

# The Information exchange

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**Aiming High for Disabled Children**  
short breaks programme funding

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## New website helps to support families in Rotherham

**A new website has officially launched which aims to make the lives of Rotherham's children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and their families a lot easier.**

The Rotherham SEND Local Offer website, aims to provide families with the information they may need, or want to know, about resources, services, support, activities and events for Rotherham's children with additional needs.

Rotherham Council, Rotherham Health community and the Rotherham Parents Forum have come together to help create the site, which aims to give clear and precise information about topics ranging from education to health, things to do and a comprehensive list of local groups who can help families in their day-to-day lives.

If you have any comments please let us know by visiting the site at:

[www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org](http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org)

or contacting Paula Williams at:

[LocalSENOffer@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:LocalSENOffer@rotherham.gov.uk)



*Local Offer presentation at Fairs Fayre 2014  
Courtesy of the Rotherham Advertiser*

## Habershon House

Once again the summer residential to Habershon House, for young people who have a disability and their families, was a great success.

Staff from Intergrated Youth Support Service provided young people and their families a seven days supported residential experience, split into two halves. Thus enabling the young people to make new friends, develop independence

skills and take part in group work activities whilst the parents and carers were able to gain support and understanding from each other and have 'time out' to recharge their batteries.

One mum describes the experience as "it gives children the space and freedom to be themselves, allowing them to have support where needed" for more activities from IYSS visit [www.youthi.org.uk/](http://www.youthi.org.uk/)



# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

## Dickensian Christmas

**6th December,  
Rotherham  
Town Centre  
10.30am – 3.30pm**

Rotherham travels back in time for this fantastic Dickensian themed Christmas celebration in the town centre. This free family event has something for everyone.

**Call 01709 835904  
for more details.**

## Magical Reindeer Experience

**13th December  
Rotherham  
Town Centre  
11am – 3pm**

Join Santa and his Reindeer at this wonderful event including a craft and gift market and entertainment for the whole family.

**Call 01709 835904  
for more details.**

## Aladdin Signed

This Christmas, at Rotherham Civic Theatre a relaxed performance of **Aladdin** will take place on **13th December at 11am.**

This performance which will also be signed will have extra dedicated staff to assist with access and seating, extra lighting during the performance and a more relaxed attitude to noise and freedom to leave the auditorium at any point.

Tel: **01709 823621**

Email: **theatre.tickets@rotherham.gov.uk**

Web: **www.rotherhamtheatres.co.uk**

**Robinson Crusoe and the pirates** performed by the Tin Pot Theatre Company will be exclusively for families of children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities.

It will take place on **Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm at Montgomery Hall in Wath.**

Email to **info@rpcf.co.uk** to book a place.

(2 adult tickets per child) or call **01709 296262** for more information. **www.rpcf.co.uk/**



This **Christmas Santa** will return to his Magical Kingdom at Meadowhall Oasis Dining Quarter Courtyard, from 14th November – 25th December **BOOK ONLINE NOW: [www.meadowhall.co.uk/events](http://www.meadowhall.co.uk/events)**

## HOLIDAYS AND GRANTS

### Trewan Sands Children's

**Trust** is a UK Charity that provide holidays for families with a disabled child under 18 years of age.

Applicants must be in receipt of certain benefits and be supported by a referring agent.

Visit **www.tsctrust.org** to download an application form

Tel: **01706 369503**

Email: **info@tsctrust.org**

### Happy Days

The Happy Days Charity funds and organises holidays, residential trips, days out and theatre trips for children and young people aged 3 to 17 years with learning difficulties, physical or mental disabilities.

Financial details and a supporting letter from a suitable professional are required.

Tel: **01582 755999**

**www.happydayscharity.org**

### Family Fund

The UK's largest provider of grants to low-income families raising disabled and seriously ill children and young people.

Email: **info@familyfund.org.uk**

Telephone: **01904 621115**

**www.familyfund.org.uk**

## Rotherham United Disability FC

Our club caters for players ages 7 and over, with mental or physical disabilities, who enjoy football and want to develop their skills.

Every Saturday morning (school term- time only) at Wickersley school.

**Call Trudi Race on 07961108640**

**trace@rotherhamunited.net**

**www.rucst.co.uk**



Kingswood are dedicated to providing inspiring experiences to all types of groups of children locally. Our Dearne Valley (Doncaster) and Peak Venture (Penistone) centres in South Yorkshire are located close enough to home for all our local children to benefit from. Both offer a superb range of outdoor adventure activities in one place. A variety of fully inclusive stays are available, from day visits, to weekend and week-long visits.

For more information or to make a booking please call **0800 288 9990** or email us at: **groups@kingswood.co.uk** and quote **AIMWIN14**.

Please also check out our website **www.kingswood.co.uk**



## Hallamshire Academy of Tennis

is running a variety of tennis sessions suitable for both adults and children with a learning disability or visually impaired. Sessions are suitable for anyone aged 8 years and over.

To book or if you have any further questions please contact:

**Isobel Dunn on 07894904503**

**Email: isobel@academytennis.co.uk**



The **Active Ability** programme provides inclusive sporting opportunities in Swimming, Athletics, Cricket, Basketball & Boccia. Our programme targets young people 14 years and over, with special educational needs and/or disabilities. We work in partnership with local schools, colleges and day care centres to get more disabled people active and into sport.

**Call Leon on 01709 363355**

**Email: leon.wormley@rotherham.gov.uk**

**Camelot Play Castle** is a small soft play area with a difference. Set in an old church, it replicates the inside of a castle.

The centre is clean and friendly with a homely atmosphere and children visit with their parents, grandparents and carers week after week. We have ramps up to the front door and an accessible toilet. There is plenty of room for pushchairs and wheelchairs and adults are encouraged to go into the play area with the children.

We also cater for children's parties where you can have the whole place to yourself and be treated like a king or queen. These parties are very interactive and include puppetry, parachute games and dancing.



The best way to find out about our activities and parties is to like us on facebook or visit our website at

**www.camelotplaycastle.co.uk**



## KKIDS – KARATE - KICKBOXING - INTENSE - DEFENCE - SYSTEM

KKIDS is a martial arts club for children aged 5 years and above.

The club provides martial arts to children and young people of all abilities – our team of instructors teach self defence, karate and kickboxing – all tailored for the need of the individual child and young person. The club runs every Tuesday evening.

For more information please contact:

**Trevor Middleton**

**Mobile: 07904700786**

**Email: trevor.middleton@blueyonder.co.uk**



A **Parent Carer Forum** is a group of parents and carers of disabled children who work with local authorities, education, health and other providers to make sure the services they plan and deliver meet the needs of disabled children and families

To find out more or to become a member, please visit our website:

[www.rpcf.co.uk](http://www.rpcf.co.uk) or contact us by telephone on **01709 296262**, by email [info@rpcf.co.uk](mailto:info@rpcf.co.uk) or simply come along to one of our drop in sessions as detailed below:

**Monday:** Term time family drop-in session with lots of activities for the children.

**Wednesday:** Term-time drop in sessions gives the opportunity to meet other parents/carers of children with additional needs.

On the first Friday of each month we will be inviting a Service Representative to provide advice and support on a particular subject!

## Discounts with a Rothercard and Jr Rothercard!

A Rothercard can give you a 35% discount on a wide range of leisure activities at Council facilities including golf at Grange Park, cycling at Rother Valley Country Park, Learn to Swim and aquafit.

To see if you're eligible please go to: [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

## Rotherham Borough Council

**Imagination Library programme** is part of a range of complementary provisions aimed at improving young children's communication, language and literacy skills. Each registered child receives a free good quality, age-appropriate book once a month, every month until they reach the age of five.

To registered, please visit:

[www.rotherham.gov.uk/imaginationlibrary](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/imaginationlibrary)

For any other queries please contact Rotherham's Imagination Library

[imaginationlibrary@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:imaginationlibrary@rotherham.gov.uk)

or telephone **Alison Lilburn,**

**Project Manager on 01709 822463**

The **Rotherham SEND Parent Partnership Service** offer free impartial information, advice and support around matters relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to parents and carers of children and young people (0 - 25) who have SEND.

We also have Volunteer Independent Supporters (IS) who work with and support Parents and Young People during the time when their Statement of SEN or Learning Difficulties Assessment (LDA) will be transferred to an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan or if they are new to this process.

You can contact us on **01709 823627** or email: [parentpartnership@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:parentpartnership@rotherham.gov.uk)

Alternatively why not visit our website

[www.rotherhamparentpartnership.com](http://www.rotherhamparentpartnership.com)



**SPREAD THE SIGN.COM** is a **FREE** to use web based international video signed dictionary designed to make sign language available to everyone. Sign language is different all over the world and that is why there was a great need for this project, the sign language dictionary.

The online dictionary is a self-learning tool, visit the website [www.spreadthesign.com](http://www.spreadthesign.com) type in a word, click on the flag to see a sign language video clip.



You can download the FREE app named spread signs for apple and android devices.

**For up-to-date information on activities and forthcoming events for disabled children or to download the latest Short Breaks Statement go to:**

[www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/shortbreaks) or contact Andy Lound on **01709 336423**

email: [andrew.lound@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.lound@rotherham.gov.uk)