

## Add-On News Autumn 2018 - Time To Talk/ Luca's Journey/ Poole Portage/ Children's Centres/ Babigloo/ Childcare/ Short Breaks/ Applying for a school/ Preparing for Reception/ Max Card/ Other News

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### Welcome to Autumn Add-On News

In this issue we are focusing on 0-5s. Find out about services and activities for the early years such as [Portage](#), [Children's Centres](#), [Childcare](#), [Short Breaks](#) and more. 'Your Story' features Luca – read the families story on how Luca was supported in his learning development and how various services (Portage, his childcare setting, his swim school and more) worked with Luca and his family, helping play a part in Luca's progress.



Also in this newsletter we have feedback on the ['Time to Talk' SEND Q&A event](#) that took place in the Summer term and details of the next session taking place on Saturday 17 November.

Don't forget if your child is due to start school next year or transfer to middle/junior or secondary, you can [apply for a school now](#). If your child is due to start Reception school next year check out our article on school readiness below.

It's [Anti-Bullying week](#) coming up in November. If your child is being bullied, don't panic. Listen, stay calm and reassure your child that the situation can get better when action is taken.

Visit the [Protecting Children](#) page on the FID to download ['Supporting Your Child If They're Being Bullied A Guide for Parents & Carers'](#) which includes useful information on recognising the signs of bullying, how to support your child if they are being bullied, the role and responsibility of your child's school and advice on how to help your child restore their confidence and self-esteem. You will also find [Poole's Anti-Bullying Strategy](#), further anti-bullying information and links to anti-bullying websites.

Finally, congratulations to [Poole Short Breaks](#) who celebrated their 10 year anniversary this year!

### Feedback from 'Time to Talk' – Q&A Session with the SEND Leadership Team - 30 June 2018

The Borough of Poole SEND team would like to say a big thank you to parents, carers and children who attended our first 'Time to Talk' session held at the Children, Young People and Learning offices in the Dolphin Centre, Poole on Saturday 30th June. Thank you for your time and the honest, helpful and constructive feedback. Here are a few of the comments made:

*"Useful to know the Local Authority are aware of things that need to improve"*

*"Good to find you (SEND Team) listening with openness"*

*"Really positive first session. It was great to see so many parents present"*

[Find out about the main themes raised at the Event and Local Authority Comments](#)



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## Come Along to 'Time to Talk' - next session Sat 17 November!

Following the positive feedback from parents and carers who attended our last 'Time to Talk' in June, we are please to confirm that our next session will take place on Saturday 17 November, 10am-12pm at Montacute School.



Please come along to our 'Time to Talk' event - meet the SEND leadership team, ask questions, give feedback on services, find out how SEND services are improving in Poole, speak to other parents and enjoy free refreshments.

As requested by you, this session will focus on the role of the SENCO.

Complimentary crèche and free activities for children (limited places for crèche/activities - booking essential). To book, contact the SEND Business Support Team on 01202 262009 or email: [sendbso@poole.gov.uk](mailto:sendbso@poole.gov.uk).

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## Your Story - Luca's Journey

Allow me to introduce Luca Stivala, a four year old boy who loves Thomas the Tank Engine, riding his bike and visiting a busy cafe for a slice of cake.

Luca loves to laugh but it was not always the case. Luca was a challenging baby and would not settle. He would cry constantly which caused his dad and myself a worry. He would not sleep during the day and would cry at the slightest thing.

He would love to be outside as a baby but when in a crowded place he would become distressed and cry. My partner and myself would pick him up to try and soothe him but he would scratch our faces or pull our hair. This was very distressing and caused us both upset. People would stare and in some cases comment. This was difficult to deal with.

Some people would have avoided public places but through the support of our friends we ensured we fully integrated ourselves socially as a family, listening to every piece of advice that anyone gave but things did not seem to improve. We are incredibly lucky to have a good network of friends.... [Read more](#)



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## Poole Portage Service

Poole [Portage](#) Service is a home visiting educational service for children aged 1-3 years with unmet complex SEND needs.

The Portage approach involves:

- Working in partnership with parents and other professionals with a commitment to inclusion.
- Focusing on what a child can do and empowering parents to build on their child's strengths and skills.
- Breaking learning activities down into small achievable steps.
- Learning through play and having fun.
- Celebrating success.



[Find out more about Poole Portage](#), the eligibility criteria for Portage home visits and how to make a referral.

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## Poole Children's Centres

All families with under 5's are welcome at our [Children's Centres](#), we offer friendly, helpful and non-judgmental advice and guidance as well as a wide variety of groups and activities to support parents and carers to have a healthy family life:



- Inclusive support for children and families with SEND.
- Family support and health services (including health visitors and midwives).
- Antenatal clinics - by appointment.
- Let's Play Together groups.
- Opportunities to meet other parents.
- Information and advice for parents.
- Access to volunteering opportunities.
- Parenting groups



Look at our [groups and activity leaflet](#) as well as our timetables [Poole East](#) and [Poole West](#) for the best time for you to visit and see for yourself....

Poole Children's Centres run a wide variety of SEND groups and activities such as Portage Stay and Play, Fun Time Creche, Speech and Language and Two's to Talk. [View the full list of SEND Activities on The FID.](#)

We also deliver many other activities that not SEND specific but which you may find enjoyable and beneficial to your child's development – find out about our popular Babigloo sessions for babies below...

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## Babigloo Music for Babies

[Babigloo](#) music for babies provides non-verbal 45 minute sessions for babies 0-12 months where the baby and classical music are the focus.

The non-verbal techniques that build on babies strong sense of hearing provide space and techniques for parents to develop music in babies lives, change mood and atmosphere and regulate behaviours.

"We have hospital appointments every Thursday morning. It's often tough and quite depressing. Babigloo in the afternoon keeps me sane and my baby's made more progress with Babigloo than he did in physio because he was distracted by the music."

[Babigloo sessions](#) are currently taking place at Branksome and Rossmore Children's Centres. To find out about future sessions email the [Babigloo Team](#). Visit the [Babigloo website](#)



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## Looking for Childcare?

Finding suitable childcare can be one of the biggest worries for parents. Fortunately, Poole has a wide range of [Ofsted](#) registered, high-quality childcare settings, offering your child a good start in life as well as teaching them to share, socialise, and make new friends. Should your child have an additional need there is SEND integrated information within every childcare record, helping to support you in your choice of setting.

Find childcare on [the FID](#) or contact the [Family Information Service](#) for one to one assistance.

For help with childcare costs visit [Childcare Choices](#) website or contact the [Family Information Service](#).



## SEND Childcare Survey 2018

We are looking for feedback from local parents of children with SEND (from birth to 18 years old) about how easy or difficult it has been to find suitable childcare in Poole. Having sufficient childcare means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training.

We will use the data from this survey to plan our work supporting childcare for children with SEND and the local childcare economy.

Please submit your survey by midnight on 28 October 2018. [Complete the survey now.](#)

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## Poole Short Breaks – Activities for 0-5s

Although we run a limited programme for 0-5s, we do offer several family activities which are open to all ages:

- [Family Sensory Swim Session.](#)
- Fortnightly Tuesday night family soft play session at Lemur Landings from 6.15pm- 8.15pm. During the refurbishment of the soft play centre a specific 0-5s area was created. These sessions are not open to the general public.
- Family film nights in some holidays. Some films may be more suitable for over 5s.



In addition, we also run a [Fun Times crèche session](#) at Old Town Children's Centre for children under 5 to give parents a break. These are supported by our Sessional Workers.

In the school holidays we offer [0-8s gym and trampolining sessions](#) for children with SEND. These give parents the opportunity for their children to be introduced to Short Breaks, meet some of the staff and network with other parents and carers.

Visit the FID for the [latest Poole Short Breaks programme](#) of events.

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## News from Poole Parent Carer Forum

### Changes to Poole Parent Carer Forum

From 1 April 2019, one new council will exist delivering all services across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. The change will also mean that only one Parent Carer Forum will be needed to cover the three areas. Please read the [letter](#) from Poole Parent Carer Forum explaining the situation in full.



To help plan for the new Forum, please complete this [short survey](#) and provide your anonymous feedback. The survey should take 5-10 minutes, and your views are really valuable to us. Thank you!

### Poole Parent Carer Forum Information Event

Our event held on 11 October at Bulbury Woods Golf Club was a big success. We had a good turn out of parents, and many commented on how useful the information was. Thank you to all the services, agencies and professionals across Poole and Dorset that supported us.

For further information contact [Sharon Moore](#) 07852 422089 [Poole Parent Carer Forum](#)

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## Applying for a School Reception Place 2019

Do you have a child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015? If so, then you need to apply for a school place for September 2019 from 1 September 2018.

Apply online at [www.poole.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.poole.gov.uk/schooladmissions) until the closing date of **15 January 2019**.

[The Family Information Service](#) can help with the application process and any queries you may have, as well as offering advice on preparing children for school, out of school childcare and other services.



Applying for a school place can be confusing. There are lots of myths out there – read our [Top Tips](#) before you apply.

For school details and open days visit [Schools and Learning](#) on Poole Family Information Directory.

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## Preparing your Child for Reception Class

Parents, early years pre-school providers and school teachers all know children develop at their own rate, and yet the term ‘School Readiness’ can be confusing. A group of Poole early years experts have created guidance for families called [Preparing Me for My Reception Class at School](#) which includes ‘7 Skills for School Readiness’.

This aims to unpick the different areas and key skills that will support any child to settle into school. If your child attends a Poole early years pre-school provider you will receive a leaflet about this in the September / October before your child is due to start at school.



### Poole School Readiness: A Definition

A child often shows ‘School Readiness’ when they begin to be curious and enthusiastic about the world around them. They might have lots of ideas and questions they want to explore. They can take turns and share with one another most of the time. They speak clearly in sentences whilst listening and understanding what others say, or they can communicate clearly using signing as well as understand the same signing system used by others. They move with co-ordination and are able to address their individual personal care needs in one way or another.

Every child will have skills they find easy to do and some they need to work harder on. Families can work together with their child’s pre-school provider to share and celebrate their child’s strengths, along with finding different ways to support their child’s ‘school readiness’ skills.

If you have any questions or concerns about [Preparing Me for My Reception Class at School](#), please don’t hesitate to contact your current early years pre-school provider.

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## MAX Card Days Out

Don’t forget to make use of your MAX card for discounted days out. Activities that younger children may enjoy include Putlake Adventure Farm, Lollipops Play Café in Westbourne, Sealife Centre Weymouth, Dorset Heavy Horse Farm Park and New Forest Wildlife Park.

Visit the [MAX card website](#) to view all the activities and venues on the scheme.

Autumn is a great time for a family day out – if you decide to visit any of the attractions on the MAX card please let us know how you got on. We may even feature your review in our next newsletter!

Email your reviews to [familyinformation@poole.gov.uk](mailto:familyinformation@poole.gov.uk).

### Where would you like to use your MAX card?

The MAX card team are keen to hear your suggestions so they can increase the variety of attractions on offer. So whether it’s bowling, soft play, local cinema, country park or your favourite cafe, please email [the MAX card team](#) with reference ‘Poole MAX Card’ and tell them about it so they can follow up your request.



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## Other News...

### SENDIASS Post 16 Goes to Poole SEND Strategy Group Meeting

Find out what projects the Post 16 group have been working on including publicity material for young adults, their thoughts on the EHCP and Annual Review Process and how they got on at the SEND Strategy Meeting. [Read more...](#)

### News on The FID...

[21st Century Dyslexia](#)

[Staying Safe on the Walk To School](#)

[Free Family Activities – The Green Hour Club](#)

[Free Childcare for Two Year Olds](#)



[LAUNCH – for families of 0-5 Year Olds \(Find out about Poole Children's Centres\)](#)

Don't miss out on our monthly newsletter for Families in Poole. [Sign Up for Families Email Me!](#)

Look out for our Spring issue next term which will have a school age focus!

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