

# BRENT SEND NEWS

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS



[www.brent.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.brent.gov.uk/localoffer)

Issue 13, March 2025

## SPRING HAS ARRIVED

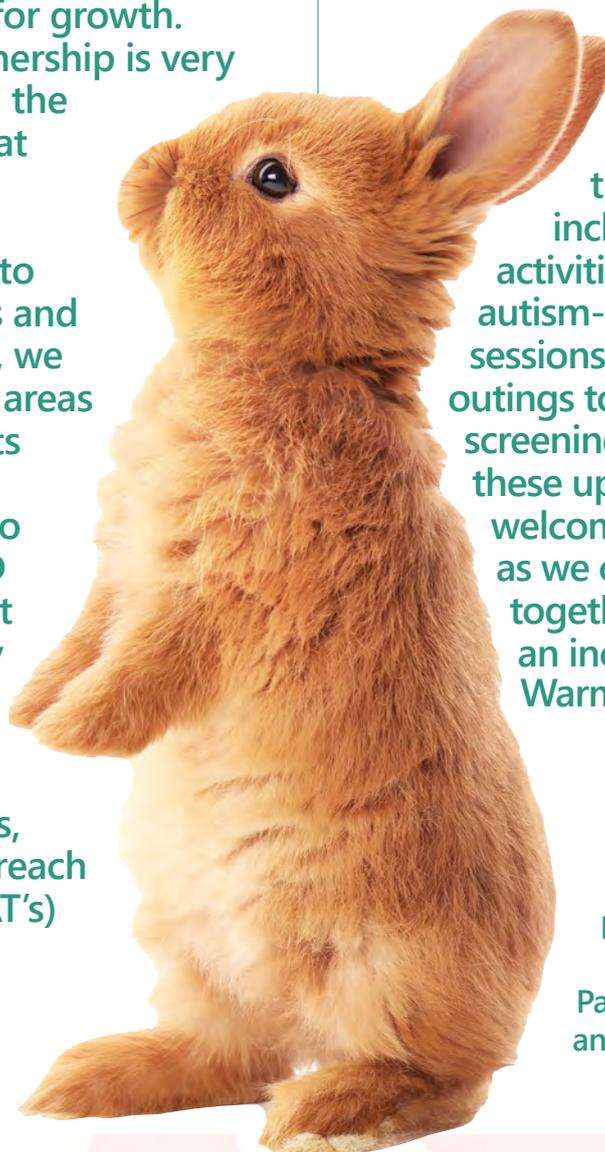
A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to Brent's Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) Local Area SEND inspection in January. Your insights were invaluable in highlighting our progress and areas for growth. The Local Area Partnership is very pleased that overall, the Inspection found that local arrangements for children with SEND typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes. However, we know that there are areas where improvements are needed and we remain committed to strengthening SEND services and support across Brent. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

This edition is packed with updates, including Brent Outreach Autism Team's (BOAT's) work in supporting inclusive education, the Brent Vision

Impairment Service's participation in a football festival and highlights from the Spring Early Years Conference on neurodiversity-affirming practice. We also focus on the vital role of young carers in SEND

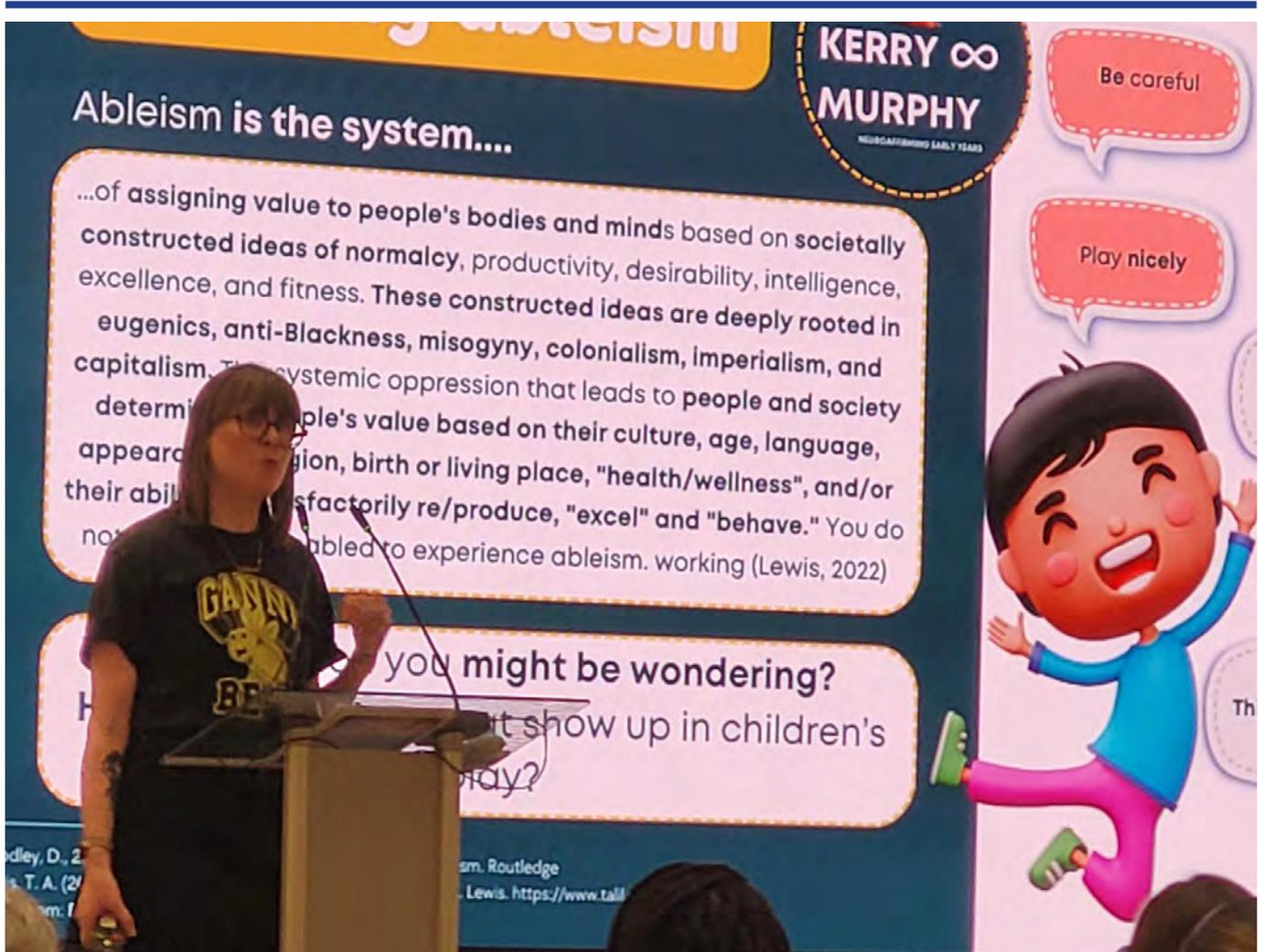
families and the support available to them.

Looking ahead, there are plenty of inclusive events and activities for families, from autism-friendly sports sessions and sensory-friendly outings to relaxed cinema screenings. We hope you find these updates helpful and welcome your feedback as we continue to work together to make Brent an inclusive place for all. Warm regards, Shirley



Shirley  
Parks  
Director of  
Education,  
Partnerships  
and Strategy





## THE EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE

The Early Years teams in Brent across Inclusion and Early Help worked together to produce another successful annual Spring Early Years Conference last month. This conference had a joint workforce development focus and brought together professionals from across health and education for an inspiring day of keynote speeches and wide-ranging workshops.

We were joined by Kerry Murphy for the afternoon keynote speech. Kerry is a highly experienced Early Years professional and lecturer advising on neurodiversity and neurodiversity affirming practice with lived experience as an Autistic adult. Her presentation on understanding the differences we see in young children's play through

a neurodiversity lens was so inspiring that settings continue to reflect on it regularly with the EYIST team during meetings, indicating a real



impact of this session on the children that we work with and how we consider their needs.

As a follow on from this we are delighted that we have been able to secure 4 further webinar sessions and 1 onsite training session with Kerry for the Early Years sector that will focus in more detail on specific elements of neurodiversity affirming practice including understanding the role of stress and social demand on behaviour, embracing neurodivergent joy through play and sessions on co-regulation linking to educator and environment.

The Early Years 'Vision of Affirmation for Neurodiversity in Brent' continues thanks to the strong and positive response and take up from the sector.



**BRENT DEAF & HEARING SUPPORT SERVICE (BDHSS) ARE HOSTING A BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (BSL) LEVEL 1 COURSE**

BDHSS is delighted to be hosting a British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 course for parents of Deaf children in Brent. The course is provided by Deaf Unity and Manjula Shah, Deaf Instructor at BDHSS, with generous sponsorship from Chloe's and Sophie's Special Ears Fund and the Birkdale Trust.

Thanks to these charitable contributions, more parents now have the opportunity to learn BSL, providing an essential language option for their Deaf children.

**The Benefits of Learning BSL**  
Families with Deaf children will gain:

- A strong foundation in BSL, supporting early language development.
- Improved social interactions and lifelong communication skills.

BDHSS is also offering an Intro

to BSL session for families and can provide support with funding applications.

For further information, please contact [BDHSS@brent.gov.uk](mailto:BDHSS@brent.gov.uk).



**DEAF AWARENESS WEEK IN 2025 WILL TAKE PLACE FROM MAY 5**

Deaf Awareness Week is an annual celebration of the Deaf community. It's a time to raise awareness, learn about deaf culture, and promote the positive aspects of living with deafness.

How can you get involved?

- Learn to fingerspell
- Learn about deaf-friendly communication
- Watch deaf awareness videos
- Make activities more accessible
- Become more educated about how to communicate with Deaf people

**Why celebrate Deaf Awareness Week?**

Deaf Awareness Week helps to break down barriers and connect Deaf people to wider society. It also highlights the importance of sign language for the Deaf community and for everyone.

**Deaf people in the UK**

In the UK, there are 11 million deaf or hard of hearing people, including those who are profoundly deaf.

To learn more about Deaf Awareness Week please visit [Deaf Awareness Week](#) [National Deaf Children's Society](#)

# BRENT STUDENTS TAKE PART IN A VISUALLY IMPAIRED FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Last December, two sisters with a vision impairment, accompanied by their advisory teacher from the Brent Vision Impairment Service (BVIS), took part in a unique football experience alongside other young people with sight loss from across London. Hosted by Bloomsbury Football Club at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club's Training Ground, the event provided an exciting opportunity to engage in visually impaired (VI) football with expert coaches.

A highlight of the day was meeting Azeem Amir, a Paralympian, current England and GB Blind Football Team player, and co-founder of Learn with ESS. His inspiring journey and dedication to adaptive sports encouraged participants to explore new

possibilities in football.

Organised in collaboration with the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and Learn with ESS, this inclusive event allowed students to experience blind and VI football for the first time, build confidence, make new friends, and enjoy a morning of sport in an accessible and welcoming environment.

The sisters had an incredible time and left feeling motivated to continue playing, with plans to join Bloomsbury Football Club.

Bloomsbury Football Club is a charity providing subsidised football coaching for young people from diverse backgrounds across London. Find out more: <https://bloomsburyfootball.com/>

Learn with ESS is a charity offering disability



awareness and team-building programmes through adaptive sports.

Find out more: [www.learnwithess.com](http://www.learnwithess.com)

## DOWN SYNDROME TRAINING STRENGTHENING SUPPORT IN BRENT

We are pleased to announce a Down Syndrome Training session took place on 24 March, facilitated by the Down Syndrome Association.

This training was introduced following visits by the SEND Support Team to all Family Wellbeing Centres (FWCs), where staff highlighted a significant gap in support for children with Down syndrome, with few services within Brent specifically addressing the needs of children with this condition.

Our goal for this training is to ensure that everyone within the Brent Inclusion Service is equipped with up-to-date strategies, a deeper understanding of Down syndrome, and insights into

how the condition impacts a child's learning and long-term life outcomes. By enhancing our collective knowledge, we can ensure that all teams within the Inclusion Service are confident in providing the right support to children with Down syndrome, enabling them to achieve better life outcomes.

Looking ahead, we aim to collaborate with the Children



and Families Information Service to establish a Down Syndrome Parent Support Group. This initiative will create a space for professionals and parents to meet regularly, access training and strategies, and be signposted to relevant services. This model will be similar to the successful Somali SEND Support Group, ensuring families receive tailored support within the community.

Here is a link to the service training offer:

[On-demand Recorded Training Sessions - Downs Syndrome Association](#)

For more information please contact the Helpline on 0333 1212300 (10am-4pm)

Email: [info@downs.org.uk](mailto:info@downs.org.uk) or [info@downs-syndrome.org.uk](mailto:info@downs-syndrome.org.uk)

# BRENT SENDIASS

Brent Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides free, legally-based, confidential, impartial information, advice and support on matters relating to special educational needs and disability for children and young people aged 0-25 and their parents/carers living in Brent. Our services help by offering accurate and up to date information and resources about the law and statutory guidance on special educational needs and disability, covering:

- education, health and social care
- national and local policy
- the Local Offer
- your rights and choices
- where you can find help and advice



- how you can access this support.

We offer this service on the telephone, by email, face to face, and through work with parent carer support groups, local SEN youth forums and training events.

You can contact us on 020 8937 3434 or email us at

[sendias@brent.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@brent.gov.uk)

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person who has Special Educational Needs/a Disability (SEND)? Are you interested in joining a Steering Group that promotes and develops the work of Brent SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) ?

We are seeking volunteers to join our Steering Group. The Steering Group is a vital means of promoting and developing Brent SENDIASS. At a time in which the service is looking to develop its' offer, with an increased level of referrals being received, this is an exciting time to be a part of this group! If you would like to be involved or would like more information about the role, please send an email to [Katherine.Hipperson@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Katherine.Hipperson@brent.gov.uk) (Please use 'Interest in Steering Group' as the subject title).

## BOAT SHARES BEST PRACTICE STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOL AVOIDANCE



The Brent Outreach Autism Team (BOAT's) is pleased to share an example of great

practice from Wembley Primary School, where staff have taken a creative and proactive approach to support a young autistic pupil in Year 1 experiencing school avoidance.

The pupil was struggling with separating from his parent and transitioning into the classroom at the start of the school day. To support him, Claudia, an Autism

Specialist HLTA, introduced a soft start where he could begin his morning in the 'Rainbow Room' for sensory circuits with one other child, rather than going straight into class. He also brought a daily transition object to share with trusted adults, offering a source of comfort.

While this approach helped, he continued to find separation difficult. Recognising his strong interest in dinosaurs, Claudia adapted his routine by placing dinosaur figures in the Rainbow Room each morning to greet him. At the end of the day, he would return to "put the dinosaurs to bed" in their box, where they would "wait

for him" until morning.

This simple but highly effective strategy provided the child with a predictable and reassuring routine, reducing anxiety and making transitions smoother. By using his special interest to build engagement and security, Wembley Primary School has demonstrated best practice in supporting autistic pupils.

BOAT commends this thoughtful approach and continues to support schools in developing inclusive and personalised strategies for autistic learners.

For more information about BOAT and the support available, please contact them at [boat@brent.gov.uk](mailto:boat@brent.gov.uk).

# BRENT OUTREACH TRAINING

## SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



The Rise Partnership Trust has been working closely with Brent Local Authority to enhance inclusive education across mainstream schools. Since September 2025, a comprehensive training package has been delivered, helping schools develop best practices for supporting pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

So far, 25 schools have engaged with the programme, which includes:

- A 9-session training programme, delivered by specialist leaders and therapists
- TA for a Day, giving support staff hands-on experience in SEND classrooms
- Teacher Shadowing (starting 2025), offering insights into curriculum planning and inclusive teaching
- Facilitated Learning Days, combining presentations, learning walks, and discussions



with school leaders

Impact So Far:

- 100% of participants recommend the training to other professionals
- 93% found the content highly relevant to their roles
- Schools describe the experience as 'inclusive, safe, and nurturing'

What Attendees Are Saying:  
**'The day was a wonderful experience, especially visiting the classes and seeing the relationships between staff and pupils. I gained so much knowledge**

**on ways of communicating and engaging with autistic children and the importance of the environment.**

**'Would definitely recommend! I hope other professionals are lucky enough to attend this session.'**

This training continues throughout the 2024-25 academic year, ensuring more educators have the tools to create learning environments where all pupils thrive.

For more information, visit: [www.therisepartnershiptrust.co.uk](http://www.therisepartnershiptrust.co.uk)

## FREE EASTER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Free and fun activities for school-age children are now open for booking during the Easter holidays.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme provides free holiday childcare, including healthy meals, to eligible children and young people in Brent.

The programme is a great opportunity for children to try different activities such as, multi-sports, drama, music

production, science experiments, and many more.

Visit [Holiday Activities and Food Programme | Brent Council](#) for more information on the Easter holiday clubs, and contact the provider directly to enquire about availability on their programme.



# BRENT CARERS CENTRE

## IDENTIFYING YOUNG CARERS IN SEND FAMILIES



Young carers are children and young people who provide care and support to family members with disabilities, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, or substance misuse issues. Within families where a child or sibling has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), young carers often take on additional responsibilities that can impact their well-being, education, and social development.

Signs that a young person may be a carer in a SEND Family:

- Assisting with personal care, such as dressing, feeding, or mobility support.
- Helping to manage medication or therapies.
- Providing emotional support for parents or siblings with SEND.
- Managing household chores, cooking, or caring for younger siblings.
- Accompanying family members to medical appointments.
- Experiencing tiredness, stress, or social isolation due to caregiving responsibilities.

### THE ROLE OF BRENT YOUNG CARERS

Brent Young carer center provide vital support to children and young people who care for family members, ensuring they receive the help they need to



balance their responsibilities with their personal development and education. We offer a range of tailored services, including:

### 1. EMOTIONAL AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT

Young carers often face high levels of stress and anxiety. Support workers provide one-to-one counseling, peer support groups, and stress-relief activities to help them cope.

### 2. EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Caring responsibilities can sometimes lead to difficulties at school, such as absenteeism, difficulty concentrating, or falling behind in coursework. Young carer centers work closely with schools to offer academic support, homework clubs, and flexible arrangements to assist young carers in maintaining their education.

### 3. SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPITE CARE

Isolation is a common issue for young carers. Many centers organize outings, activities, and youth clubs to allow young carers to take a break, enjoy social interactions, and build

friendships with others in similar situations.

### 4. ADVOCACY AND GUIDANCE

The Role of Brent young carers is to help families access additional services, such as financial support, respite care, and SEND resources. They also advocate for young carers' rights and raise awareness among professionals working in education and healthcare.

### 5. LIFE SKILLS AND FUTURE PLANNING

Workshops and training sessions help young carers develop skills such as budgeting, cooking, and managing responsibilities. Career guidance and mentoring programs ensure that young carers can explore further education and employment opportunities.

### HOW TO ACCESS SUPPORT

Families, schools, and healthcare professionals should be proactive in identifying young carers and signposting them to the appropriate support services. Many young carer centers operate locally, and referrals can be made through schools, social services, GP practices, or directly by families themselves.

By recognizing the essential role that young carers play within SEND families and ensuring they receive the right support, we can help them lead balanced, fulfilling lives while continuing to care for their loved ones.

We are accessible at Willesden Medical Centre, 144-150 High Road, Willesden, NW10 2PT or you can telephone **020 3802 7070**.

# SUPPORTING EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING LITERACY SUPPORT ASSISTANTS NETWORK



The Brent Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is pleased to share that training is currently underway for the latest cohort of Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs). The number of ELSAs in Brent settings continues to grow each year, reflecting a strong commitment to supporting the emotional well-being of children and young people.

ELSAs play a vital role in schools by delivering targeted individual and group support to help pupils develop emotional resilience, self-regulation, and confidence. Brent EPS is part of the national network of ELSA trainers and ensures that all ELSAs receive high-quality training and ongoing supervision.

## THE IMPACT OF ELSAS IN BRENT

There are now over 100 trained ELSAs working across one-third of Brent's settings, supporting pupils from Early Years to



Secondary school. To sustain their professional development, ELSAs participate in six-weekly peer supervision led by a member of the EPS and attend the annual Brent ELSA Summer Conference.

A recent survey of Senior Leaders in Brent settings with ELSAs highlighted the positive

impact of the programme:

- 100% reported that having ELSAs in their setting had made a significant difference to the school community.
- 100% felt that the training and ongoing supervision were worth the investment.

## UPCOMING TRAINING & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Autumn 2025 ELSA Training** – Further details will be shared with settings in Summer 2025.
- **Summer Conference 2025** Open to non-ELSA settings (subject to availability) as an opportunity to learn more about the programme.

For further information on ELSA training, supervision, or attending the next conference, contact [Natacha.deLantivy@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Natacha.deLantivy@brent.gov.uk).

More details about the national ELSA network can be found at [www.elsanetwork.org](http://www.elsanetwork.org).

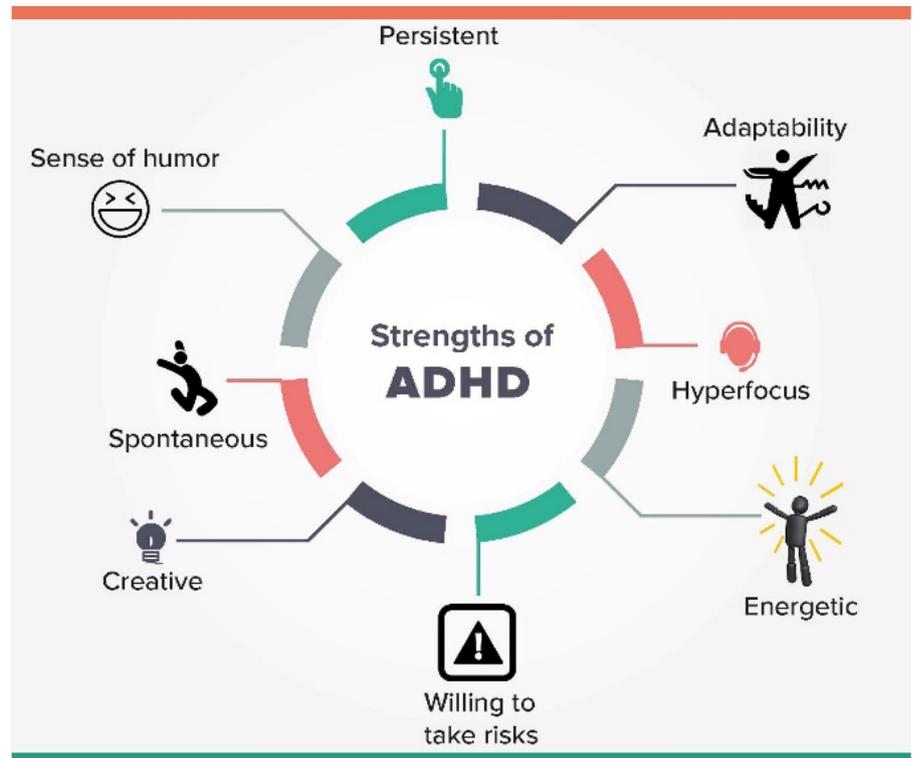


# SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH ADHD

## STRENGTHS AND STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Brent Educational Support Service (EPS) successfully delivered two rounds of 'Supporting ADHD' training last term which alongside strategies to understand and deal with ADHD in the classroom, also included a celebration of the strengths of ADHD which can sometimes be overlooked. Some of the strengths of ADHD are creativity, spontaneity, and an ability to think outside the box. Here are some tips that celebrate these and provide practical support:

- **Explore Creativity:** ADHD often fuels imagination and creative thinking. Encourage children to explore their interests through art, music, or storytelling to nurture their inventive side.
- **Channel Energy Positively:** The high energy that comes with ADHD can be used for physical activities like sports, dance, or active learning. This helps with focus and reduces restlessness.



- **Provide Clear, Structured Routines:** A predictable routine helps children with ADHD feel secure. Use visual schedules and reminders to support organization without stifling creativity.
- **Use Positive Reinforcement:** Celebrate moments of success, no matter how small. Positive feedback fosters confidence and motivates children to continue pursuing their goals.
- **Encourage Flexibility:** While structure is important, allow for moments of spontaneity. ADHD brains thrive in environments that offer a balance between routine and creative freedom.

## WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

### What is Autism?

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition of variable severity with lifelong effects that can be recognized from early childhood. Primarily characterized by differences in interaction and communication, along with restricted or repetitive patterns of thinking and behaviour.

### What is world Autism Awareness Day?

The United Nations General assembly unanimously declared 2 April as world autism



awareness day. This is to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

If you would like to know more information about autism, please visit: [National Autistic Society](https://www.autism.org.uk).

If you need help accessing support for a child who is autistic please visit our [SEND Local Offer](#) | [Brent Council](#) or reach out to The Brent Parent carer Forum [BRENT PARENT CARERS CIC](#)

# FAMILY WELLBEING CENTRES



Family Wellbeing Centres (FWC) have a range of services and support for families with SEND children and families struggling with different issues, such as the cost-of-living crisis, parenting or health and wellbeing concerns. The also have activities for

children after school and during all school holidays.

The centres are open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, and some evenings and weekends. SEND family group play sessions for children with SEND, their siblings and parents/

carers take place on Saturdays at different Family Wellbeing Centres across the borough. To find out more information and to book your place please start by registering at [Family Wellbeing Centres | Brent Council](#)

FAMILY WELLBEING CENTRE	CONTACT DETAILS
Alperton FWC	Alperton.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Church Lane FWC	ChurchLane.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Curzon Crescent	admin@curzon.brent.sch.uk
Fawood FWC	admin@fawoodcc.brent.sch.uk
Granville Plus FWC	GranvillePlus.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Preston Park FWC	PrestonPark.FWC@brent.gov.uk
St Raphael's FWC	StRaphs.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Three Trees FWC	ThreeTrees.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Willow SEND FWC	Willow.FWC@brent.gov.uk

# SPRING EVENTS

## BDHSS-FAMILY SIGN CLASS

Three Trees Family Wellbeing Centre  
Tiverton Road NW10 3HL  
This event is for Parent(s), Carers, Relatives of D/deaf Children.

BDHSS is offering FREE 'Introduction to British Sign language Classes'.

These sessions are FREE and there are only 10 places. They will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

Please register your name by clicking here <https://forms.office.com/e/NZEZp4bRwR>

Starting session: Wednesday 7 May 2025

Time: 10.30-11.45am

Location: TBC

Week	Date	Topics
1	7 May	Alphabet and Numbers
2	14 May	Family/Colours
3	21 May	Feelings/NMF
4	4 June	Foods
5	11 June	Animals
6	18 June	Clothes /Weather
7	25 June	Indoors
8	2 July	Outdoors
9	9 July	Things we do everyday

If you have any questions, please contact [manjula.shah@brent.gov.uk](mailto:manjula.shah@brent.gov.uk)



## BDHSS TEA AND TALK, CONNECTING DEAF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Three Trees Family Wellbeing Centre  
Tiverton Road NW10 3HL

On the first Wednesday of every month from 12.30-2pm 2 April, 7 May.

Join the BDHSS and meet other families and children with hearing loss.

For more information please contact: [bdhss@Brent.gov.uk](mailto:bdhss@Brent.gov.uk)

## INFLATATION

Unit 1 Colindale Retail Park, 355 The Hyde, Edgware Rd, London NW9 6TH  
All ages. Under 4 £9.50.

4 and over £14.95 (free for carers).

Disability friendly sessions: This indoor inflatable theme park offers disability friendly sessions. These sessions are designed specifically for those people on the autistic spectrum and their families to enjoy. Not only does this provide an opportunity for children to have fun and be physically active, but these sessions also provide an opportunity for families to meet other families facing similar paths in a fun and safe environment. To check availability, visit

[SEN Friendly Sessions Inflata Nation.](#)

Call **0161 710 2360** for further information and booking.

## LET'S UNITE FOR AUTISM: SEN MULTI-SPORTS SESSION

Roundwood Community Centre,  
49 Longstone Avenue, London  
NW10 3UN

Saturday  
12noon-2pm

Free

A great opportunity to exercise and make new friends with similar interests every Saturday.

For more information, please visit the

[Brent Youth Zone website.](#) In partnership with sport at the heart.

Call **Hawa 07525 481 655.** Possible entry for local offer events.





### JUNIOR ADVENTURES GROUP

Junior Adventures Group (JAG) offers exciting afterschool and holiday clubs for kids, focusing on outdoor activities, team-building, and personal growth. Through adventures like hiking, games, and challenges, JAG helps children develop confidence, leadership skills, and a love for nature – all while having fun in a supportive, social environment. Head to <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk> for more information or call 0333 577 1533.



### FLIP OUT TRAMPOLINING BRENT CROSS

Unit 7, Staples Corner Retail Park, Geron Way, Brent Cross, London NW2 6LW Suitable for all ages. Every Saturday 9-10am (SEND Session) £9 per person (Free for carers). £3 for grip socks. Flip Out North London offers endless fun with trampolines, foam pits, ninja warrior courses, and more! Perfect for families, friends, and group activities. Bounce, jump, and flip to your heart's content in a safe, exciting environment. Book

your session now and enjoy the ultimate trampoline experience! For more information and bookings, visit [www.flipout.co.uk/locations/brent-cross](http://www.flipout.co.uk/locations/brent-cross).



### PARTYMAN WORLD OF PLAY

Vale Farm Sports & Leisure Centre, Watford Rd, Wembley, HA0 3HG Soft play for ages 6 months+-13 Last Sunday of the month is a FREE inclusive morning session (9-10am). Inclusive evening sessions FREE, first Thursday of every month (6-8pm). Cost of entry for SEN during normal opening hours: Peak Entry: £7.50 Off-Peak Entry: £6.00 (+1 free carer ticket) For more information visit [www.partymanworld.co.uk/location/wembley/admissions/sen/](http://www.partymanworld.co.uk/location/wembley/admissions/sen/)



### THE LEXI CINEMA

194b, Chamberlayne Rd, London NW10 3JU At Lexi Cinema, everyone is welcome! 🗣️

Those with access needs will be charged the usual price for any screening. However, carers go free. They also run screenings with closed captions regularly. This community-focused venue in North London is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all. The cinema offers wheelchair access, designated seating, and captioned screenings for those with hearing impairments. For vision-impaired guests, there are audio-described films available. The friendly staff are always on hand to assist, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable visit for everyone.

### Relaxed screenings

The Lexi cinema screen films from their main programme in a more relaxed environment, with better lighting and lower sound volumes. They indicate if a screening is a Relaxed and Autism friendly screening by marking it as "RS" next to the film's start time.

### D/deaf cinema-goers

The hearing loop has been upgraded to the Dolby Fidelio system, and we have headsets for customers to use in the auditoriums. You can also bring your own earphones if you prefer. Screenings with closed captions are regularly run and marked as "HOH" (hard of hearing) next to the film's start time.

### Visually impaired cinema-goers

Audio Description is available for some films. They will indicate if a film has Audio Description available at the bottom of the text on the film's page on the website with 'AD'. You can also ask a member of staff at the Box Office and they will let you know. This is provided through a headset with adjustable volume on request at Box Office for films labelled as such. Guide dogs are welcome.

Those with access needs will be charged the usual price for any screening. However, carers go free. They also run screenings with closed captions regularly.

Please visit the Lexi Cinema website [thelexicinema.co.uk](http://thelexicinema.co.uk) or give them a call **020 3011 5523** for further information and to book seats.



### RED BRICK CAFÉ

The Wealdstone Centre

38-40 High Street

Wealdstone HA3 7AE

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

The Red Brick Café offers healthy food to the public at an affordable price and provides a pleasant environment for people to relax and be refreshed. The café is owned and run by Harrow Association of Disabled People, (HAD), with all profits helping us do the work that we do. So not only are you eating a delicious meal, but you are also giving to a local Deaf and Disabled Persons Organisation (DDPO) and supporting disabled people. The Café provides students with learning difficulties the opportunity to develop greater independent living skills and/or to work towards their future employment(s). The food is cooked daily, from fresh, and on the premises. The menu changes everyday, however join us on Wednesday for our authentic Jamaican Jerk Chicken and on Thursday for our very popular Bacon and Cabbage. Takeaway is available. The staff at the Red Brick Café say 'Come to our wonderful restaurant. Not only do we serve great food, we do so at very good prices and it is all fresh healthy food.' For more dates/events, please visit their website [www.had.org.uk/red-brick-cafe](http://www.had.org.uk/red-brick-cafe) or contact them using **020 8861 9920** or email them at **General@HAD.orguk**



### ACCESSIBLE EVENTS AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Science Museum  
Exhibition Road,  
South Kensington,  
London SW7 2DD

Tickets are free for children and free carer tickets are offered for some paid activities and exhibitions.

**Early Birds:** On Early Birds dates, the museum opens at 8am so that families with children who need a quieter environment can enjoy the Museum free of the hustle and bustle of the general public.

Find out more visit

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/early-birds](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/early-birds)

**Night Owls:** The museum opens from 6.30–9.30pm on Night Owls evenings, which are for those 16 years and over to have a relaxed environment to explore the Museum. Find out more visit

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/night-owls](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/night-owls)

**SENsory Astronights:** SENsory Astronights is a relaxed, after-dark exploration of the Science Museum for children with special educational needs and disabilities. From science shows to camping in one of our iconic galleries, it will be a night that you and your child will never forget. Find out more visit

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/astronights-tickets-terms-and-conditions](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/astronights-tickets-terms-and-conditions)

If you have any questions about these events, please email [scmcommunity@sciencemuseum.ac.uk](mailto:scmcommunity@sciencemuseum.ac.uk).



### KEW GARDENS

Royal Botanic Gardens,  
Kew, Richmond TW9 3AE  
(SEND Family Sensory Tours meet at Victoria Gate)

#### SEND Family sensory tours

Be immersed in plants and nature during our interactive storytelling family sensory tour with a seasonal focus in The Temperate House and surrounding area.

Our tours are designed for children age 0-7 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or children aged up to 12 years with severe, profound and complex learning difficulties.

Tours are led by trained volunteer guides and accompanied by supplementary resources to support sensory engagement.

#### Children's Garden quiet sessions

Explore all the things plants need to grow; earth, air, sun and water, and enjoy the sensory elements of our Children's Garden during one of our quiet sessions.

We are closing the Children's Garden to the public to allow children with special educational needs and disabilities, like Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or sensory processing needs, and their parents or carers to have a more comfortable visit. During the quiet sessions, we will be permitting fewer people than our usual time slots and ensuring easy access to avoid potentially stressful queues.

You will also be able to share your visit with others who better understand your child's needs. To find out more about accessibility at Kew Gardens and find out the next dates please email [familylearning@kew.org](mailto:familylearning@kew.org)



## FAMILY EXPLORER EVENTS AT LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

London Transport Museum  
Covent Garden  
London WC2E 7BB

Tickets are free for children and accompanying adult are free.

Additional adult tickets cost £18.50.

Our free Family Explorer events are for children with special educational needs, disabled children, and their families, we open outside our regular hours on certain special days. Enjoy the Museum at a quieter time, free from the general public, and with many of the gallery sounds turned off.

### Sensory Space: Transportorium

Take this time to enjoy the Museum at your own pace, with the sounds turned off but if you need to take some time to relax, feel free to do so in our Sensory Space. With fidget toys and bespoke stimulating board made exclusively for the Museum, you can play and explore in a safe environment. Please note that the sensory space is different to our quiet area, and some of the resources do make noise.

### Quiet Space: Luke's Skills Space and Prayer Room

If at any point you or a member of your family needs to take a moment of quiet to self regulate, please do feel free to make use of our quiet spaces. They are located at on the first floor by the All Aboard Play area, and on the ground floor by the toilets.

Advanced booking is essential as places are limited. Please check the London

Transport Museum website for further booking details visit <https://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on-calendar>



## TURTLE KEY ARTS

### Young Amici

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith,  
Lyric Square, King Street, London W6 0QL  
The weekly classes, after school at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, are for disabled and non-disabled young people (11-25 years old) who are interested in dance and theatre. The classes are FREE, fun, fully inclusive and suitable for all levels of experience and can lead to opportunities in performance and leadership training.

If you would like to join Young Amici please email [Carina@Turtlekeyarts.org.uk](mailto:Carina@Turtlekeyarts.org.uk). For more information please visit <https://turtlekeyarts.org.uk/youngamici>

### Key Club: The Lyric

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith,  
Lyric Square, King Street, London W6 0QL

### Key Club: The Kiln

Kiln Theatre, Kilburn. NW6 7JR  
Key club is a free monthly arts & social club for young people (18-30 years old) on the autism spectrum. The club meets once a month on a Saturday during term time. Each meeting consists of a two-hour creative arts workshop presented by professional artists, followed by a social break. Recent workshops have included creative\_ 

writing, film and video, visual art, script-writing for TV and Radio, drama, circus skills, photography and stop-frame animation.

Key Club The Lyric. 10am-1pm or 2-5pm.

Key Club The Kiln 2-5pm

For more information, please visit <https://turtlekeyarts.org.uk/key-club>

### **Turtle Opera**

Turtle Opera is a drama and music project for 10-14 year olds on the autism spectrum. Turtle Opera, free for all the participants, runs as ten half-day Saturday workshops that culminate in a performance attended by the participants' family and friends and interested professionals. Professional artists lead the series of workshops with expertise in drama, music, movement, and visual art. Please visit their website [TURTLE OPERA](#) for more information.

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### **CENTRE FOR ADHD AND AUTISM SUPPORT**

2nd Floor, TV House, 269 Field End Road, EastcoteHA4 9XA

#### **Creative Coffee connects**

ADHD and autistic residents of North-West London

First and third Monday of the month, 11am-1pm

A twice-monthly drop-in to come and meet the team and ask any questions you may have about our services whilst enjoying a tea or coffee and biscuits. Receive information and guidance from our advisors and also hear from external speakers about different issues you may be going

through. No registration necessary; free crafts available for anyone who would like to join in.

#### **Supporter drop in**

Autistic & ADHD residents of North-West London

By appointment.

A service designed to offer support with practical issues, such as assistance making phone calls, filling in forms and applying for benefits, understanding letters or forms and responding to them, creating a CV or plan of action, and finding out what other services and organisations may be able to help you.

#### **Adult ADHD Group**

ADHD residents of North-West London

Second Monday of the month, 7-9pm;

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 3-5pm.

The adult ADHD group provides a safe and non-judgemental environment for adults to come and explore what it means to have a diagnosis of ADHD, and to get help and support with issues arising in their everyday lives.

#### **Adult Film Group**

Our film group combines socialising and meeting new people in a safe and supportive environment whilst enjoying a takeaway at our CAAS centre or heading out to a local cinema.

You choose the films and take part in discussion afterwards.

Places must be booked in advance.

Cost: £5 for takeaway, £20 for outings.

To book a place, please visit

[Events for April 2025 - Centre for ADHD and Autism Support](#)