



SEND in the News

Welcome to SEND in the News!

Welcome to our July SEND newsletter for parents, carers, children and young people. SEND in the News has been named by our young people and has been put together with the help of the Sefton Parent Carer Forum, SEND parents and professionals working across SEND.

In this issue you will find a spotlight on the summer holidays, activities and sessions and details of support for the whole family!

We want to keep improving this newsletter so send in your thoughts about what should be included next time to amy.hitchmough@sefton.gov.uk

Summer Deep Dive

Sefton Parent Carer Summer Picnic Days

Join us this August for a series of fun, free, and family-friendly Summer Picnic Days hosted by the **Sefton Parent Carer Forum**. These events are a fantastic opportunity for families to come together, relax in the sunshine, meet other parent carers, and enjoy some quality time with the kids in beautiful local parks across Sefton.

Here's where we'll be:

- **Monday 4th August** – *North Park, Bootle*
- **Tuesday 12th August** – *Hesketh Park, Southport*
- **Wednesday 20th August** – *Crosby Marina*
- **Friday 29th August** – *KGV Park, Maghull*

All events run from 12 noon to 2pm.

Pack your blankets, bring a picnic, and don't forget the sun cream (fingers crossed for sunny skies!). We'll have games, activities, and plenty of good company. Whether you stay for the full two hours or just drop by to say hello, you'll be warmly welcomed.

These picnics are a great way to connect with others in the community who understand the joys and challenges of being a parent carer. Children of all ages are welcome, and we aim to make each event inclusive and relaxed for everyone attending.

No need to book—just turn up! For more information, visit our website or follow us on social media and if its raining, we'll let you know if its going ahead on there.



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Sefton Aiming High Summer Activities Are Back

Looking for fun, inclusive and accessible activities to keep your child engaged this summer?

Sefton's Aiming High Summer Programme is here—packed with exciting opportunities for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

Running throughout the school holidays, the **Aiming High** programme offers a wide range of activities designed to support social interaction, build confidence, and most importantly—have fun!

From **sports and arts & crafts**, to **day trips, sensory sessions, and outdoor adventures**, there's something for everyone. Activities are tailored to meet the individual needs of children and young people, with trained staff on hand to provide the right level of support.

Why join the Aiming High summer programme?

- Safe, supported and inclusive environment
- Encourages independence and new friendships
- Gives parent carers a well-deserved break
- Activities available across the Sefton borough

Whether it's a few hours of fun or a full-day experience, **Aiming High** is a great way to make the most of the summer holidays.

Booking is essential, and spaces fill up fast—so don't miss out!

To view the full summer schedule and register your interest, contact the Aiming High team directly via email aiminghigh@sefton.gov.uk

Summer In Our Family Hubs

Looking for ways to keep the kids happy and active this summer? **Sefton Family Hubs** have got you covered with a fantastic line-up of **free activities** for families to enjoy during the school holidays!

Running throughout the summer, Sefton's Family Hubs will be buzzing with **creative sessions, messy play, outdoor games, crafts, story time, and more**. Whether you've got toddlers, teens, or anyone in between, there's something for every age group.

What's Happening at the Hubs?

- **Arts & crafts** and sensory play
- **Stay and play** sessions for under 5s
- **Family fun days** with games and activities



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- **Outdoor play** in safe and secure spaces
- Opportunities to meet other families and access support

Family Hubs are friendly, welcoming spaces where families can relax, connect, and enjoy time together. Trained staff are always on hand, and many sessions are designed to support children with additional needs.

Sessions run at various times and locations across Sefton, including Bootle, Netherton, Southport, and more.

Whether you're popping in for an hour or spending the whole afternoon, Sefton Family Hubs are the perfect place to make lasting summer memories.

Find your local Family Hub and full activity schedule at [Sefton Council's website](#) or by contacting your nearest hub directly.

Come and join the fun—everyone's welcome!

Summer At Sefton Leisure Centres

Looking for fun, affordable ways to stay active and healthy during the summer holidays? **Sefton's Leisure Centres** have something for everyone—whether you want to cool off in the pool, try a new sport, or keep the kids entertained.

Across the borough, Sefton Leisure Centres are offering a fantastic range of **summer holiday activities** for all ages and abilities. Whether you're a family looking for a fun day out, a teen wanting to stay fit, or a parent carer in need of accessible options—there's something waiting for you.

What's On This Summer?

- **Family swim sessions** and splash time for younger children
- **Inclusive swim sessions** for children and young people with additional needs
- **Junior gym and sports clubs**
- **Holiday camps** and activity days
- Access to fitness classes, gyms, and courts for adults
- Friendly staff and a supportive, welcoming environment

From **Bootle Leisure Centre** and **Dunes Splash World** in Southport, to **Crosby Lakeside**, **Netherton Activity Centre**, and **Meadows Leisure Centre in Maghull**, each site has its own unique offerings to help you make the most of your summer.



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Check your local centre for summer holiday timetables, as special sessions and one-off events may require booking.

To find out more, visit [Active Sefton's website](#) or pop into your local centre to pick up a programme.

Let's get moving, stay healthy, and have some fun this summer—Sefton style!

Support for Parent/Carers

There is a wider network of support for parents/carers and their children. These include the [Sefton Parent Carer Forum](#), a group of SEND parents who offer guidance, advice, support and advocacy.

There are also a wide network of professionals you can speak to if you think your child may have a special educational need or disability. You can visit your GP or discuss your thoughts with your [Health Visitor](#). You can also discuss with your child's nursery or childcare setting who will be able to offer advice or put you in contact with your local SEND team.

They may be able to offer support through

- [Speech and Language Therapy Service](#)
- [Occupational Therapy Service](#)
- [Physiotherapists](#)
- [Early Help Team](#)
- [Speech, Language and Communication | Sefton Early Years](#)
- [Autism and Social Communication Team](#)
- [Complex Needs Team](#)
- [Hearing Needs Team](#)
- [Visual Needs Team](#)

Activities and Sessions for SEND 0-5's

- [Sefton Family Hubs www.sefton.gov.uk/familyhubs](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/familyhubs)

Our Family Hubs offer sessions for children and young people as well as support for parents and carers. You will be able to choose a session from the timetable and most do not need to be booked in advance, you can contact each hub if you need further information using the email in the bottom left of each timetable.

Some sessions are part of our universal offer while others are targeted support and need a referral. You may benefit from baby yoga, stay and play sessions and more. Contact the Hubs for details of bespoke SEN sessions.



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- **Twinkle House, Wellness and Sensory Centre in Skelmersdale.** www.twinklehouse.co.uk
Sensory rooms available on hire and sleep clinics available. Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm.
- **The Sensory Hive** www.thesensoryhive.co.uk
Specialist Sensory Integration Therapy Centre. Whiston, Liverpool. Weekly Sensory sessions. Fridays at 10am 18mths-4 years.
- **Fun Time Knowsley** www.funtimesoftplay.com
Toddler sessions Mon-Thurs 9.30am-11.15am. SEN sessions on a Wednesday in school holidays only, see Facebook for details.
- **The Play Den Burscough** www.playandlearncentre.co.uk
SEN sessions available in the holidays. See Facebook/Instagram for updates
- **VIPhQ Birkdale Southport** www.viphqbirkdale.co.uk
SEN sessions Thursday 9.30-11.15am
- **Autism In Motion Liverpool** www.aimautism.com
Pre school Stay and Play SEN sessions Monday 10-11.30am term time.

SEND Charities

There are also a number of charities who can offer guidance, advice and support.

- **Autism Education Trust** - <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/>
The AET is a not-for-profit organisation, led by the National Autistic Society and Ambitious about Autism, and supported by the Department for Education. Since 2007, the Autism Education Trust (AET) has been helping to develop good autism practice. They offer an extensive library of free resources for education professionals, leaders and parents.
- **ADHD Foundation:** <https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk>
The ADHD Foundation is the UK's leading neurodiversity charity who support children, young people and adults who live with ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia and more. The ADHD Foundation Neurodiversity Charity supports parents and carers so they can understand and meet the needs of their child.
- **Speech and Language UK** <https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/>
Provide tools, training and resources for parents and teachers.
- **Communication Trust- ICAN charity** <https://www.icancharity.org.uk/>
I CAN is a children's communication charity, who help children develop the speech, language and communication skills they need to thrive.
- **PACEY - Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years | PACEY**
PACEY is the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years. They are a charity dedicated to supporting everyone involved in childcare and early years. They provide training, expert advice, help and peer support to practitioners and practical and impartial support and information for families and carers and those advising them.