

Inside:
Short breaks
for families
of disabled
children



Inside:
Christmas
holiday
activities!

newsletter

*Integrated services for children and young people
with disabilities or additional needs in Swindon*

December 2011 – Issue 14



Young people attending October half-term holiday groups

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Contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team:

Tel: 01793 464080

Email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk



Do you know about short breaks and social and leisure activities for families of disabled children and young people in Swindon?

Information for families of disabled children and young people aged from 0 to 18th birthday, who are residents of the Borough of Swindon:



What do we mean by 'short breaks'?

A 'short break' means an opportunity for parents and carers of disabled children and young people to have a break from their caring responsibilities, whilst also enabling the disabled child / young person to enjoy social and leisure activities.

This could be during the day, evening, overnight, weekend or holiday activities. It could be at home or away from home. A short break could be an activity as a family, or a chance for the young person to spend time away from their family, whilst also giving their parents / carers a break from caring.

How can I find out what is available?

There are a range of short break services and support available in Swindon for disabled children and young people. Anyone can contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team, who can work with families to identify the short breaks that would be most suitable for them.

This could range from:

- Information and advice about universal services, where appropriate. This means services for **all** children, disabled and non-disabled.
- Services specifically for disabled children, including more specialist services.

- Extra support to access short break activities, e.g. a support worker. This could be available through inclusion funding or a Direct Payment:

Inclusion funding: Where Swindon Borough Council manages the funding. The funding is paid directly to the service provider.

Direct Payments: Where the funding is paid directly into a bank account that you manage, instead of Swindon Borough Council managing the money.

The extra funding support is to cover the additional barriers to enable the child to access the short break activity, it doesn't cover the cost of the activity itself. **Extra support could be available for a wide range of settings, not just activities run by Swindon Borough Council.** Contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team if you would like to talk to someone in more detail about specific activities or types of support.

How do assessments fit in?

We are trying to make it easier for you to access short breaks. Where appropriate, we have removed the need to have an assessment just to have a short break. However, you have the right to request a statutory Social Care Assessment if you feel it is appropriate. This may identify that additional services, or a higher level of family support, is needed.

Where can I get more information?

There is more information and a full list of short break services in Swindon's **Short Breaks Statement**. We will also be publishing regular updates about short break services in this Newsletter. You can find the Statement and Newsletter on our webpage: www.swindon.gov.uk/aiminghighshortbreaks or you can contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team for more information:

Tel: 01793 464080

Email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Aiming High Short Breaks Team update

Goodbye to Martha! As many of you will know, Martha Quinn, Aiming High Programme Manager, has now left Swindon Borough Council. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank Martha for all of the excellent work she has done to develop short breaks in Swindon during the Aiming High programme. She will be missed!



A new Short Breaks Development Manager is being appointed... more on this in our next edition.

Two new Inclusion and Outreach Workers are also due to join the team soon. The Inclusion and Outreach Workers will be the main point of contact for anyone looking for information, advice or guidance about short breaks for disabled children. They will work with families to look at their needs and support them to access the right short breaks. Again, more news on this next time!

New Transitions Coordinator

“ Hello, my name is Kevin O’Grady and I am working as the Transitions Coordinator, replacing Kate McDonald who has now left. I am looking forward to carrying on the very good work that Kate has been doing in this role.



**Kevin O’Grady,
Transitions
Coordinator**

I previously worked as a Careers Adviser and then Connexions Personal Adviser in Gloucestershire, providing information, advice and guidance primarily to young people aged 13 – 19 years in mainstream schools, special schools and colleges. I look forward to bringing with me the experience I have gained in these roles to the job of Transitions Coordinator.

I am in the process of meeting with SENCOs about Swindon’s Transitions Protocol and I have initially been working on the ‘Moving On Plan’ paperwork, to ensure that this is user-friendly and continues to work towards a more joined-up service for young people in Transition.

My normal working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You can contact me on 01793 465372 or email: KO'Grady@swindon.gov.uk .”

In the spotlight: The Carers Project

The Carers Project provides short breaks for the parents / carers of children and young people aged 5–17 years with a physical disability or a medical condition which requires constant monitoring, who attend a mainstream school.

The focus of the groups is for the child / young person to have fun while providing their parents / carers with a short break. Children are encouraged to take an active role in the planning and organisation of the groups.

All workers have enhanced CRBs and are generically trained in a variety of disabilities and medical conditions. Identified workers are then trained to be named workers for children / young people who require 1:1 support.

The Carers Project currently runs five Saturday groups, based either at the Salt Way Centre or out in the community. They also offer holiday activity days for the primary school children and a monthly Youth Club for the secondary school young people.

There is a small charge equating to £1 per hour for groups based at Salt Way or Brimble. However, if this would cause hardship to a family it can always be discussed.

Anyone can make a referral to the project, including families. Contact Pam Salmond, Carers Project Coordinator, on tel: 01793 464039 / 07557 541734 or email: psalmond@swindon.gov.uk or aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk



**Pam Salmond,
Carers Project
Coordinator**



Developing Parent Participation in Swindon

A lot has been going on behind the scenes since the last newsletter. We now have our new Parent Participation Worker, Lisa Barrett, in place, based at Swindon Carers Centre. Lisa has been working hard to ensure we can take over all of the work that was done for us by the Aiming High Team.

We are now well placed to develop our participation and consultation work, and to ensure we can get the views of as many parents and carers as possible when asked to contribute to service and policy reviews.

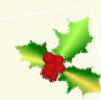
With the support of Contact a Family, we're expecting more information about how we can all get involved with having our say in Health Matters and improving information for children with special educational needs or disabilities. We also hope to have more news soon on better outcomes for our children through work currently in progress with Swindon Borough Council. **Watch this space.**

Coffee morning



By the time you read this, we'll have held our second coffee morning at Hop Skip and Jump. More are being planned for the new year... **watch out for more dates!** We want the coffee mornings to be a chance to meet informally so we can get to hear your views, problems and concerns, and work out what we can do to target service improvements. If you're unable to make them, let us know your views by email.

Christmas Fun Day: Wednesday 21 December 2011



We're planning a family Christmas Fun Day at Hop Skip and Jump for all Swindon parents and carers looking after children / young adults with disabilities and special needs. There will be plenty of fun and activities for all the family between 10am and 4pm. Including face painting, arts and crafts, cake decorating, bouncy castle, raffle, music and, of course, Santa! Hop Skip and Jump are based at: Upper Shaw Farm, Ridge Green, Swindon, SN5 5PU.

Let us know if you're thinking of coming for part or all of the day by emailing Lisa Barrett – we want to make sure we'll have enough food and children's presents for all your family! With thanks to Tyco, Hop Skip and Jump and Swindon Carers for helping us to make this happen.

Information Event 2012



We've just started planning our information day for March 21st next year, which will be held at the STEAM Museum. Please put the date in your diary, we'll tell you more about it in the New Year.

As well as the coffee mornings, the Group meets every month at the Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road, Middleleaze, Swindon, SN5 5TD. All parents and carers are welcome. If you want to learn more about the Group or get involved go to our website: www.swindonparentsandcarers.org.uk or contact Lisa Barrett on tel: 01793 531133 or email: lisa.barrett@prtc-swindon.org.

Family Woodland Weekend

**March 2nd (6pm) – March 4th (3pm) 2012
Macaroni Wood, near Lechlade**

This free, fun weekend of woodland activities is for Swindon families with a child with special needs and / or a disability who would normally find it difficult to have a short break away together.

The weekend will be based at the fantastic Macaroni Woods where all the tailor made activities for the whole family will take place.

Accommodation will be provided in family rooms in the comfortable residential centre. Food and drink will be provided but everyone will be required to help with cooking and clearing up. Help can be given with transport and outdoor clothing.

If you would like to find out more, come along to an information evening at The Chalet School, Liden Drive, Swindon SN3 6EX on Tuesday 10th January from 5.30pm–6.30pm. Application forms for the weekend will be available at the meeting and by request from Woodland Learning after that date.

If you would like to come to the meeting please email: ruthparsons@woodland-learning.co.uk or ring 07999 598793 and leave a message, so we will have an idea of numbers.



Sledge Happy with the Swindon Wildcats!

Swindon Wildcats in the Community, in partnership with Swindon Borough Council, recently launched their new Sledge Hockey initiative.

Sledge Hockey is an inclusive Paralympic sport for disabled and non-disabled people of all ages and abilities, giving them the chance to take part in a winter sport that is fun and accessible.

The Wildcats will be starting up a Sledge Hockey team as well as running 'have a go' sessions...

FREE Sledge Hockey taster sessions:

- Learn to play Sledge Ice Hockey
- Disabled and non-disabled welcome, no experience necessary
- Equipment provided, qualified Coaches
- Every Tuesday 3.30pm–4.30pm
- For age 8 years +

Wildcats
in the community

For more information, or if you are interested in taking part, contact Ben Humphrey on 07815 776593 or email: bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk . Or contact Swindon Wildcats on 01793 885857 or email: office@swindonwildcats.com .

Parent Carer Support Workers

Katie and Trish, Parent Carer Support Workers, are available to support Parent Carers who are responsible for caring for a disabled child, providing emotional support, information and signposting to services and agencies.



The Parent Carer Support Workers can:

- Provide practical and emotional support
- Advise you of Carer's rights
- Be on the end of the phone for you to talk things through
- Be a source of information on local services and how they could help you, both statutory (Health, Social Services and Education) and many voluntary groups
- Advocate on your behalf if you are experiencing problems with services
- Help with accessing various funding and grant giving bodies
- Signpost you to other services available within Swindon Carers Centre, such as benefits advice, relaxation therapies, courses and trips.
- Link you to Carer groups
- Provide information about the work of PAG (Swindon Parents and Carers Advisory Group)
- Help you complete an Emergency Card Scheme application.

The Support Workers are able to visit Parent Carers either in their own homes or offer appointments at the Carers Centre.

Contact:

Parent Carer Support Worker, Swindon Carers Centre, 1 Wood Street, Swindon, SN1 4AN

Tel: 01793 531133

Email: patricia.moroney@prtc-swindon.org or katie.brown@prtc-swindon.org

Website: www.swindoncarers.org.uk

Cool2Care

Cool2Care are a social enterprise which supports children and young people with additional needs via the introduction of skilled, trained and flexible one-to-one workers. Workers either work as Personal Assistants or support inclusive settings who wish to recruit staff to support a child / young person.

Cool2Care have a number of workers based in Swindon and could support a small number of activity providers or families. They aim to recruit a broad range of workers from a variety of backgrounds. They focus particularly on ensuring they have young people available, following feedback from young people with disabilities that they enjoy being out and about with people who are close to them in age.

If you would like more information about Cool2Care contact Family Liaison Manager Suzie Phelps on tel: 07899 405944 or email: suzie.phelps@cool2care.co.uk.

Christmas 2011 School Holiday Activities

Groups may be for a specific age range or have a limited number of spaces. Some groups will be for specific groups of children based on need, and may be accessible only by a referral. Each activity is numbered. Look up the number in the list over page for more information about who the activity is for, how to book etc. Contact details are provided so that you can get in touch for more information if you wish. Every effort has been made to ensure details are accurate. If you have trouble contacting any group contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team (01793 464080 / aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk).

Date:	Short break activities:
Sat 17 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 24. Wheelchair Tag Rugby (age 12+) 25. Learn to Swim (age 16+)
Sun 18 Dec	26. Wheelchair Basketball (age 12+)
Mon 19 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 2. Monday Family Swim (age 0–18) 8. STFC Development Week (age 5–15) 11. Cycling for Health (age 16+, under 16s with guardian) 12. Swindon Rockets Powerchair Football (age 8+) <i>Ring to check</i> 29. Magic Mondays holiday playscheme (age 5–12) 31. Sure Start Children’s Ctr: Talk & Toys Penhill (age 0–7) 32. Salt Way Children’s Ctr: Baby & Toddler Xmas Session (age 0–8)
Tue 20 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 3. Holiday Family Swim (age 0–18) 8. STFC Development Week (age 5–15) 9. 0–5s Holiday Trampoline Group (age 0–5) 13. Trampolining (age 16+) 14. Sledge Ice Hockey (age 8+) 15. Swindon Leopards (age 16+) <i>Ring to check</i> 33. Drove Children’s Ctr: Stay & Play; Special Needs Group; Family Christmas Craft
Wed 21 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 4. Walking Group (age 0–18) 8. STFC Development Week (age 5–15) 10. 5–16s Holiday Activity Group (age 5–16) 16. Inclusive climbing (age 16+) 17. Gym & Athletics (age 16+) 31. Sure Start Children’s Ctr: Talk & Toys Pinehurst (age 0–7)
Thu 22 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 3. Holiday Family Swim (age 0–18) 5. Jolly Roger play session (all ages) 10. 5–16s Holiday Activity Group (age 5–16) 18. Gym (age 16+) <i>Ring to check</i> 19. Trampolining & Rebound Therapy (age 16+) 20. Learn to Swim (age 5–16) <i>Ring to check</i> 21. Swindon Champions (age 16+) 32. Salt Way Children’s Ctr: Stay & Play Xmas Session (age 0–8) 33. Drove Children’s Ctr: Stay and Play; Family Christmas Party; Family Disco
Fri 23 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 3. Holiday Family Swim (age 0–18) 22. Oasis Stepping Stones Swim (all ages) <i>Ring to check</i>

Sat 24 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25)
Sun 25 Dec	Christmas Day
Mon 26 Dec	Boxing Day
Tue 27 Dec	Bank Holiday
Wed 28 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 4. Walking Group (age 0–18) 16. Inclusive climbing (age 16+) 17. Gym & Athletics (age 16+)
Thu 29 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 5. Jolly Roger play session (all ages) 19. Trampolining & Rebound Therapy (age 16+) 20. Learn to Swim (age 5–16) <i>Ring to check</i> 21. Swindon Champions (age 16+)
Fri 30 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25) 22. Oasis Stepping Stones Swim (all ages) <i>Ring to check</i>
Sat 31 Dec	1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (age 0–25)
Sun 1 Jan	New Year's Day

Activities:

1. Hop Skip & Jump Swindon (charity) Games, soft play, arts & crafts, outdoor play, cookery
Open Saturdays and holidays 10am–4pm (and term-time weekdays 8am–6pm).
Closed 25–27 Dec & 1–2 Jan.

Age: 0–25 years

Location: Upper Shaw Farm, Ridge Green, SN5 5PU

Cost: If parent doesn't stay: £15 (6 hours / full day), £10 (4 hours), £5 (2 hours)

If parent stays: £5 per day

Transport: Not provided

Open to all children and young adults with any additional / special need or life-limiting condition. Bring packed lunch. Book ahead for sessions where parents / carers don't need to stay. If parent / carer is staying, you can just turn up. Contact Verity Brooke–Maples: 07557 435012
manager.hsjswindon@gmail.com

2. Monday Family Swim (SBC*)
Every other Mon 6pm–7pm, including Mon 19 Dec (not bank holidays)

Age: 0–18 years

Location: Thamesdown Hydro Pool, Jefferies Ave, SN2 7HJ

Cost: £1 per person (children and parents / carers)

Transport: Not provided

Open to any children with disabilities but must book ahead. Parents to swim with child, siblings welcome. 01793 464080
aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

3. Holiday Family Swim (SBC*)
Tue 20 Dec 10–11am
Thu 22 Dec 11.15–12.15pm
Fri 23 Dec 10.30–11.30am

Age: 0–18 years

Location: Thamesdown Hydro Pool, Jefferies Ave, SN2 7HJ

Cost: £1 per person (children and parents / carers)

Transport: Not provided

Open to any children with disabilities but must book ahead. Parents to swim with child, siblings welcome. 01793 464080
aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

4. Walking Group (Community Learning Disability CAMHS)
Wed 21 and Wed 28 Dec 10.30am–12noon (approx)

Age: 0–18 years

Location: Stanton Park, Stanton Fitzwarren, SN6 7SF

Cost: Free

Transport: Not provided

Open to all, just turn up. Parents to stay. It can get muddy, bring wellies! No dogs. Contact Kirk Anderson: 01793 464089
kirk.anderson@nhs.net

5. Jolly Roger play session (Friends of The Chalet School)
Thu 22 Dec 6pm–7pm and Thu 29 Dec 5pm–6pm

Age: All ages

Location: Jolly Roger Adventure Play, Greenbridge Road, Swindon, SN3 3JE

Cost: Normal rates: £3 (under 3ft 3") / £4 (over 3ft 3")

Transport: Not provided

Open to children with special needs and siblings, just turn up. Parents / carers to stay. Contact Karen Roberts: 01793 534537

*SBC = Swindon Borough Council

6. Riding for the Disabled Dates by arrangement

Age: All ages

Location: Cerney Wick Farm,
Near Cirencester, GL7 5QH

Cost: £5

Transport: Not provided

Horse riding for people with disabilities. Book in advance.

Contact Helen Dorling:

01793 750151

cerneywickrda@aol.co.uk

7. Trio Opportunity Network Childminders Dates by arrangement

Age: 0–25 years

Location: Across Swindon

Cost: Contact provider

Transport: Contact provider

Qualified to level 3 in childcare. Specific SEN training. Varying experience of working with children with disabilities.

Open to all. Contact Swindon Sure Start Partnership:

01793 466032

8. Swindon Town Football in the Community Development Week Mon 19 – Wed 21 Dec 9.30am–3pm

Age: 5–15 years

Location: Meet at the County Ground, County Road, SN1 2EE
(Children walk from there to St. Josephs school and back.)

Cost: £49.50 for 3 days or £59.50 for 4 days.

Transport: Not provided

For disabled and non-disabled children. Advanced bookings only. May not be suitable for all disabilities; ring to discuss child's needs. Parents don't need to stay unless 1:1 support is needed.

Contact Clive Maguire:

01793 421303

clive@stfc-fitc.co.uk

9. 0–5s Holiday Trampoline Group (SBC* Leisure)

Tue 20 Dec 10am–12noon

Age: 0–5 years

Location: Highworth Rec, The Elms, Highworth, SN6 7DD

Cost: £1.50 per child

Transport: Not provided

For all disabled children and friends / relatives. Must book ahead. Parents to stay.

Max 15 participants per day.

Contact Ben Humphrey:

01793 465404 / 07815 776593

bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

10. 5–16s Holiday Activity Group (SBC* Leisure)

Wed 21 and Thu 22 Dec

10am–12noon

Age: 5–16 years

Location: Highworth Rec, The Elms, Highworth, SN6 7DD

Cost: £1.50 per child

Transport: Not provided

Trampoline and multi-sports, qualified coaches. For all disabled children and friends / relatives. Must book ahead.

Parents to stay. Max 15

participants per day.

Contact Ben Humphrey:

01793 465404 / 07815 776593

bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

11. Cycling for Health (SBC* Leisure) Mondays 10am–11am, including Mon 19 Dec (not bank holidays)

Age: 16+ (under 16 with guardian)

Location: Athletics Track (County Ground), County Road, SN1 2EE

Cost: SwindonCard prices apply

Transport: Not provided

With inclusive bikes. Open to all abilities. No need to book, just turn up and pay on track.

Bikes / helmets can be provided if you don't have

your own. Contact Anna

Cipullo: 07717 696672

acipullo@swindon.gov.uk

12. Swindon Rockets Powerchair Football

**Most Mondays 6pm–8pm,
ring to check
(not bank holidays)**

Age: 8 years +

Location: Nova Hreod School,
Akers Way, Swindon, SN2 2NQ

Cost: £5 per session and £20 per year to become a member.

Transport: Not provided

For people with physical disabilities, powerchairs and manual wheelchairs. Ring in advance to arrange. Families can watch: 07960 763716

swindonrockets@fsmail.net

13. Trampolining (with hoist) (SBC* Leisure)

Tuesdays 12pm–2pm

Age: 16 years +

Location: Highworth Rec,
The Elms, Highworth, SN6 7DD

Cost: SwindonCard prices apply

Transport: Not provided

For people with disabilities.

Usually runs in holidays, ring to check. Anyone new,

contact Ben Humphrey first

to talk through:

01793 465404 / 07815 776593

bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

14. Sledge Ice Hockey (SBC* Leisure / Swindon Wildcats) Tuesdays 3.30pm–4.30pm

Age: 8 years +

Location: Link Centre, Whitehill
Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL

Cost: Free, but may be a charge if playing in a league.

Transport: Not provided

New group: Learn to play Sledge Ice Hockey. Disabled and non-disabled players welcome. No experience necessary. Equipment provided. Qualified coaches. Book in advance. Parents to stay.

Contact Ben Humphrey:

01793 465404 / 07815 776593

bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

15. Swindon Leopards Learning Disability Football Team Most Tuesdays 5–6pm, ring to check Christmas dates

Age: 16 years +

Location: Croft Sports Centre, Marlborough Lane, SN3 1RA

Cost: £3 per session

Transport: Not provided

For men with learning disabilities / mental health, all abilities. Ring to discuss needs before attending for the first time. Usually runs all year but ring to check. Contact Terry Yeomans: 07512 213512

16. Inclusive Climbing (SBC* Leisure)

Wednesdays 10.30am–12.30pm

Age: 16 years +

Location: The Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL

Cost: SwindonCard prices apply

Transport: Not provided

For people with learning disabilities. Book in advance. Usually runs in holidays, ring to check. Anyone new, contact Ben Humphrey first to talk through: 01793 465404 / 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

17. Gym & Athletics (SBC* Leisure) Wednesday 2.30–4pm

Age: 16 years +

Location: The Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL

Cost: SwindonCard prices apply

Transport: Not provided

For people with learning disabilities. Usually runs in holidays, ring to check. Anyone new, contact Ben Humphrey first to talk through: 01793 465404 / 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

18. Gym (SBC* Leisure) Most Thursdays 10.30am–12noon but may not run over Christmas, ring to check

Age: 16 years +

Location: Broome Manor Gym, Pipers Way, Swindon, SN3 1RG

Cost: With SwindonCard: £1.80 / Without SwindonCard: £2.30

Transport: Not provided

Open to people with disabilities. No need to book. 01793 495761

19. Trampolining and Rebound Therapy (SBC* Leisure) Thursdays 12.30pm–2.30pm

Age: 16 years +

Location: The Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL

Cost: SwindonCard prices apply

Transport: Not provided

With hoist. For people with disabilities. Contact Ben Humphrey to talk through / check running: 07815 776593 bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

20. Learn to Swim (SBC* Leisure) Thursdays 6.30–7pm 10 week courses, ring for dates

Age: 5–16 years

Location: Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA

Cost: £48 with a SwindonCard for the full 10 weeks.

Transport: Not provided

Open to young people with disabilities. Parent to accompany child in water. Book ahead: 01793 533763

21. Swindon Champions Multi-Sports Club (SBC* Leisure) Thursday 6.30–8pm

Age: 16 years +

Location: Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA

Cost: £1.50 per session

Transport: Not provided

For people with learning disabilities. Contact Ben Humphrey to talk through / check running: 01793 465404

22. Oasis Stepping Stones Swim (SBC* Leisure) Fridays: 9.15–10am School Holidays 10.15–11am Term Time

Should run on 23 and 30 Dec, ring to check nearer the time

Age: All ages

Location: The Oasis, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1EP

Cost: SwindonCard prices, supporter swims free

Transport: Not provided

Dedicated disability swim. No need to book. Parent / carer to accompany child in the water. Excellent access, disabled change, shallow entry. Fully accessible toilet / changing facility. 01793 445401

23. Oasis Family Swim (SBC* Leisure) Normally every other Fri 7pm–8pm

Please note date change in Dec: Will run Fri 9 and 16 Dec (not Fri 2 Dec). **From Jan 2012:** Every other Fri starting 6 Jan.

Age: All ages

Location: The Oasis, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1EP

Cost: SwindonCard prices, supporter swims free.

Transport: Not provided

Fully inclusive swim open to all children with a disability. Accessible toilet / changing facility. Parent to stay, family welcome. 01793 445401.

24. Wheelchair Tag Rugby (Swindon St George / SBC* Leisure) Saturdays 10–12noon Not 24 or 31 Dec

Age: 12 years +

Location: Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA

Cost: £2 per session (first 2 sessions free)

Transport: Not provided

Open to all abilities, disabled and non-disabled. Equipment including sport wheelchairs provided. Contact Tony Ellis: 07887 561520 or Ben Humphrey: 01793 465404

*SBC = Swindon Borough Council

25. Learn to Swim (SBC* Leisure) Saturdays 1pm–2pm

Age: 16 years +

Location: Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA

Cost: £1 per session

Transport: Not provided

For people with learning disabilities. Usually runs during holidays, ring to check. Contact Ben Humphrey to talk through:

01793 465404 / 07815 776593

bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

26. Wheelchair Basketball (SBC* Leisure)

Sundays 3pm–5pm

Age: 12 years +

Location: Dorcan Rec, St Paul's Drive, Covingham, SN3 5DA

Cost: Free

Transport: Not provided

Open to all abilities, disabled and non-disabled. Equipment including sport wheelchairs provided. Qualified coaches.

Contact Ben Humphrey:

01793 465404 / 07815 776593

bhumphrey@swindon.gov.uk

27. Ice Skating (SBC* Leisure) Any public session

Age: All ages

Location: The Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DL

Cost: SwindonCard prices, supporter skates free

Transport: Not provided

Open to all. No need to book. Wheelchairs welcome, ramp available. Parents to stay, can support user on the ice. No coaches. There is also a disabled skating session, term-time only. Telephone: 01793 445566

28. Actionnaires multi-sports and lifestyle skills

2 Saturdays a month, ring to check dates

Age: 5–16 years (under 8s with a parent / carer)

Location: To be confirmed

Cost: Free

Transport: Not provided in Swindon / surrounding area.

For blind and visually impaired children. Must book ahead.

Contact Vivienne Mills:

07872 197314

[Vivienne.Mills@](mailto:Vivienne.Mills@actionforblindpeople.org.uk)

actionforblindpeople.org.uk

29. Magic Mondays holiday playscheme (SBC*)

Mon 19 Dec 11am–3pm

Age: 5–12 years

Location: Chalet School, Liden Drive, Swindon, SN3 6EX

Cost: £4 per child

Transport: Not provided

Playscheme for deaf and hearing impaired children, siblings or friends. Bring a packed lunch. Book in advance:

01793 464080

aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

30. RLK Barnardo's Children's Centre: Christmas activities and parties 12–21 Dec

Age: Varies, ring to check

Location: Westcott Street, Swindon, SN1 5HS

Cost: Ring to check

Transport: Not provided

Regular programme until Fri 9 Dec. Christmas activities and parties 12–21 Dec. Details to be confirmed, ring for more information. Regular activities re-start 9 Jan. Contact:

01793 525830

[barnardosinswindon@](mailto:barnardosinswindon@barnardos.org.uk)

barnardos.org.uk

31. Sure Start Children's Centre, Penhill & Pinehurst:

Talk & Toys Penhill

Mon 19 Dec 9am–10.30am and 11am–11.30am

Location: Sure Start, Everleigh Road, Penhill, SN2 5HB

Talk & Toys Pinehurst

Wed 21 Dec 9am–10.30am and 11am–11.30am

Location: Sure Start, Beech Avenue, Pinehurst, SN2 1JR

Age: 0–7 years

Cost: 50p per family

Transport: Not provided

Open drop-ins for families of disabled & non-disabled children in the age range, and siblings under 8. Parents stay. No need to book, but max 20 spaces per session. Contact Holly Bates (for Penhill) or Rachel Brown (for Pinehurst): 01793 705091

[Surestart.enquiries@](mailto:Surestart.enquiries@swindon.gov.uk)
swindon.gov.uk

32. Salt Way Children's Centre (The Children's Society): (Centre closed from 26 Dec, re-opening 3 Jan)

Baby & Toddler Xmas Session

Mon 19 Dec 9.30am–11am

Stay & Play Xmas Session

Thu 22 Dec 10am–12noon

Age: 0–8 years

Location: Pearl Road, Middleleaze, Swindon, SN5 5TD

Cost: Suggested £1 donation

Transport: Not provided

Open to all, including family / siblings in the age range.

Turn up on the day, first come, first served. Parents to stay. Contact Deb King:

01793 465364

dqc@childsoc.org.uk

33. Drove Children's Centre:
(Centre closed from 23 Dec,
re-opening 3 Jan)

Stay and Play

**Tuesdays 9am–11am and
Thursdays 1pm–2.30pm**

In the Family Room, entrance
from Northampton St.

Cost: 1 token or £1 per family

Special Needs Group

Tuesdays 1pm–2.30pm

For families with children with
special needs, structured play.

Age: Under 5s

Cost: £1 each session per family

Christmas Fayre

Fri 9 Dec from 12pm

Buy some Christmas gifts and
help raise funds for the Centre.

Family Christmas Craft

Tue 20 Dec 10am–12pm

In the Social Hall

Cost: 50p per child

Family Christmas Party

Thu 22 Dec 1pm–3pm

In the Social Hall

Age: Under 8s & parents/carers

Cost: £1/child plus food donation

Family Disco

Thu 22 Dec 5pm–7pm

Age: Open for the whole family

Cost: £1/child plus food donation

Location: Drove Children's Ctr,
Plymouth Street, SN1 2LA

Transport: Not provided

Children must have a parent/
carer with them at all times.
Book by 16 Dec for Christmas
Craft / Christmas Party. May
also run a Christmas family trip,
get in touch if you have any
suggestions. Contact:
01793 818600.

**34. ASD / SCID Christmas Trip
(SBC*) Details to be confirmed,
ring for more information.**

Age: 5–18 years

Location: To be confirmed

Cost: To be confirmed

Specialist group for children with
ASD / SCID (Autistic Spectrum /
Social Communication and
Interaction Difficulties). **By
referral: anyone can refer,
including families. Groups
based on a ratio of 1 worker
to 3 children.** The Coordinator
will meet with you beforehand,
to decide together whether
this ratio is appropriate.

Parents don't stay.

Contact: 01793 464080

aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

35. Saturday Group (SBC*)

Age: 5–18 years

Location: 1 Saturday a month
at Salt Way and 1 Saturday
a month at Uplands School

Cost: £4

Transport: Only in
exceptional circumstances

Specialist group for children
with any disabilities **who need
minimum of 1:1 support**
(includes learning disabilities,
ASD, complex health needs).

**By referral: anyone can refer,
including families.** The
Coordinator will meet you
beforehand to ensure that the
group can meet your child's
needs. Parents don't stay.

Contact: 01793 464080

aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Editorial policy and disclaimer:

Contributions will be included if they are considered to advance and encourage the development of services / opportunities for disabled children and their families or celebrate their achievements. Views expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the editor or sponsors' views. We try to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of all material, but cannot be held responsible for the content of any product or website listed.

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**SBC = Swindon
Borough Council*

You can also contact your local Children's Centre:

Children's Centres provide services for children aged 0-4 and their families, such as toddler or early years groups and play sessions. Contact your local Centre to find out what is taking place:

Butterflies ☎ 01793 722984 Abbey Meads School, Hugo Drive, Swindon, SN25 4GY

Croft ☎ 01793 533353 Marlborough Lane, Swindon, SN3 1RA

Drove ☎ 01793 818600 Plymouth Street, Swindon, SN1 2LA

Eldene ☎ 01793 484100 Colingsmead, Eldene, Swindon, SN3 3TQ

Goddard Park ☎ 01793 342347 Goddard Park School, Welcombe Avenue, Swindon, SN3 2QN

Gorse Hill ☎ 01793 523800 Gorse Hill School, Avening Street, Swindon, SN2 8BZ

Greenmeadow ☎ 01793 530260 Greenmeadow School, Pen Close, Haydon Wick, Swindon, SN25 3LW

Ladybird ☎ 01793 762341 Newburgh Place, Highworth, Swindon, SN6 7DN

Moredon ☎ 01793 615479 Montrose Close, Moredon, Swindon, SN2 2JR

Barnardo's Robert Le Kyng ☎ 01793 525830 Westcott Street, Swindon, SN1 5HS

Saltway ☎ 01793 465364 Pearl Road, Middleleaze, Swindon, SN5 5TD

Saplings ☎ 01793 829996 Grange Infant School, Delamere Drive, Stratton, SN3 4XE

Sure Start Pinehurst and Penhill:

Penhill ☎ 01793 705091 Everleigh Road, Penhill, Swindon, SN2 5HB

Pinehurst ☎ 01793 514492 Beech Avenue, Pinehurst, Swindon, SN2 1JR

West Swindon Family Centre ☎ 01793 871303 15 Gainsborough Way, Freshbrook, SN5 8PD

Are you a working parent, or one who is accessing training?

Did you know that 'Inclusion Funding' may be available, should your child need one to one support to gain access to a childcare setting?

'Inclusion Funding' is available from the Early Intervention Grant to enable a child with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or disabilities to gain access to a registered setting, to allow their parent to access work or training. This could be before school, after school and / or during school holidays. The funding assistance is available to allow a setting to employ a one-to-one support worker to enable the child to access their provision, where this enables a parent to access work or training. For full details please visit the Swindon Sure Start website:

www.earlyyearschildcare.org/eyr-nav-funding/grants_to_group_childcare_provision.htm

Inclusion funding for social and leisure purposes may be available from the Aiming High Short Breaks Team, tel: 01793 464080 or email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

Are you looking to access work or training?

**Do you need to use Ofsted registered childcare, to enable you to access work / training?
Have you previously faced barriers? Do you want to return to work or access training?**

If you want to find out about the initiatives to support parents of children with SEN or disabilities accessing childcare, contact Wendy Spence on tel: 01793 466032.

Holiday Ofsted Registered Childcare:

Contact the setting to discuss your child / young person's needs:

Active Eight ☎ 07594 097556 Chiseldon Primary School, Castle View Road, Chiseldon, SN4 0NS
Closed Christmas Bank Holidays only.

Big A Greendown ☎ 07832 304452 Greendown School, Grange Park, Swindon, SN5 6HN
Open 19–22 Dec.

Crazy Crocs ☎ 01793 825525 Stratton Community Centre, Grange Drive, Stratton, SN3 4JY
Open week commencing 19 Dec. Re-open 3 Jan.

Hi 5 Haydon ☎ 01793 706666 Haydon Centre, Thames Ave, Greenmeadow, Swindon, SN25 1QQ
Open until 23 Dec inclusive. Re-open 3 Jan.

Hillsborough Nursery ☎ 01793 790271 Bishopstone, SN6 8PW
Closed Christmas Bank Holidays only.

Keytime ☎ 07712 781211 St Paul's Church Centre, Covingham, Swindon, SN3 5EJ
Ring to check Christmas opening dates.

Link Sports Camp ☎ 01793 445566 Link Centre, Whitehill Way, Westlea, SN5 7DL
Open 19–23 Dec. Over 8's only.

North Star Nursery ☎ 01793 411994 Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1HH
Open for holiday club. Closed week commencing 26 Dec and Bank Holidays.

Poplars Nursery ☎ 01793 790774 Wanborough Road, Lower Wanborough, SN4 0AA
Open week commencing 19 Dec. Re-open 3 Jan.

Poppies ☎ 01793 613457 Old School House, Ferndale Road, Swindon, SN2 1HL
Close for Christmas on 23 Dec. Re-open 3 Jan.

Toad Hall Nursery ☎ 01793 436432 Trinity Hall, Victoria Road, SN1 3EJ
Open week commencing 19 Dec. Re-open 3 Jan.

Trees Nursery ☎ 01793 480780 Quarry Road, Old Town, SN1 4EN
Closed on 26, 27 Dec and 2 Jan.

Westgate Nursery ☎ 01793 861268 82 Cricklade Road, Highworth, SN6 7BL
Close for Christmas on 23 Dec. Re-open 3 Jan.

Westlea ☎ 07773 027583 Westlea School, Langstone Way, SN5 7BT
Open 19–23 Dec. Re-open 3 Jan.

White Cottage Pre-school ☎ 01793 537770 Even Swindon Community Centre, Old School, Jennings Street, Swindon, SN2 2BG
Close for Christmas on 16 Dec. Re-open 3 Jan.

White Cottage Nursery ☎ 01793 825845 South Marston Hotel, South Marston, SN3 4SH
Christmas dates still to be confirmed, ring to check.

Wroughton Rascals ☎ 07985 247008 or 01793 778327 Ridgeway Leisure Centre, Inverary Road, Wroughton, SN4 9DJ
Open 19–23 Dec. Re-open 3 Jan.

Information in other languages and formats:

The information in this newsletter can be produced in a range of languages and formats (such as large print, Braille or other accessible formats) by contacting Swindon Borough Council Customer Services:

Tel: 01793 445500 Email: customerservices@swindon.gov.uk

This information is also available on the internet:

www.swindon.gov.uk/aiminghighshortbreaks or
www.swindonparentsandcarers.org.uk/newsletters/newsletters.htm

Have you registered to receive information?

The Aiming High Newsletter is produced by the Aiming High Short Breaks team. We try to ensure that this newsletter is distributed as widely as possible. However, by registering with us, through 'SADIE', we can make sure you receive information directly. SADIE is the Swindon Area Database and Information Exchange, a voluntary register for children and young people aged 0–25 who have any type of disability, additional needs or long-term health condition.

If you would like to register to receive information, or you have any feedback, contact Sarah Moody on 01793 464079 or email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk. Or return the tear-off slip below using our Freepost address (no stamp needed):



✉ Freepost RSHC-BZKS-HBGK
Aiming High Team, Swindon Borough Council
The Salt Way Centre, Pearl Road, Middleleaze, SWINDON, SN5 5TD



Please contact me about the SADIE database / Aiming High:

Child/Young Person's Name Date of Birth

Parent/Carer's Name Title

Address Post Code

Tel Email Address

I would prefer to receive information / newsletters by (please tick one): Email Post

If you select email, please make sure that your email account will allow you to receive emails from aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk and smoody@swindon.gov.uk. (Some email account providers automatically reject these emails, or put them into your 'junk' folder).



How your information will be used:

The information you provide will be recorded on the SADIE / Aiming High database. Information will not be shared with any third parties. We will check periodically to make sure that you still wish to receive information. You can ask us to remove your details at any time if you wish. For more information contact the Aiming High Short Breaks Team on 01793 464080 or email: aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk. Under the Data Protection Act you can see your own personal information. If you would like to know more about this, ask for our leaflet 'Access to your personal information' or contact the Data Protection Officer at Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid St, Swindon SN1 2JH