helen on 07940 250251

A1 Football Factory Classes

VENUE: Unit1, A1 Business Park, Knottingley WF11 OBU

WHEN: Thursdays, 1pm and 1.30pm for ages 5 and under

COST: £3 per child

CONTACT: For more information and to book, contact Helen on 07940 250251

Birchwood Farm Classes

VENUE: Birchwood Farm, Colorado Way, Glasshoughton, Castleford WF10 4TS

WHEN: Saturdays, 9.30am and 10.30am for mixed family class for ages 5 and under

COST: £3 per child

CONTACT: For more information and to book, contact Helen on 07940 250251



INFORMATION: All children are born with musical ability and music helps mental development, co-ordination and enables creative expression; all these things are at the heart of Mini Maestros sessions.

There is nothing more rewarding than watching a child walk up to a box of instruments for the first time, full of confidence and excitement, or seeing the anticipation on the children's faces as the next instrument or activity is revealed.

During Mini Maestros sessions we use a combination of rhymes, unaccompanied singing and exposure to many different music styles but most importantly is the clean sound we use for our songs.

Sessions are all inclusive and, if required, can be adapted to cater for children with additional needs just let Helen know at the time of booking.

You can also book dedicated sessions for your child as a birthday party or as a taster session for a group of families with children with additional needs. Contact Helen to discuss the details.

10 tips to survive summer holidays



Miram, mum of twins with additional needs, often shares her insight into their daily lives in her blog,

<https://faithmummy.wordpress.com/>

We thought we would share an extract her 10 tips for families to survive the long summer holidays

1. Try and keep some sort of routine in place if at all possible.

I have been getting my children breakfast, dressing them and washing them in the same order as I would on a school day. An uninterrupted shower is a luxury but you would be amazed how you can multitask having a shower while also supervising a child brushing their teeth.

2. Don't feel you have to go everywhere just because you have been invited or there is something special on.

My children have a habit of waking through the night or getting up at 4 o'clock to start the day. By midday they can be tired, grumpy and very unsociable so I try not to commit to many events and go with how the kids are.

3. Only do the essentials of the housework while the kids are at home.

Trying to make my house into a show room while my children are at home is fruitless and way too stressful. They need clean clothes, clean plates to eat off, a clean floor to play on and a bathroom that is tidy and useable.

4. Kids appreciate the simple things.

Theme parks, soft play centers, farm parks and expensive garden toys are all wonderful. But some days the children just want to spend time with you.

5. Make home fun.

My daughter had a nose bleed last week and we had loads of bedding to wash and change. Both my children found it hilarious to watch me put on a duvet cover. So I went with it and made it into a game.

6. Internet and evening shopping is the way forward.

I am blessed to have a husband and although during the day it often takes two of us just to meet the children's needs, once asleep it only needs one person at home. So I rejoice in 24 hour supermarkets and online deliveries.

7. Choose your battles.

My son will only wear his school jumper so why fight. If my daughter wants a chocolate spread sandwich for breakfast I rejoice she is eating. Six weeks of non-stop battles would drive us all crazy.

8. Take help and let your children go to friends' houses.

If you have other children in addition to your special needs child and they are old enough to do so, let them have some independence. Children, like adults, need social interaction. There is nothing wrong in letting friends have your kids for a short while or letting a family member take one out for the day. The holidays are long so take respite when you can. You are not a bad parent for needing to be without your children.

9. Never be ashamed or embarrassed about taking your children out.

I hear comments made about my children all the time, from adults and from other children... the world needs to see more children like mine to break down ignorance. Yes, people will be cruel but smile, laugh and perhaps pass on a card explaining your child's condition. They might not change their views but you would be amazed how much more love there is out there than hate.

10. Keep doing what works.

My son is addicted to YouTube videos of lift doors opening and closing. If it keeps him occupied and happy then I am happy for him to have some time watching them. If it works for you, do it!





Five Towns Community Day - Saturday 16 September 2017 - 12noon to 4pm

Following their well attended Community Day in September 2016, Castleford-based Five Towns Christian Fellowship is working with other local groups and activities again this year to build on that success making the Five Towns Community Day 2017 even better.

There will be a marquee with live music, children's games, activities and crafts. There will also be lots of fun with inflatables, ice cream, birds of prey, food and much more!

“ Last year we had **great fun** organising the community day which helped **raise the profile** of lots of different groups. The **turnout was wonderful** and we had lots of different people mixing, mingling, chatting, enjoying the music and **spending time together**. I'm really looking forward to **building on last year's success**. ”

Alistair Crompton - Five Towns Christian Fellowship

The aim of this fantastic day is to get people together in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.

For updates on what will be available on the day, keep an eye on their Facebook page @5TownsChurch.

To find out more about other events from Five Towns Christian Fellowship you can visit their website at <http://5tcf.org/>.

You can also email Alistair Crompton on ali.crompton@5tcf.org or call 01977 517652.



Aladdin - Relaxed Performance - Thursday 30 November at 10am

Every year lots of families join in the festive fun of attending a Christmas Panto. For some families, the sights and sounds of a performance could be considered too much for their child to cope with so they often miss out on this Christmas tradition. This year's panto at the Theatre Royal Wakefield is Aladdin, a wondrous tale of genies, magic lamps, wishes and feisty princesses! The hero, Aladdin, finds a mysterious lamp, meets a genie and is transported into a world where wishes come true. Teaming up with a courageous princess, together they take on the wicked old sorcerer and discover riches beyond their wildest dreams!

To allow more families the chance to experience the wonder of panto, the theatre is holding a Relaxed Performance on 30 November.

If you have never been to a Relaxed Performance before, it is the most inclusive performance for children and families with a wide range of sensory, learning, and communication differences, including, those on the Autism spectrum.

During the performance the technical crew will adjust certain sensory elements of the performance to be less intense for people who are sensitive to lights and sounds. For example, the house lights, which are lights in the audience rather than lights on stage, will be kept on at a low level throughout the performance.

Some of the sound levels of the music or sound effects will be lowered during the performance. You should also feel free to bring headphones or earplugs if your child is very sensitive to sound.

The main goal of a relaxed performance is to create a space where people with sensory, learning, and communication differences and their families feel comfortable, supported and free to be themselves.

Tickets start from £13 per person, concessions and family tickets are also available. You can contact the Box Office to book on 01924 211311 or visit their website here

<http://www.theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk>.





...all year

Family Fun sessions at Pontefract, Castleford and Wakefield Museums, FREE

Different family fun activities to join in each week
Every Saturday, 11am - 3pm

Art Pods at The Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield, FREE

For families with children aged 3-12 years to work together to make something inspired by your favourite piece of art
Every Saturday, 11am - 4pm

Also runs every Monday and Friday during school holidays (except Good Friday)

Autism friendly, Subtitled and Audio Described Film Screenings

At cineworld cinemas. Check your local listings at <https://www.cineworld.co.uk/>

Sea Life at Scarborough

Open weekdays 10am - 4pm, last admission 3pm
Open weekends 10am - 5pm, last admission 4pm
Prices from £9.50

Got a Max Card? Max Card holders get up to 52% off admission costs for all Merlin Entertainment attractions, if booked 24 hours in advance

See page 3 for details of how to apply for your card

Volcano Falls at Xscape, Castleford

Open weekdays 11am - 10pm
Open weekends 10am - 10pm
Prices from £3

Got a Max Card? Get one FREE carer with a full paying child.

Child must be aged 5-11 years, excludes Bank Holidays, limited to one carer per Max Card

See page 3 for details of how to apply for your card

For more information on these events please visit - www.experiencewakefield.co.uk

News on events can also be found on Wakefield Council website - www.wakefield.gov.uk

You can also find out about events at your local museums here <http://museumslearning.blogspot.co.uk/> and for What's On at your local library visit <http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/libraries-and-local-history/library-events>

And for specific events for Children and Young People with a Special Educational Need, visit Wakefield's Local Offer - <http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org>

...for the Summer

Corn Maze at Farmer Copleys

Opens from Saturday 22 July

Pontefract Liquorice Festival, FREE entry

Sunday 9 July, 10am - 4pm

Seaside in Wakefield, FREE entry

Saturday 12 August - Sunday 13 August, 10am - 5pm

Stockeld Park at Wetherby

- Sat Nav LS22 4AN

Donkey Rides

28 - 29 May and 3 - 4 June

11am - 2pm and 3pm - 5pm

£5 on the day

The Spring Adventure

27 May - 4 June, 10am - 6pm

Prices vary

The Summer Adventure

22 July - 4 September, 10am - 6pm

Prices vary

Got a Max Card? Get one FREE adult entry per card.

See page 3 for details of how to apply for your card

Special Needs Funfair at Haw Hills Park, Normanton

Friday 8 September, 1pm - 3pm

Open to children and adults with special needs and their parents or carers

To access this FREE event, get your name on the guest list by calling 01924 893794 or email at enquiries@normantontowncouncil.co.uk

