The FIS/DISC Team would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year!
Family Information Service, Disability Information Service (DISC)

The Family Information Service is a statutory service providing FREE individually tailored information, advice and guidance on any family matter. The service is available to any family member taking care of children or young people aged 0-25 years of age inclusive as well as professionals working with families in Reading. Information is available on Ofsted registered childcare, educational services, support organisations, health, leisure activities, children centres, special needs and much more.....

The Disability Information Service forms part of the Family Information Service and is a FREE impartial information, advice and guidance service for 0-25 year olds who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Local Offer also sits with the Family & Disability Information Service.

The service is delivered by NVQ Level 3 and Level 4 qualified staff in Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG).

The Disability Information Service can provide information on the following:

- Short Breaks / Respite
- Holiday Clubs
- What’s on, Leisure Activities and Clubs
- Events
- Support Groups and Organisations local and national
- The Disability Information Scheme (Disc) Newsletter published three times a year.
- Information emails keeping parents/carers/practitioners informed on new groups, courses, events and more...
- Information on Financial help for families'
- Ofsted registered childcare including childminders who offer provision for children with special needs
- Information on Local Offer, Education & Health Care plans / Personal Budgets
- Research - If we don't have the information we will research it for you!

A free information service for families living and working in Reading.

We are available Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm all year round except for Bank Holidays.

We can be contacted by phone, email or face to face by visiting the Civic Offices in Bridge Street.

Tel: 0118 9373777 (opt 2) Email: disc@reading.gov.uk www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide

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www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide | 0118 937 3777 | disc@reading.gov.uk
Welcome to the Winter 2015 edition of Reading DISC

The information in the DISC newsletter is provided by third party organisations therefore Reading Borough Council cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. Where appropriate DBS should be requested.

News...

Blue Badge Theft Increases
As reported in Disabled Motoring UK

The Local Government Association has reported that Blue Badge theft has doubled in 12 months. In 2013 the number of reported stolen Blue Badges was 656 which soared to 1756 in 2014, an increase of 167%.

A Blue Badge entitles the holder to on-street parking concessions in certain car parks and off-street concessions. For genuine holders the Blue Badge is highly valuable as it also allows them to park close to the services they need to access. For fraudsters it is highly valuable as it is a way of dodging parking charges. Blue Badge holders are also exempt from paying the London congestion charge which alone could be a saving of £2500 a year.

In 2014 councils prosecuted 565 offenders and some councils have set up specific enforcement teams to tackle Blue Badge fraud and misuse.

Information taken from Reading Mencap

Do you need money for training?

If you employ your own care and support staff using a personal health budget, a social care budget or your own money you can apply to Skills for Care to get money for training for you and your personal assistant. The money that is available is called individual employer funding. All learning and qualifications must be paid for and started by 31st March 2016.

To apply for this funding Call 0113 245 1716 or by visiting the website www.skillsforcare.org.uk/individualemployeefunding

Broad Street/West Street new traffic system - Decision made.

On 16th September RBC Traffic Sub Committee, led by Cllr Tony Page made the decision to turn off the lights permanently at the intersection of Broad Street/Oxford Road and West Street on a vote of 6 for and 3 against.

Reading Mencap along with 6 other charities campaigned to keep the lights, and one of our trustees Pat Dyer was there on the night trying to get Councillors to realise that they had not taken the needs and difficulties of people with LD into account. But to no avail.

If you still want to complain please talk to, or write to, or e-mail your local Councillor, local charities are still trying to complain about it.

Information taken from Reading Mencap

Learning Disability Carer’s Forum

The next quarterly Learning Disability Carer’s forum is on Wednesday 9th December, Committee Room 1 at the New Civic Centre, where we hope to have talks from Healthwatch and Berkshire Credit Union. There will also be the usual news roundup of the latest on health and social care from Leslie Macdonald and Caroline Penfold, results on the voluntary sector budget cuts and much more, including seasonal mince pies!

Information taken from Reading Mencap
Local mental health service users invited to share their stories with quality inspectors

People who use mental health and other services run by Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) are being invited to take part in focus groups where they will get a chance to share their experiences with independent inspectors.

The focus groups will run the week beginning 7th December 2015, to help inform an inspection visit by the Care Quality Commission, which checks and rates how all NHS and social care services are performing.

Service users who want to take part are invited to contact Trevor Lyalle, at the Patient Advice and Liaison Service at BHFT on 0118 960 5027 or email: trevor.lyalle@berkshire.nhs.uk Details will be passed onto the CQC, which will then contact people directly to invite them to groups.

Information taken from Healthwatch Reading

Sight Tests for Children with Learning Disabilities

SeeAbility has just launched a petition asking the government and NHS to make sight tests available for children in special schools in England, as children with learning disabilities are 28 times more likely to have serious sight problems.

You can read more about their campaign and sign the petition by clicking on the link

www.seeability.org/petition

Berkshire Carers Service

BCS has launched a new guide to help unpaid carers prepare for local authority assessments of their needs.

Call 0800 988 5462 or email

helpline@berkshirecarers.org

Changing Places

Please follow the link for information on changing places in and around the area

http://www.changing-places.org/find_a_toilet/location_search_results/10/distance.aspx?address=rg1.uk

Adviza Teams up with Smart Works

Adviza has signed a formal partnership agreement with Smart Works in Reading to refer women to their exciting programme. Smart Works helps out-of-work women on low incomes get back into the workforce.

Smart Works provides high quality interview clothes and accessories for the women to keep, styling advice and interview coaching to help women feel confident, look fabulous and succeed at their job interview. Over the last five years Smart Works has helped almost 6000 women back into work, and has an overall success rate of over 60%.

The programme is open to women across Berkshire who are able to travel to the Reading venue.

For further information please contact alicesalvesen@adviza.org.uk

or Sarah Burns at Reading@smartworks.org.uk
Reading FC Community Trust
Soccer Schools - Inclusive

When: Monday 21st - Thursday 24th, Tuesday 29th & Wednesday 30th December.
For ages 6 - 14 (this can vary slightly depending on activity and location)
Venues Vary - Please see attached for full timetable of activities and venues for the December/January holiday Inclusive Club

For more information or to book a place, please call: 0118 9681460 / 0118 9681480
Visit: www.community.readingfc.co.uk
‘Sports Participation to book online or www.readingfc.co.uk ‘Soccer Schools to download a booking form

Leighton Park School Holiday Club

Where: Shinfield Road, Reading, RG2 7DE
When: Monday 21st-Thursday 24th December
An inclusive holiday club for children aged 5-14 years old. Activities include: Archery, climbing wall, den building, swimming, trampolining, arts & crafts and lots more. Opening times for 2015: Early Bird Club: 7.30am-3.30pm or 7.30am-5.30pm, Normal Day: 8.30am-3.30pm or 8.30am-5.30pm.

For more information/booking forms and prices
www.leightonpark.com/enterprises
Email: activities@leightonpark.com
Tel: 0118 987 9538

Norcot Holiday Play Club

Where: Norcot Early Years Centre, 82 Lyndhurst Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 6UB
When: Monday 21st-Thursday 24th December
An inclusive holiday club for children aged 3 - 6 years and 11 months, aiming to provide fun activities and care for all children, whatever their needs. Please provide a packed lunch (no nut products).

For further details: Tel: 0118 937 5618 or visit: www.norcotearyearscentre.co.uk

Siblings Club

For: brothers and sisters of children with learning disabilities.
This group meets about six times a year during school holidays. Come down, have fun, chill out and make some friends. There are activity trips, such as paintballing, ice-skating and swimming, and visits to places of interest, like Cadbury World or Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. We cater for siblings aged 8-16 years.

For further details, to attend or to find out if transport is available please contact us on 0118 966 2518 / office@readingmencap.org.uk
www.readingmencap.org.uk

Reading Play - Holiday Play Club

Reading Borough Council Holiday Playclubs are a full childcare facility for children aged 4 years old (in full time education) to 12 years old (up to their 13th birthday) during the school holidays. Children are fully supervised within an open play service, and enjoy a variety of safe and exciting activities in comfortable surroundings. All the activities we offer abide by the Reading Play principles, encouraging fun activities that aim to meet learning objectives in a controlled, safe environment.

To find out more about these clubs and for pricing and booking information please go to http://www.readingplay.co.uk/playclubs-after-school-clubs/
Please note we do not offer personal care.

Tel: 0118 9372636 Email: reading.play@reading.gov.uk

www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide | 0118 937 3777 | disc@reading.gov.uk
Holiday Clubs....

**Animal Ranger Days**

**When:** Monday 28th December - Thursday 31st December 2015

**Where:** Bartletts Lane, Holyport, Maidenhead SL6 2JD

A great educational day for children suitable for ages 7+ - 16 years

**Cost:** £25.00 per session time: 10.30am - 3.00pm

A chance for your child to become an Animal Ranger for a day, looking after all our lovely animals at the Farm

Pigs/Goats/Alpacas/Llama/Shetland Ponies/Ducks/Chickens/ Rabbits/Guinea Pigs/Chinchilla/Hamster/Gerbil/Rats/Degus/Baby Rabbits/Snakes/Bearded Dragons/Quails/Stick insects

They will get involved hands on with all the animals, cleaning, feeding, exercising, and lots of petting and handling.

Limited numbers, please note sessions get booked very quickly

For bookings dawndingwall@btinternet.com www.animalrangers.co.uk

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Short Breaks & Clubs...

**CHALLENGERS READING YOUTHSHEME AUTUMN TERM ACTIVITY PROGRAMME 2015 FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 13-18 BOOKING LINE 01483 230 939 www.bookings-challengers.org**

**Saturday 21st November - Clay Modelling Day**

**What:** Clay, plasticine or salt dough - roll up your sleeves and get creative.

**Where:** Reading Youth Scheme

**What to Bring:** Packed lunch

**Saturday 28th November - Swimming**

**What:** It’s back with a splash! Get your costume on and zoom down the flumes as we head over to the Aquadrome.

**Where & Travel Time:** Basingstoke (40 mins)

**What to Bring:** Packed lunch and swimming kit

**Saturday 5th December - Christmas Cards & Gifts**

**What:** A festive day getting ready for Christmas. Let your creativity flow as you make and decorate Christmas cards for your friends and family.

**Where:** Reading Youth Scheme

**What to Bring:** Packed Lunch

**Saturday 12th December - Christmas Shopping**

**What:** Bring your pocket money and hit the shops for some festive Christmas shopping.

**Where & Travel Time:** Basingstoke (40 mins)

**Saturday 19th December - Pantomime**

**What:** It’s pantomime time - oh yes it is! Take a trip to the panto for lots of cheering, jeering and non-stop laughter with our friends from Basingstoke and Andover Challengers as we watch the hilarious ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’

**Where & Travel Time:** Basingstoke (40 mins)

**What to Bring:** Drink and snacks for during the performance

**Time Change:** 12pm - 6pm

Reading Youth - Normal Day is 10am - 4pm Saturdays, Easter & Summer Holidays - All our trips start at Reading Youth. The Avenue School, Conwy Close, Reading, RG30 4BA
Short Breaks & Clubs...

**Autism Berkshire - Games Club**

This club is funded by Reading Borough Council Short Breaks.

Games Club for ages 8 - 15 years  
**Time:** 2pm-4pm  
**When:** Second & Fourth Saturday of the month  
**Where:** Emmer Green Youth & Community Centre, Grove Road, Reading, RG4 8L

Existing members may continue to attend but all new members will need to be Reading Residents.

Games such as Minecraft, Smash Brothers and much more...

0118 959 4594

**Autism Berkshire - Lego Club**

**Time:** 9.30 - 11.30  
**Age 8+**

Reading Lego Club is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month  
**Where:** All Saints Church, Downshire Square, off Bath Road, RG1 6NN  
**When:** Saturday 14th November & Saturday 12th December

West Berkshire Lego Club is held on the third Saturday of each month  
**Where:** Woolhampton Village Hall, Bath Road, Woolhampton, West Berkshire RG7 5RE  
**When:** Saturday 21st November & Saturday 19th December

Members £2.50 non-members £3.50

If you are interested in either of these clubs please Tel: 01189 594594 Email: contact@autismberkshire.org.uk

www.autismberkshire.org.uk

**Saturday Club**

**RBC Funded Resource**

A Saturday Club for young people with learning disabilities  
For ages 13-19yrs  

**Time:** 10am-4pm  
**When:** The club runs on the last Saturday of each month.  
**Where:** South Reading Youth Club, 252 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, RG2 7QA  
To find out if you are eligible please contact:  
Kevin Black on Tel: 07734 4994826  
email: kevin.black@reading.gov.uk

**Smiles Club**

**RBC Funded Resource**

**When:** Thursdays, 3.30pm-5.30pm, term-time only  
**Where:** Tilehurst Youth Centre, The Triangle, Reading, RG30 4RN  
A club for young people aged 13-17 years, with mild/moderate learning difficulties, where they are given the opportunity to integrate with young volunteers in a fun and relaxed environment.  
For further details: Contact Kevin Black  
kevin.black@reading.gov.uk

**Bphab Youth Club**

**When:** Saturdays 9.30am - 1pm for ages 9 - 18yrs  
**Where:** Berkshire Phab, MAPP Centre, 22 Mount Pleasant, Reading, RG1 2TD  
Please note we are closed Saturday 26 Dec & 2 Jan 2016

For young people with and without disabilities aged 9 - 18. There's a range of activities available, including games on the playstation or Wii, giving the club’s robot mascot a seasonal makeover, getting sporty with table tennis or basketball, creating a culinary masterpiece or chilling out in the fantastic sensory room.

Siblings are welcome, and parents don’t have to stay (although we are not able to provide personal care).

For further details:  
Tel: 0118 916 8413, Email: info@berkshirephab.org  
www.berkshirephab.org  
www.facebook.com/berkshirephab

**Raft Club**

**When:** 2nd and 4th Saturday every month  
**Where:** The Avenue School, Conwy Close, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4BZ  
The RAFT Club has been set up to provide support for families of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder living in Reading. The club employs play workers who organise activities for children aged 4-12 years.  
For further details: Contact Michele Page, Tel: 0118 9471438, Email: michelepage22@hotmail.co.uk
Short Breaks & Clubs...

Peapods Saturday Club

When: Every Second Saturday of the month
Where: Twyford Scout Headquarters, Loddon Hall Road, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9JA

Peapods is a parent-led charity providing support to families with physically disabled children across Berkshire and the surrounding counties. Every second Saturday of the month they run a Saturday Club where the whole family can experience a variety of activities in addition to ad-hoc social events throughout the year.

If you would like to come along and join us please contact Felicity on 07722 793393 or felicity@peapods.org.uk www.peapods.org.uk

Building for the Future (Our House)

Saturday Club

When: 11am - 1pm Physical disability and Down Syndrome; 3pm - 5pm ASD, ADHD, ADD or similar non-physical disabilities, all the usual activities.
Where: Our House, Toutley Road, Wokingham RG41 1QN

Based near Wokingham, the Centre offers a sensory room, a soft-play area, a computer pod, a craft zone, a performance area, a chill-out room for disabled teenagers as well as a fully-accessible bathroom. There is also a Saturday Club for physically disabled children of all ages. There is also a small garden as well as a parents’ room and a kitchen.

The Centre is open to families with disabled children in the Wokingham and surrounding areas (includes families living in Reading).

Call 07500 114427 Email: sarah@bftf.org.uk http://www.bftf.org.uk/timetable.php

Building for the Future (Our House)

Play Group

When: Tuesdays in term-time 9.30am - 11.30am
Where: Our House, Toutley Road, Wokingham RG41 1QN

All abilities welcome for babies and children with additional needs age 0-4. Siblings below school age welcome too. £2 per family.

Call 07500 114427 Email: sarah@bftf.org.uk http://www.bftf.org.uk/timetable.php

Friday Club at Rivermead

Fridays Monthly 6.30pm - 8pm
Next dates: 27th November Christmas Disco 18th December

For those with special needs and their families. A social evening with soft play and bouncy castle, football, table tennis, badminton, teas, coffees and soft drinks are available.

£2 per child. Come along and join the fun!
Tel: 0118 9015014 Email: andy.welch@gll.org or j.rumble626@btinternet.com

Chance to Dance - Special Needs Dance Club

When: Saturdays, fortnightly
Where: Tilehurst Methodist Church, School Road, Reading, RG31 5AN

This is a unique dance school that caters specifically for disabled children and young adults that have a physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional or/and developmental disability.

We hold lessons on Saturday's once a fortnight. The classes are held in Tilehurst, Reading and Martin's Heron, Bracknell full address on the 'contact us' page. There are four classes; three general dance classes separated by ability and a tap class.

The children and young adults that attend have various disabilities, yet all are inspiring. They light up the classes with happiness, joy and laughter!

Look at our website for details of our Winter Camp 2015!

We also offer:
Playscheme; Parties; Freelance Events, Lunchtime Clubs; After School Clubs; Private Respite

Booking essential. Contact Vickie Andrews 07736 343570 or 0118 3480447 email: vickieandrews50@hotmail.co.uk www.sendanceclub.co.uk
What’s on, Activities & Events...

Autism Friendly Screenings from Vue Cinema Reading & Showcase Cinema Winnersh

Vue Cinema’s next screening is ‘Minions’
Sunday 29th November at 10am

Showcase Cinema’s next Screening is ‘The Good Dinosaur’
Sunday 13th December at 10am

What makes our screenings Autism Friendly?
The lights will be low; the volume will be turned down; You will be able to take your own food and drinks; You’ll be able to move around the cinema if you like! Children are to be supervised at all times.


C2D Playscheme (Chance to Dance)

When: Monthly on Sunday’s
Where: Strathy Close, Craig Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 2PP
Time: 10.30am - 2.30pm Ages 3-18 years

Each child or young adult that attends will need to bring a packed lunch, snacks and plenty of fluids. We have ramps, disabled toilets, access to a kitchen and trained volunteers to take on most disabilities. The play scheme is run by myself, Vicky Andrews, family members and volunteers.

Contact Vickie Andrews 07736 343570 vickieandrews50@hotmail.co.uk
www.sendanceclub.co.uk

Siblings Christmas Party & Disco
Reading Mencap
When: Wednesday 23rd December
Where: Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE
Time: 6pm - 9pm
Cost: £5

Camp Mohawk

Panto opportunity

The Twyford and Ruscombe Theatre Group are performing a pantomime, The Wizard of Oz, in January and they have decided to open up their final dress rehearsal to children with special needs and their families. This performance will be held at 7.45pm on Tuesday 5th January, at the Loddon Hall in Twyford, and will be free of charge. If you would be interested in going along, please let me know as they have asked that we give them an idea of numbers in advance.

Contact Kate Kent
Tel: 0118 9404045
kate.kent@campmohawk.org.uk
http://www.campmohawk.org.uk

Contact us on 0118 966 2518
office@readingmencap.org.uk

www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide | 0118 937 3777 | disc@reading.gov.uk
BARTON ROVERS EAGLES

We are a disability football club for both males & females with a variety of special needs ranging from age 5 upwards.

We meet on Saturday mornings, starting at 9.30am finishing at 11am.

As well as improving football skills with our qualified coaches, our club provides opportunities to make new friends, learn about working as a team and having fun within a social setting.

At present we are playing indoors at Prospect School in Cockney Hill. As from March 2016 we will be moving to the outdoor playing fields at Brookfield Special School.

Cost is £3 per session payable weekly.

Contact Sarah on 07983467003.
**Thames Valley Adventure Playground**

**For Children & Adults with Special Needs**

As children, most of us would take for granted the chance to get out and about, exploring, climbing trees, visiting the park and hanging out with friends, but for many children and adults with a special need, it just isn't possible. If you have a physical disability, the difficulties are more obvious, but, if you have a learning disability, sensory problems or autism, you may find it hard to relate to other people and to join in their games. Since 1982 the Thames Valley Adventure Playground has provided a chance for children & adults with all types of special need to enjoy the fun, freedom and friendship afforded by the opportunity to play and share experiences in a safe and stimulating environment, with users travelling from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, London and beyond. Wheelchair-accessible roundabouts and swings, elevated walkways allowing someone with profound and multiple difficulties to enjoy the excitement of ‘climbing’ trees, multi-sensory rooms to stimulate and relax, with specially-trained staff to provide help and support - these are just a few of the things on offer.

Based on a 2.5 acre site adjacent to the A4 in Taplow, near Maidenhead, the Playground is open to children and adults with all types of special need, however, mild or profound, their siblings and parents/carers. Open Tuesday to Saturday all year round, Fridays are reserved for adults with special needs. People visit with families and as individuals, or with groups from schools, playschemes, day centres and residential units. The Playground is also used by a Youth Club and several local parents support groups. The Playground is an OFSTED-registered day-care facility, run by a voluntary Board of Trustees, with on-site care provided by 6 full-time and ten sessional staff, supported by a loyal band of volunteers.

Thames Valley Adventure Playground, Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, SL6 0PR (for SatNav use SL6 0EF) Tel: 01628 628599 Email: theplayground@tvap.co.uk www.tvap.co.uk

Short Break/Respite Care for individual children and adults with special needs. Call: 01628 628599

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**Fairytale Farm**

Fairytale Farm is the first family farm attraction where everything is designed around the needs of children with sensory, learning and physical disabilities, but which can be enjoyed by children without disabilities too. A truly inclusive experience.

For the first time in the UK, disabled children will have their own attraction that operates like any other commercial tourist attraction which they can enjoy with the rest of their family - and with no pre-booking needed.

Just turn up and have fun - everything is accessible and everybody is welcome!

*Don’t miss our Illuminated Evenings every day that Fairytale Farm is open right up to Christmas Eve, when the Enchanted Walk becomes a magical wonderland of fairy lights.*

For further information, opening times and prices go to: www.fairytalefarm.co.uk
Tel: 01608 238014 Email: info@fairytalefarm.co.uk

Fairytale Farm, Southcombe, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, OX7 5QH
This session explores what autism (which includes Asperger’s Syndrome) feels like from the inside and how it affects lives as well as looking at the range of traits found on the autism constellation. The session is interactive and enjoyable and offers an overview the autism constellation as well as clear explanations of the ways in which autistic brains can be atypical.

Session covers
- An overview of autism
- How and why autistic people behave differently in social situations
- How and why autistic people respond to information and in unusual ways
- Autistic strengths and challenges
- Some reasons why autism is often not identified
- Experiential exercises and discussion

Facilitator
Caroline Hearst trained as an art psychotherapist and self-identified and was diagnosed as autistic in adulthood. She has two sons one of whom is autistic. This life experience plus her background in adult education enable her to provide enjoyable, informative sessions that increase understanding and acceptance of autism.

Feedback  (from sessions held at Reading voluntary action, Feb and March 2015)
“I found the mix of participants very helpful. The day flew by and I found it very interesting and thought provoking” Therapist

“Very interesting, lots of examples to which I could relate. Very useful to talk to others, both similar to my situation and counsellors/parents. It is useful to pick up that one can go through life and not even suspect autism, until a problem or series of problems highlights particular traits” Autistic adult.

"Many thanks for the excellent day on Saturday. I came away so hopeful for my son. The key has to be understanding and you have definitely moved me – and others on the course too I am sure – on. So a big thank you!” Parent
What’s on at Reading Mencap for children/Young People...

**Childrens Clubs**

**Where:** Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE

**Contact:** For further details, to attend or to find out if transport is available please contact us on 0118 966 2518 / office@readingmencap.org.uk

**www.readingmencap.org.uk**

**Friday Club**

**For:** Children aged 11-17 years with a variety of learning disabilities.

**When:** Every other Friday in term time, 6.30pm - 9pm

**Activities:** Games, arts & crafts, parties, discos, and generally having fun!

**Cost:** £3 per session

Transport may be available for some areas at an extra cost of £3, please ring the office for details.

**Saturday Club**

**For:** Children aged 8-11 years with a variety of learning disabilities.

**When:** Every Saturday in term time, 9am - 12pm

**Activities:** Soft play, ball pit, crafts, role-play and dressing up.

**Cost:** £3 per session

Transport may be available for some areas at an extra cost of £3, please ring the office for details. Please note that we cannot offer places to children who have not reached their 8th Birthday when they start attending the club.

**Keen Performing Arts Club (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now)**

This club is run by Reading University students with the guidance of a drama coach.

**For:** Children aged 9-13 years who experience more severe learning disabilities and/or complex needs.

**When:** Saturdays in University term time (3rd October to 5th December) 2.30pm – 5.00pm

**Cost:** £4 per session

Transport may be available for some areas at an extra cost of £3, please ring the office for details.
Reading Mencap Cont’d…

Christmas Fair

There will be a tombola, raffle, games, jewellery/CD/DVD stalls, Christmas cakes, jams and preserves to purchase, a chance to pin the nose on Rudolf and lots more!

When: Sunday 29th November
Where: Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE
Time: 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Cost: Free. But there will be lots of things to buy, stalls and games to spend money on to raise some funds for Reading Mencap!

Planning for the Future

Forthcoming events in Reading Mencap’s Planning for the Future series. FREE seminars for families and carers, with vital information and advice provided by a specialist local legal professional. One-to-one sessions with the solicitor will be available.

Please call 0118 966 2518 or email office@readingmencap.org.uk to book your place & request a one-to-one appointment.

Making a Will & Setting up a Trust

The benefits of making a will and how to set up a trust to protect the finances of a family member with a learning disability.

When: Thursday 4th February 2016
Where: Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE
Time: 7pm - 9pm
Cost: Free

Powers of Attorney & Court of Protection Applications

Issues of capacity and how to obtain power of attorney or appoint a deputy to make decisions on behalf of a family member with a learning disability.

When: Thursday 10th March 2016
Where: Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE
Time: 7pm - 9pm
Cost: Free
What’s on continued…

**Autism Berkshire**  
**Reading ASC Support Group**

We are pleased to announce our programme of Reading Support Group Meetings for 2015!

All of our meetings run monthly and are held during term time on a **Friday between 9.30 am - 11.30am** at the Berkshire Autistic Society, Unit 7 Richfield Place, Richfield Avenue, Reading RG1 8EQ.

**Forthcoming Support Group Meetings are:**
- **Friday 20th November 2015:** Jon Shoesmith from Bibic will talk about 'Changing Children's Lives'. An opportunity to ask child based specific questions, about therapies to benefit children on the autistic spectrum.
- **Friday 15th January 2016:** Katherine Ansall from Peach will talk about Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)
- **Friday 12th February 2016:** Angie Fenn from Contact a Family will talk about how to help your child to sleep.
- **Friday 11th March 2016:** Paul and Ann of Home from Therapy will present a slide show on services and therapies that can be used in the home.

We look forward to meeting you!

For more information please call Autism Berkshire on 0118 9594594

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**NEW Looked After and Adopted Children with Special Needs Service**

**Looked After and Adopted Children with Special Needs**  
**Monthly Workshop and Support Group - Reading - Free**  
**Mondays from 10am - 11:30am or 7pm - 8:30pm**

For all Berkshire families who are foster carers, adoptive parents, special guardians or kinship carers and looking after children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities.

- **Topic based workshops**
- **Questions & Answers**
- **Opportunity to talk to other parents and carers**

Please feel free to join us for the first group of the new term on Monday 5th October 2015 at 11 Glebe Road, Reading. RG2 7AG.
Clubs & Services for Adults from Reading Mencap...

18+ Clubs
Where: Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE
Contact: For further details, to attend or to find out if transport is available please contact us on 0118 966 2518 / office@readingmencap.org.uk
www.readingmencap.org.uk

Gateway Club
For: Adults/18+ with a variety of learning disability - aged 18-24 years and 25+ years.
When: Every Tuesday in term time, 7.15pm – 9.15pm
Sessions split into two age groups: 18-24 years and 25+ years. The club runs every week with alternating age groups. Check out our website for which group is on which week: http://www.readingmencap.org.uk/clubs/gateway-club
Activities: Members choose their own activities, which include indoor sports, going to the pub, movie nights, bowling, cookery and crafts. The club aims to encourage friendship and social interaction.
Cost: £3 per session

Coffee Club
For: Adults/18+ with learning disabilities.
When: Every other Monday, 11.30am – 1.30pm. Please see our website for a timetable of events.
Activities: Members choose their own activities like bowling, Zumba, swimming, arts & crafts, gardening, drama and day trips.
Cost: Club is free, however there is a cost for activities or free when supported by sponsors.

ME Project (Mencap Enables)
This club is an innovative user-led day activities service promoting self-help skills; members plan activities, support and encourage each other, learning vital skills as well as having fun along the way.
For: Adults/18+ with learning disabilities.
When: Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am – 4.00pm.
Tuesday is aimed at 18 – 40 years. Wednesday and Friday is aimed at all ages.
Activities: Members chose their own activities discussing choices with the support of staff such as Tai Chi, canoeing, climbing, day trips, cooking, arts & crafts, sports, drama, day trips and can work towards ASDAN accredited awards. They also talk to activity providers to help them decide what they would like to learn or do next.
Cost: £27 per day, (can be paid for with a personal budget)
Mencap for Adults cont’d...

Karaoke
For: Adults/18+ with learning disabilities.
When: First Wednesday of the month, 7.30 - 9 pm
Activities: Bring your own CD to sing along to. Refreshments are available.
Cost: £3 per session.

Disco
For: Adults/18+ with learning disabilities plus a carer, if needed.
When: Last Thursday of the month, 7.30pm - 9.30pm (except August, November and December)
Activities: Enjoy party anthems followed by a rock section (with inflatable guitars!) There will also be karaoke and hot dogs.
Cost: £3 entry includes a hot dog and a soft drink.

Christmas Disco
For: Members only – Carers and Adults/18+ with learning disabilities plus a carer, if needed.
When: Friday 4th December
Where: Rivers Ibis Health Club, Scours Lane, Tilehurst, RG30 6AY
Time: 7.30pm – 10.30pm
Cost: £5 for one member and one carer/family member (including Christmas present for adult with LD)
£2.50 for additional carer/family member
Please note: due to the venue, attendees need to be 18+

To reserve your place, please pay for your tickets in advance at Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE.

Pokemon and Level Up Club - Autism Berkshire
When: First & Third Saturday of the month 2pm - 4pm:
For ages 16-25 years
This club supports any young person resident in Berkshire, allowing parents the opportunity to have a short break whilst the young people are in supervised play.
Pokemon TCG, video games and board games such as Dungeons and Dragons will be available.
Where: Emmer Green Youth & Community Centre, Grove Road, Reading, RG4 8LN
Cost: Members £3.00 per child, Non Members £5 per child
For further details: Tel: 0118 959 4594 Email contact@autismberkshire.org.uk
**Evenbreak**

Evenbreak, a not-for-profit social enterprise, was formed to achieve three aims: To help inclusive employers attract more talented disabled people; To help disabled jobseekers find work with employers who will value their skills; To promote the business benefits of employing disabled people. Disabled jobseekers can be confident that employers who have chosen to place their vacancies on this site are serious about looking beyond their disabilities to identify what skills they have to offer.

Tel: 0845 658 5717 info@evenbreak.co.uk www.evenbreak.co.uk

**Employme (Mencap)**

Programme of support to help people with a learning disability to get a job. The package is made up of: Pre-employment support - training individually or in small groups to develop the skills needed to get a job, work trials and placements an opportunity to experience work and develop skills in a real work environment support. Help to search for a job as well as write a CV and help with interview skills, job coaching and in-work support. Help to learn.

Tel: 01865 84964 ruth.collins@mencap.org.uk or trulymatthews@mencap.org.uk www.mencap.org.uk

**ElevateMe - Reading**

ElevateMe is a website for 16-24 year olds in Reading to get help, advice and support on employment, work experience, (includes apprenticeships), volunteering, mentoring and much more. ElevateMe, along with other organisations have pooled their knowledge and networks to give you information at your fingertips so that you can find out: Where to get help to build the skills you need; opportunities for work experience and volunteering; how to make the most of your abilities; how to deal with benefits and finance; what apprenticeships and traineeships can offer; how a mentor might be able to help you along the way.

Email: help@elevateme.org.uk www.elevateme.org.uk

**Adviza - Independent Support**

Adviza Berkshire provides information, advice and guidance to 13-19 year olds and up to 25 with learning difficulties or disabilities, to help them progress successfully into education, employment and training. Adviza is a registered charity providing a range of high quality services to support young people and others making key transitions in their lives, particularly those who are vulnerable. A key part of our work is providing careers services direct to schools, colleges, parents, graduates and other individuals. Independent support is a national programme funded by the Department of Education via the Council for Disabled Children (CDC), as part of the measures associated with the recent Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND) Reforms and the implementation of the Children & Families Act 2014.

We are Located at Reading Central Library, Elevate Reading Hub, Abbey Square, Reading RG1 3BQ

Tel: 0118 402 7177 independentsupport@adviza.org.uk www.adviza.org.uk

Please also see Adviza's New Service ‘Lucky Break Mentoring’ Are you worried or unsure about what to do when you leave education? If so then a mentor could help you! A mentor can: Help you think about your future options Help you apply for jobs, apprenticeships or courses... Tel: 07747 476820 katherinejohnston@adviza.org.uk

**Shaw Trust**

Shaw Trust is a national charity that helps people facing disadvantage into work, gain skills and take control of their futures. Over the past thirty years, the Trust has striven to combine it’s charitable heart with it’s commercial brain to provide the very best support to the people it was set up to serve.

**Support for disabled and disadvantaged individuals**

We believe that everyone has the right to work and we support disabled and disadvantaged people towards employment through either ‘Work Choice’ or the ‘Work Programme’. Shaw Trust also provides help for employers to manage and support disabled and disadvantaged employees. For more information please call us on:

Tel: 0300 7900523 www.shaw-trust.org.uk

3rd Floor, Kings Lodge, 194 Kings Road, Reading, RG1 4NH
Berkshire Carers Service provides free information, advice and support to unpaid carers in Berkshire.

We can help with:

- Benefits and grants
- Information about health and social care services
- Emotional support
- Finding training to support your caring services
- Form filling
- Meeting other carers
- Respite care and planning a break from caring
- Managing working and caring
- All our services are free to carers.

Please browse our website for local information www.berkshirecarers.org

If you would like to speak to someone, please give us a call on 0800 988 5462 or email helpline@berkshirecarers.org.

Our freephone helpline is available 9.30am – 5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 1pm – 5pm Thursday.

Reading Information, Advice & Support Service for SEN (Formerly The Parent Partnership)

Reading Information, Advice & Support Service for SEND offers free confidential and impartial advice and support to Reading parents and carers who have children (up to the age of 25) with special educational needs. The service also offers all parents (whether the child has special educational needs or not) advice and support with secondary transfer. This service operates term time only and can be contacted as follows:

Email: iass@reading.gov.uk
- Tel: 0118 937 3421
- www.parentpartnership-reading.org

For advice about secondary transfer call 0118 937 3242 or email choice.advice@reading.gov.uk
Family Support...

Reading Mencap Family Support Service

Where: Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE
Contact: For further details, or to make an appointment, please contact us on 0118 966 2518 / office@readingmencap.org.uk www.readingmencap.org.uk

Our unique Family Support Service provides practical help for children and adults with learning disabilities and their families. We provide information, advice, advocacy and practical support on a range of issues - including education, benefits, housing, health and social care, as well as issues surrounding transitions in the lives of children and young adults.

To make contact with the Family Support Service call our helpline on 0118 966 2518 or drop in to Alexandra Road Monday - Friday, between 9.30am and 1.30pm. We also run a fortnightly drop in session on a Friday downstairs at the Hexagon 1.00pm-3.00pm (please contact us or see our website for dates http://www.readingmencap.org.uk/hexagon).

Our Family Advisors are experienced, qualified professionals in learning disabilities and Autism; their experience across children's and adult services enables them to empower families, ensuring that they can go on to make informed choices with the information and advice we provide.

INSAAN

INSAAN is an independent UK charity and volunteer group set up to offer free support and advice to individuals with disability, as well as their parents, carers, teachers and healthcare professionals. The services of the charity are open to all, and especially members of the Ethnic Minority communities within the Greater Reading area.

We aim to:
1. Promote and raise awareness of disability in general
2. Engage Ethnic Minority communities for consultation on disability issues
3. Inform, Educate & Support on disability matters
4. Help to improve services for the disabled
5. Establish parents support group for families facing disability
6. Provide support for parents/carers

Tel 07414 162631 www.weareinsaan.org.uk

ACRE Family Support Team (Alafia)

Supporting black and minority ethnic families with a child (0-25) with additional needs or disabilities.

First Tuesday of the Month - Alafia Parent Carer support group
Contact for location Tel: 01189510279 email: info@acre-reading.org

Second Monday of the Month Alafia at Special Needs Evening Krazy Playdays 5.30 -7.30pm. Come find out about Alafia. Alafia will pay for children registered with the service.

For more information and support please contact Alafia’s Co-ordinator. Amelia Robinson Tel: 0118 951 0279 Email: amelia.robinson@acre-reading.org
Reading Families’ Forum are a voluntary group of parent carers with children and young people with a variety of special needs and disabilities.

We hold a **coffee evening at Krazy Play Days every half-term** with a variety of speakers and a chance for parents to talk together while the children have fun while supervised by Forum helpers experienced in working with children with additional needs.

The Forum has **groups of parents affiliated to us at 22 schools in Reading**. If your school hasn’t already got a group for parents of children with additional needs, ask us for help in setting one up. It is a great chance to chat to other parents in the same boat. The Forum also helps arrange speakers on sleep, managing behaviour and anxiety, finances and more.

We are pleased to announce our **conference for families, schools and service providers on Mental Health and Young People with Additional Needs at the Rivers Ibis Health Club off the Oxford Road between 10 and 4 on Wednesday, 25th November 2015**. The Forum are also planning another conference on Special Educational Needs for 16 - 25 year olds in the New Year.

The Forum are always keen for parents to join our steering group. We hold **parent carer steering groups every half-term** to plan our work over a relaxing coffee. The steering group meet Education, Social Care and Health managers to discuss the needs of our children. You can do as much or as little as you want. It is great to be working with like-minded parents to improve things for our children and families. Our next parent carer steering group is on Friday, 15th January 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Pop in and join us for a chat and coffee, it would be lovely to see you.

Reading Families’ Forum [fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com](mailto:fran.morgan.rff@gmail.com)  Tel: 0776 723 4255

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**An Introduction to Autism and Asperger’s Syndrome**

We provide Autism Awareness Training at our office in Reading, aimed at anyone who is interested in learning more about supporting people with Autism and Asperger Syndrome (AS) and would like to know more about the condition. The training aims to give people a real understanding of what autism is and what it feels like to have autism or AS, as well as learning some strategies and new ideas for supporting people on the autism spectrum.

**Venue:** The BAS office, Unit 7 Richfield Place, Richfield Avenue, Reading RG1 8EQ

**Cost:**
- Parent/carer members £20 per person
- Non members/Volunteers £30
- Professional members £25
- Professional non-members £45

Booking and payment in advance is essential.

**Next date:** Tuesday 17th November 2015

**Time:** 10 am to 1.30 pm

**How to book**

To book places or for more information, please contact Claire on Tel: 01189 594 594 or email [admin@autismberkshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@autismberkshire.org.uk)
ADHD Monthly parent/carer Workshop & Support Group
Mondays 7pm to 8.30pm

For Berkshire parent/carers pre & post diagnosis of child or young person with ADHD

30 min workshop on topics:
- ADHD behaviours
- Behaviour management strategies
- Hyperactive Impulsive behaviours
- Coping strategies for parents
- Medication

Question & Answers

Opportunity to talk to other parent/carers

Parenting Special Children is a charity working with families in Berkshire. Our specialist facilitators are experienced & knowledgeable & parent/carers.

www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm
Day: Monday
Dates:
- 16 November
- 14 December
- 18 January
- 8 February
- 14 March
Venue: 11 Glebe Rd, Reading RG2 7AG

Online Booking:

admin@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk
0118 9863532
Family Support cont’d…

Parenting Special Children - Pre and Post Diagnosis Support

Parenting Special Children is a local charity and everyone that works for the charity is a parent of a child with an additional need. We aim to help parents/carers in many areas:

- A listening ear from our **Diagnosis Support Service**
- Talk to a fellow parent/carer with our **Peer Supporter Service**
- **Parenting Programmes** including strategies for Parents/Carers
- **Sleep Service** including Sleep Workshops and Sleep Clinics.

The Diagnosis Support Service offers a one-to-one Peer Support Service for parents/carers of children recently diagnosed with additional needs - a disability, learning difficulty, developmental delay or a genetic disorder. This service is for parents in the Berkshire West Area (Reading, Wokingham & Newbury areas). We also provide a Parents/Carers’ Information Room at the NHS Dingley Centre in Reading that we have recently refurbished. This room has up-to-date information about local and national support services, and a reference library of books and magazines for families of children with disabilities. These information resources are supplied for parents/carers and for local professionals who support families around the time of a child’s diagnosis.

www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk  dss@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk  Tel: 07990 761676

NEW Looked After and Adopted Children with Special Needs Service

Looked After and Adopted Children with Special Needs Monthly Workshop and Support Group - Reading - Free
Mondays from 10am - 11:30am or 7pm - 8:30pm
For all Berkshire families who are foster carers, adoptive parents, special guardians or kinship carers and looking after children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities.

- Topic based workshops
- Questions & Answers
- Opportunity to talk to other parents and carers

Where: 11 Glebe Road, Reading. RG2 7AG.

To find out more about this service please call 0118 9863532 email: admin@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk visit: www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Children and Young People’s Sleep Workshop - Reading

Course is Free (£10 for course materials)

Friday 4th December 2015

A half day course for parent/carers of children with special needs.

To book a place, please complete and return a Sleep Referral Form, which can be downloaded from http://bit.ly/PSCSleepReferralForm

Email: sleep@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk
Tel: 0118 9863532

Parenting Special Children (PSC)

PSC run various courses and workshops throughout the year, such as:

- ADHD Monthly Workshop & Support Group
- Time Out for ADHD
- Time Out for Autism
- Anxiety & Autism Workshop
- Sleep Workshops
- Pre & Post Diagnosis Support
- Looked After and Adopted Children with Special Needs
- Children with Special Needs Service
- Parenting Support

For information on courses, workshops and much more, please Tel: 0118 9863532 Email: admin@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk or visit: www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk
The Autism Berkshire Benefits Service

Autism Berkshire has been running a Benefits Advice Service for over a year now and is pleased to announce that the service is now available free of charge to non-members, as well as members of the charity. Kevin Jackson is a qualified advice worker and has also worked in the field of Learning Disability and Autism for over 15 years. He has a detailed knowledge of the Benefits system and supported adults in applying for and appealing decisions made through the DWP’s assessment processes. He has a detailed knowledge of welfare reform.

Kevin can assist parents and carers in applying for DLA for your child, Carer’s Allowance and advise on the effect of DLA on other benefits/tax allowances.

For adults Kevin can assist with moving from Incapacity Benefits to Employment Support Allowance (ESA), Job seekers allowance and Personal Independence Payments for new claimants and Housing and Council Tax benefit.

Kevin can also assist young people who turn 16 and move from DLA to PIP. Kevin also runs our 197 Club for adults with an ASC which meets at the Lookout in Reading and Level Up Computer Club for 16-25 year olds.

Kevin is available for appointments on a Monday all day and a Tuesday morning. Additionally he can do an evening appointment subject to a £25 charge.

Please contact Kevin or Claire (administrator) at Autism Berkshire on 0118 959 4594, or email: admin@autismberkshire.org.uk.

Greenslade

Greenslade & Home Sitting Service

Provides a range of services for adults and children with complex needs. Services range from small packages of ad-hoc or regular support to 24-hour packages in individual group supported living environment. Anyone can access these services through Social Services at Reading Borough Council or by contacting Greenslade directly.

For further details: Tel: 0118 986 1135 Email: greenslade@radis.co.uk or visit www.radis.co.uk

Link Up - Parent/Carer Support Group

Where: Coley Park Children’s Centre, St Mary’s All Saints C of E Primary School, Wensley Road, Reading, RG1 6DU
When: Once a month, Tuesday 1.00pm - 3.00pm
A monthly lunch club for parents/carers with children who have special needs. Why cope alone when you could be part of our group, receive help and give support to others? Play area for the children.
Cost: There is no charge, but donations are always welcome.
Contact Linda for dates and information: lpayne@st-maryallsaints.reading.sch.uk Tel: 07775 920864

Dingley Family & Specialist Early Years Centre

Provides a place where children, from birth to five years, with special needs and disabilities come to develop skills through therapeutic play. It is a place where their parents and carers are welcome, where they can make friends and share experiences.
Where: Kennet Walk Community Building, Kenavon Drive, Reading RG1 3GD
For further details: Tel: 0118 327 7424 Website: http://www.dingley.org.uk/centres/reading

Snowflake Centre

A Nursery Setting for children who have been diagnosed with a High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Condition. We are based within New Bridge Nursery School, Montague Road, Caversham RG4 5AU. We are an experienced and caring team. Our team works closely with the children and their families. We welcome visits, and any questions you may have.
To speak to a member of staff please call the Snowflake Centre on 0118 937 5580
www.newbridgenursery.reading.sch.uk
It’s all about Christmas!

Autism Berkshire - Christmas Quiz - Thursday 3rd December 2015
Calling all quizzers - come and test your knowledge at the BAS Christmas Quiz at the Travellers Rest pub, Henley Road, Reading RG4 5DL from 6.30pm onwards. The quiz starts 8pm. Get a team of up to 6 people or join up with others on the night. There will be a fabulous prize for winning team!
Tickets cost £12 for BAS members and £15 for non-members, which includes food (you can choose on the night from a varied menu), a drink (alcoholic or soft) and entry to the quiz. This popular event gets booked up very quickly so get your booking in early!
Please note that Autism Berkshire membership covers the immediate family - parents, brothers and sisters - but not everyone who is related to you!
To book in your team or for any queries please contact Nicola Perkins at the BAS office on 0118 959 4594 or email: nicola@autismberkshire.org.uk

Christmas Party - Ho Ho Ho!!!
Building for the Future
Saturday 19th December - 2pm to 4pm
A festive fun session for children of all ages, abilities and needs, with a very special visit from Father Christmas.
Plus all our usual activities - gaming, toys and games, sensory room, soft-play and free play. Drinks and seasonal snacks provided.
Siblings very welcome. Parent/Carer must stay.
Booking essential as numbers are limited - please email sarah@bftf.org.uk to reserve your place.

Camp Mohawk - Christmas Parties
We will be running our Christmas Party days on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December. Both days will follow exactly the same format, details below, and due to the large number of families we have registered with us we are asking that you book only one of the days.

To make bookings, please email me with the number of children you will be bringing, and please include gender and age of the children so that we can let Father Christmas know which presents to bring!

Times: 11am to 4pm
Activities: animal farm, seasonal arts and crafts, festive drinks and nibbles, visits from Father Christmas with gifts for all the children, all the usual facilities will be open.

Tel: 0118 9404045
Email: kate.kent@campmohawk.org.uk Website: http://www.campmohawk.org.uk

Siblings Christmas Party & Disco
Reading Mencap
When: Wednesday 23rd December
Where: Reading Mencap, 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, RG1 5PE
Time: 6pm - 9pm Cost: £5
Contact us on: 0118 966 2518
office@readingmencap.org.uk
Dick Whittington - A Swashbuckling Adventure!

The Hexagon Reading - ‘Relaxed Performance’
Thursday 31st December 2015 at 10.30am
Tickets £12.50 Box Office 0118 960 6060 email: storme.gibson@reading.gov.uk
Visit www.readingarts.com for full pantomime information

Meet our hero, Dick, a young lad who sets out on a journey to London in search of fame and fortune. Once there though he discovers that the streets are overrun with rats who terrorise the town night and day. With the help of his cat, some hilarious antics from Dame Sarah the cook and her son idle Jack along with a spectacular voyage to the shores of Morocco, Dick soon manages to rid London of the rats and become Lord Mayor.

The Performance is specifically aimed at families with children with special needs, including Autistic Spectrum Conditions and learning disabilities.

Alice in Wonderland

The Watermill Theatre Newbury RG20 8AE ‘Relaxed Performance’
Monday 30th November 2015 at 6.30pm
Tickets £17, £13.50 and £10.50 To book your seats call the box office on 01635 46044

There is a £2 discount for a companion providing assistance
Visit www.watermill.org.uk/alice_in_wonderland

The creators bring Lewis Carroll’s classic novel to life 150 years after it was first published. Join Alice in an enchanting world of talking animals, a bad-tempered Queen and a Mad Hatter for an unforgettable musical adventure.

For children and adults with special needs, including people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition and sensory and communication disorder, and their families.

Once Snowy Night

Norden Farm Centre for the Arts
Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL4 6PF
24th November 2015 - 3rd January 2016
Visit www.nordenfarm.org/ for times and prices or Tel: 01628 788997

A Tale from Percy’s Park by Nick Butterworth
One winter's night it was so cold it began to snow
Great big snowflakes fell past the window of Percy's hut...

Percy the park keeper always feeds the animals in the park where he lives. But one cold winter’s night Percy finds his little friends shivering on the doorstep - they need more than food and he must find a way to help them...
A snuggly, heart-warming story, with songs to sing along to and furry friends to meet.
Suitable for ages 3+

Sleeping Beauty

Wilde Theatre South Hill Park, Ringmead, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 7PA
29th Nov 2015 to 3rd Jan 2016
Tickets £14-£25
Saturday 5th December at 2pm ‘Signed Performance’ Visit http://www.southhillpark.org.uk/ for further information
Tel: 01344 484123

Join us this Christmas as once more the team behind Aladdin, Snow White and Jack & the Beanstalk join creative forces to bring you this fantastic tale full of fun, laughter, colour, wonder and magic.
**Dick Whittington**

The Corn Exchange  
Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 5BD  
27th Nov 2015 to 3rd Jan 2016  
Tuesday 29th December at 6pm ‘Signed Performance’  
Saturday 2nd January 2016 at 2pm ‘Relaxed Performance’  
Sunday 3rd January 2016 at 1pm ‘Audio Described Performance’  
Website [http://www.cornexchangenew.com/](http://www.cornexchangenew.com/) | Box Office 0845 5218 218

Our hero, Dick Whittington and his ever faithful Cat, set off to seek their fortune in the city where the streets are paved with gold. Follow Dick’s adventures, as he meets Alderman Fitzwarren and falls in love with his daughter Alice.

**Cinderella**

Theatre Royal Windsor  
Thames Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1PS  
2nd Dec 2015 to 10th Jan 2016  
Website [http://www.theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/](http://www.theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk/) | Tel: 01753 853 888

The classic fairytale of a beautiful girl forced to serve her jealous dastardly Ugly step-sisters. With Windsor favourites Kevin Cruise and Stephen Blakely plus Anne Widdicombe and Basil Brush.

**Robi Crusoe’s Pirate Panto**

Caversham Park Theatre  
The Milestone Community Centre, Caversham Park Village, Reading, RG4 6PF  
3rd & 4th December 8pm and Sat 5th 2pm & 7pm  
Book online [www.cavparktheatre.org.uk](http://www.cavparktheatre.org.uk) or Tel: 0118 948 1377

Traditional mix of fun and frolics with a hint of pirates, ninja parrots and swedes

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**Events for the Festive Season...**

**Special Shopping Evening for the Elderly and Disabled**

Monday 7 December 2015  
5 pm - 7 pm  
Broad Street and The Oracle  
We have Christmas all wrapped up & made easier for you.  
An evening to make Christmas shopping extra special, easy and an enjoyable experience for older and disabled people.  
Tel: 0118 937 2395 [www.reading.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.reading.gov.uk/whatson)

**Lighting Up Christmas in Reading**

Saturday 14th November  
Broad Street Mall - a day of entertainment, the fun starts at 10am, Santa at 4pm and the big switch on of the festive lights. Every Saturday in the run up to Christmas you can also ‘Elf your Selfie’  
The Oracle - The Christmas Glitz event is back with an amazing high-energy firework display from 7pm  
The Oracle Riverside - Wundermarket from 8th November  
The Bratwurst hut is back selling traditional German Sausages, Bavarian Beer and mulled wine, marking the start of the festive season in Reading.
Events for the Festive Season cont’d…

**Reading Winter On Ice – A Winter Wonderland**
Saturday 14th November - Sunday 3rd January 2016
Forbury Gardens
Open 10am - 10pm daily (closed Christmas Day)
Ice Rink, Reindeer Rides, Santa’s Grotto and much more...
More information readingwinteronice@gmail.com / 07464 727918 www.readingwinteronice.com

**Make Reading**
Wednesday 25th November - Sunday 6th December
Jacksons Corner
Join Jelly to celebrate The 12 days of Christmas at Jacksons, once home to Reading’s iconic family department store and now a hub for creative. Pop-up shop, festive workshops, crafty events, magical grotto and more...
11am-6pm closes 5pm Sundays
Follow our hashtag (and the Christmas sparkle) on social media for event updates:
#makeRDG@thejellyreadingjelly.org.uk
Jelly.org.uk

**Santa Run**
6th December
The second Reading 5k Charity Santa Run, organised by The Rotary Club of Reading, starts at 9am from Forbury Gardens with the route taking in much of the town centre. There will also be a Mini Santa Run for under 10’s.
www.readingsantarun.co.uk

**The Winter Giant**
Saturday 19th December
Broad Street Mall to Forbury Gardens (via Broad Street)
A spectacular new, free outdoor performance for all the family comes to Reading this Christmas
5pm start Queens Walk (next to Broad Street Mall) with the finale in Forbury Gardens around 5.40pm
More information at www.livingreading.co.uk

**Lapland Uk - Superstar Days for Super Children**
Christmas Magic For Everyone
Tuesday 1st December & Wednesday 2nd December 2015
Whitmoor Forest, Swinley Road, Ascot, SL5 8BD

At LaplandUK we recognise that not all our visitors are able bodied with many having additional needs. Although we are delighted to annually welcome many visitors with additional needs, we are inundated every year with requests for children with significant challenges, both physical and mental, which inspired us to introduce ‘Superstar days’ at LaplandUK in 2011, which we believe are the first tailored days of their type in the UK Superstar days are days that have been especially tailored and subsidised by LaplandUK to support the special needs community, which we hope will enable more children to experience the magic of Father Christmas.
Our signed tours have a sign language interpreter for our guests who have hearing difficulties. Signed tours are available at 10.00am and 4.00pm on each of the Superstar Days.

Tickets for Superstar Days can be booked online at www.laplanduk.co.uk or by contacting See Tickets on 0871 620 7063 (calls cost 10p per minute plus network charges) Email: enquiries@laplanduk.co.uk

**4 Kingdoms Adventure Park – A Magical Christmas Adventure**
November 21st - December 24th
4 Kingdoms Farm Park, Newbury Road, Headley Hampshire RG19 8JY
Tel: 01635 269678 info@4kingdoms.co.uk www.4-kingsoms.com
www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide

Reading Services Guide

Adult & Carers Support Services
Family Information Services
Reading Youth

Community activities and support groups for all
NHS Choices for GPs, Pharmacies, Dentists
Venues for hire
Local events

Care services, specialist support services, social activities and advice services for older people and people with disabilities and their carers.
Information for families in the Family Information Service (FIS) section of the guide - parents can search for Registered Childcare Services, see OFSTED reports, find activities or get parenting advice.
Information, activities and support services for young people, collectively making up Reading’s Youth Offer.
The “Local Offer” provides details about local services and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to help improve choice for them and their families.

...and much more

Reading Borough Council
Working better with you
This Service is provided by Reading Borough Council’s Family Information Service
Contact us on:
Tel: 0118 937 3777 (opt 2)
disc@reading.gov.uk
www.reading.gov.uk/servicesguide