



Short Breaks for Disabled Children

October Half Term 2026 newsletter



London Borough
of Hounslow

FREE October Half Term holiday
Short Breaks inside!



Welcome

Welcome to the October Half Term newsletter! You will find inside a programme of activities taking place over the holiday which will be fun and enjoyable for your young person and the whole family.

I have a new colleague so welcome to Dev Davda. As well as myself, Dev will be available for any queries relating to Short Breaks.

Hope you all have a great holiday.

Jo Dawson and Devarsh Davda – Short Breaks

Tel: 020 8583 3636 | Email: shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk

SHORT BREAKS BOOKING PROCEDURE – please read

This newsletter has been emailed to families on Wednesday 30 September and families will be able to book Short Breaks as from the week commencing 5 October.

No bookings will take place before Tuesday 6 October.

Tuesday 6 October	Pathway	3
Wednesday 7 October	Pathway	3
Thursday 8 October	Pathways	2 3
Friday 9 October	Pathways	2 3
Monday 12 October	Pathways	1 2 3
Tuesday 13 October	Pathways	1 2 3

If you have any questions or are unsure which pathway your child meets, please do not hesitate to contact the Short Breaks Team on 020 8583 3636. **Please note that we are unable to do any registrations during the booking period.**

What is a Short Break?

Short breaks provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend time away from their primary carers. They aim to provide parents and carers a necessary and valuable break away from their caring responsibilities in order to recharge their batteries.

They enable disabled children and young people to have the chance to develop new friendships, take part in new experiences and to have fun doing positive activities like sports, music therapy, youth clubs and much more.

A short break may include a few hours, a day, evening, overnight stay, weekend or sometimes longer. It could take place in the family home, at another home or out in the wider community.

Hounslow Short Breaks team also endeavour to provide short breaks for the whole family in an environment that is sympathetic to the disabled child or young person, for example, theatre shows and cinema screenings.



For more information about short breaks in Hounslow, please see our Short Breaks Statement on the Hounslow Local Offer – [SEND Local Offer: Short breaks | London Borough of Hounslow](#).

If you have any queries, please do call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.

Taxicards

This scheme allows London residents with a mobility impairment which prevents them from using buses or trains to travel in contracted licensed radio taxis – black cabs or private hire vehicles at subsidised rates. For further information visit

www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/taxicard



SUPPORT

If your child or young person needs help to access short breaks, support is available!



Please do call the **Short Breaks team** on **020 8583 3636**.

Hounslow Parent Carers Forum

Hounslow Parent Carers Forum is part of a nationwide organisation that helps parent and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We are there to listen to you and try to support you to sign post where needed.

We also discuss common issues that parent/carers have with the local authority and other organisations in order to help improve services. All of us who work for the forum have children with SEND.

We offer Coffee & Chat Mornings and Afternoons, along with newsletters that provide updates and helpful information on SEN topics in the area. Additionally, we host a monthly forum where representatives from the Council, other organisations, and charities come to discuss their services and answer your questions. Best way to keep up to date with what we have going on is to see our online diary on our website: www.hounslowpcf.co.uk



Dates for up-coming Forum meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday 20 October
- Tuesday 17 November
- Tuesday 15 December



Times: 10.15am-12.30am

Hounslow Youth Centre

Kingsley Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1QA

Email: info@hounslowpcf.co.uk

Tel: 020 8570 4671

Useful websites for families of disabled children

Please find below several websites that offer help and support in various ways to families with disabled children:

<http://newlifecharity.co.uk/docs/care-services/Play-Therapy-Pods.shtml>

<https://www.disability-grants.org/grants-for-children.html>

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

Unique Identifying Number (UIN)

If you have not already registered for your UIN, please do call the Short Breaks team on **020 8583 3636**.



It is important that you do this as you will need a UIN to book onto any of the Short Breaks providers (Hounslow Play team, Brentford Sports, Richmond Music Trust, Watermans, Park Lane Stables, Lampton Leisure) will require the UIN as part of the booking process.

Please note that we are unable to do any registrations during booking days.

SEND Local Offer

Advice, guidance and support for families with children and young people aged 0 - 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



Scan here to visit our Local Offer website



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Futures



London Borough
of Hounslow

Visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer
Email thelocaloffer@hounslow.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS)

What is SEND IASS?

Under the Children and Families Act (2014) it is a legal requirement that all Local Authorities have a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).

The Hounslow Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) provides this service for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in the borough.

This service is also offered directly to young people as well. While the service is funded by the London Borough of Hounslow (LBH), Hounslow SENDIASS works independently of the local authority.

Hounslow SENDIASS is free to use, impartial and confidential.

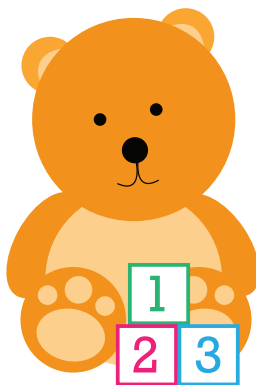


What we do

Hounslow SENDIASS provides independent and impartial advice based on the law and government guidance. We are able to:

- Meet with you virtually or in person to discuss your concerns or needs. Communication may also be by phone and email
- Explain how the SEND system works – for instance, accessing Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans
- Assist you in navigating the often-complex world of SEND
- Signpost you to appropriate local authority services, including the Local Offer
- Support you through dispute resolution and mediation processes with schools and the local authority

(NB. Where you request support at a meeting, this is subject to appropriateness, availability, and capacity)



What we don't do

Our aim is to empower young people, parents, and carers to take informed decisions around SEND for themselves. We don't however:

- Tell you what is best for you and your child
- Tell other professionals what to do
- Identify appropriate schools for your child
- Represent you at meetings, including mediation and tribunals
- Assist in the preparation of EHC or tribunal documentation
- Provide an administrative service for you, including contacting or arranging meetings for you with other professionals and form-filling
- Help with benefit claims, housing difficulties, Blue Badges etc

(NB. If your child has an EHC plan, your first contact should be your child's EHC caseworker)



You can help us by:

- Leaving a message when you phone as we do not respond to missed calls where no message has been left (We aim to respond to all enquires within 5 working days)
- Keep us updated on progress in relation to the resolution of your concerns or needs
- Let us know when your issues have been resolved

Data Protection

All the information that Hounslow SENDIASS gathers from you is securely stored electronically and separate to local authority departments. Information will only be shared with your permission. However, where there may be a safeguarding concern Hounslow SENDIASS is obliged to share such concerns with appropriate professionals.

How to access our service

We are a self-refer service. Parents are able to access us directly. We are unable to take referrals from professionals.

If you would like our help, please telephone us on 020 8583 2607 or email us at sendiass@hounslow.gov.uk

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

DAF is available to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in their childcare setting. Childcare providers can receive £615 per year for every child who meets the eligibility criteria.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible children must be:

- aged 3 or 4 years old
- using a funded free early education and childcare place in a registered childcare setting
- in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)*



What can the funding be used for?

The funding is available to help childcare providers make reasonable adjustments at their setting to improve children's access to funded early education. It will be paid directly to the childcare provider and they will be able to decide how it should be spent. The funding cannot be used towards childcare fees.

Your child does not need to be using all of their funded early education and childcare hours for their childcare provider to be able to receive the full £615 of funding. Please speak to your childcare provider if you think your child may qualify.

Further information on DAF can be found on the Hounslow Local Offer through the following link: <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/send-local-offer>

* Many parents miss out on this vital benefit - did you know that you don't have to wait for a condition to be diagnosed before you can claim DLA for your child? You can claim DLA so long as it is clear that there is some underlying condition - whether physical, mental or behavioural - as a result of which your child needs extra care or help in getting around. For more information, visit www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children.

Eligibility Criteria

You will see the table which describes the pathways of need overleaf, on pages 10-11. Below, we have explained how to assess your child's needs in relation to the pathways.

Step 1: Have a look at Band A and see where your child's disability sits in each pathway.

Step 2: Have a look at Bands B and C if they apply. Think about the four dimensions – Communication, Personal Care, Safety and Supervision, Behaviour and Social Integration. If your child meets one or more of the descriptions in either Band B and C, then they are likely to meet the respective pathway.

If you are unsure or if you see that they sit in multiple pathways, please do give the Short Breaks team a call and we will go through it with you on 020 8583 3636.

Things to think about:

Pathway 1: The child will most likely attend a mainstream school and can access most mainstream activities with minimal support.

Pathway 2: The child will either attend a mainstream school (with specialist support) or attend a specialist school and will need some additional support to access short breaks. They may have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Pathway 3: The child will most likely attend a specialist school and require specialist support to access short breaks. They will most likely have an Education, Health and Care Plan. They will most likely be known to the Social Work team for Children with Disabilities.

The pathway for the child or young person may change at different times throughout their lives as their needs may change.

Pathways of Need

	Dimension	Pathway 1 Level of Need	Pathway 2 Level of Need	Pathway 3 Level of Need
Band A	Mobility	Able to walk unassisted, but with difficulty or poor co-ordination.	Walks, but only with aids or assistance. May use a wheelchair sometimes.	Full time wheelchair user and/or Mobility severely restricted without special provision.
	Vision	Severe or profound problem with one eye. Less than half visual field loss. Able to function independently.	Able to read print with simple aids or assistance. Defect of at least half visual field. May be eligible for registration as partially sighted.	Unable to read large print without intensive educational assistance or sophisticated aids. Registered.
	Hearing	Severe or profound hearing loss in one ear. Hearing loss 20-40 dB	Hearing loss 41-70 dB	Hearing loss >71 dB
	Functioning and Learning ability	Overall functioning slightly below expected level for age. May have a mild or moderate learning disability	Overall functioning around half expected level for age. Has a moderate learning disability	Overall functions significantly below expected level for age. Have a severe learning disability or a moderate learning disability and diagnosed ASD.
	Health	Known health condition, which is under control but occasionally interferes with everyday activities in a minor way.	Health condition that limits normal activities, including self-care and personal hygiene, access to services. May interfere with opportunities for development or education.	Diagnosed health condition, which is severe and potentially life threatening, and results in frequent hospital admissions that limits accessing developmental or educational activities. May be in receipt of Continuing Care or palliative care from Health Services.

IMPACT OF DISABILITY

Band B	Communication	Delayed language development only.	Delayed/ disorganised verbal communication causing difficulty. Speech supplemented by alternate communication method.	Uses communication other than words, e.g. symbols, makaton, BSL.
	Personal care	Child requires minimal support beyond that of their peers with everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing.	Child requires practical support beyond that of their peers with everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing.	Child requires assistance beyond that of their peers with all everyday care needs; this will include toileting, washing and dressing and can be problematic and need skilled intervention.
	Safety and Supervision	Requires occasional supervision beyond that expected for their age. Poor sense of danger or risk of excitability.	Needs supervision to perform daily activities significantly greater than that expected for developmental age. Limited perception of danger to self or others.	Needs constant supervision during the day and night. Would place themselves or others at risk without supervision.
	Behaviour and Social Integration	Some mild, transient or frequent behaviour difficulties. Able to use local non-specialist universal services. Able to sustain limited peer relationships and social integration with support. Child requires support to access services.	Behaviour problems severe or frequent enough to require some specialist advice or provision. Significant support required to achieve social integration. Only able to sustain peer relationships with support. Child requires services to prevent or alleviate stress in the family.	Long-term behaviour difficulties make it difficult for the child to function appropriately most of the time, and maybe of risk to the child or carers without special provision. Dependence upon carer for social integration. Limited awareness of impact of behaviour upon others. Services required to prevent high risk of accommodation for the child.

Children and young people should meet at least one of the dimensions in Band A and one from Band B to meet the criteria for that pathway. To discuss your child's pathway, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.

October half term 2026 activities



Key to services

Throughout the following pages, we have used symbols to help abbreviate information about the Pathway, referral route, age and level of supervision for individual services.

The symbols are as follows:

Pathways



The Pathway, will always be 1, 2 or 3 or a combination.

Referral route



Self referral



Referral by professional

The referral route is either via self referral or referral by a professional who knows the child/young person, e.g. social worker, teacher, health professional.

Age

5–18

Age is simply given as a range of numbers.

Supervision



Parent supervision required



No supervision required

These symbols indicate whether supervision is required or if a child can attend a service on their own. Both symbols may appear if you need to speak to the provider about this.

In order to book a place at any of the Watermans activities, you will need a promo code as well as your child's UIN. The promo codes will be emailed to you by the Short Breaks team before the bookings open.

The Gruffalo Day activities are all drop-in sessions so no need to book. However, the Ceyda Tanc dance show and Red Robin's Winter Song have to be booked so please use the appropriate promo code for those.

THE GRUFFALO DAY

All the sessions are drop-in sessions for The Gruffalo Day – there is no need to book but you will need to bring your child's UIN on the day.

Tuesday 27 October

At the **Endeavour Theatre, West Thames College**, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS.

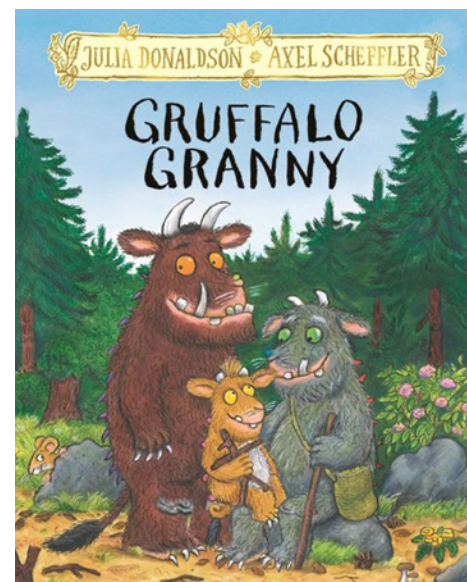
Join us for a magical, accessible adventure into the deep dark wood this October half term!

Sit back and enjoy cosy, sensory-friendly screenings of the beloved animated short films, *The Gruffalo* and *The Gruffalo's Child*. Then dive into hands-on sensory storytelling and interactive craft sessions inspired by the brand-new book, *Gruffalo Granny*.

Because it's a flexible drop-in day, there is no need to arrive at a set time - just turn up, stay as long as you like, and let your children explore the wonderful world of the Gruffalos at their own pace.

GET CREATIVE WITH GRUFFALO GRANNY!

Sessions at 10.40 am, 12.15 pm, 2.05 pm & 3.30 pm



Come and join favourite artists, Artburst, for Gruffalo Granny storytelling and get creative with crafts activities based on this fabulous new book.

In *Gruffalo Granny*, the Gruffalo tells his daughter that her clever, grey-furred Gruffalo Granny is coming to stay. They catch the Big Bad Mouse to make Granny a stew, but he cleverly tricks them and escapes from his cage.

Granny arrives, reveals she is now vegetarian, and gives her grandchild a book for writing stories.

AND DROP-IN TO WATCH THE SHORT FILMS -

THE GRUFFALO (U)

27 minutes

Screenings at 10am and 1.30pm

A mouse took a stroll through the deep, dark wood...

Hungry for some ripe, delicious hazelnuts, a crafty little mouse takes a stroll through the wild, dense forest. But,

there, deep in the heart of the forest, he is confronted by three hungry animals who think he looks good to eat - a villainous fox, an ominous owl, and a stealthy snake.

Forced to rely on his wits for survival, Mouse invents an imaginary monster to scare them away, but what happens when he comes face to face with the monster himself?

This is an enchanting film, suitable for ages 3+. There is mild scariness when the Gruffalo, initially a creation of the mouse's imagination, becomes real. It is not suitable for toddlers.



October half term 2026 activities



THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD (U)

27 minutes

Screenings at 11.30am and 3pm



One wild and windy night, a little Gruffalo ignores her father's warnings and tiptoes out into the snow in search of the Big Bad Mouse.

She meets Snake, Owl and Fox, but there is no sign of the fabled Mouse. He doesn't really exist... or does he?

This is another enchanting film, suitable for ages 4+. There are a few surprises, like the sudden appearance of an owl, but the film is generally playful and cosy. It is not suitable for toddlers.

The Gruffalo and The Gruffalo's Child are short films, both just 27 minutes long. They are available to all Short Breaks families but they are particularly suitable for children attending a film for the first time, those who have not yet been to many films, or who are not comfortable sitting through a full-length film.

The full schedule for the day is:

10-10.30am	Film: The Gruffalo
10.40-11.25am	Storytelling & creative activities with Artburst
11.30-12pm	Film: The Gruffalo's Child
12.15-1pm	Storytelling & creative activities with Artburst
1.30-2pm	Film: The Gruffalo
2.05-2.50pm	Storytelling & creative activities with Artburst
3-3.30pm	Film: The Gruffalo's Child
3.40-4.25pm	Storytelling & creative activities with Artburst

No need to book – just drop in and stay for as many activities as you like!

Online information: <https://watermans.ticket solve.com/shows/873667780/events>



CEYDA TANC DANCE – evim [my home]

Wednesday 28 October 2026

There are 3 performances at 11am, 1.30pm and 3pm.



At the Endeavour Theatre, West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS.

Inspired by Ceyda's Turkish heritage, evim [my home] is a magical and gently interactive performance for children and their families based on a line from a famous poem – 'If light is in your heart you will find your way home'.

Follow three wanderers as they search for belonging... in places, with people, or in a feeling. Twirl, whirl and play as the performers take you on a spellbinding journey to find a place to call home.

A wonderful introduction to dance theatre for children, using captivating movement and enchanting music in this non-verbal and sensory show.

"A mesmerising show for all ages. Kids will be fully engaged and they'll be dancing by the end." (Parent)



This is a gentle show, ideal for children aged 2-7 and their families. However, both younger and older children will be engaged in the dance and the story.

Please book online at: <https://watermans.ticket solve.com/shows/873667781/events>

Each performance is the same so please just choose which time suits you best. Please book tickets for this show.

The performance lasts 45 minutes, and there is an additional 10-15 minutes of 'stay and play'. It is fine to leave and come back in as you need.



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RED ROBIN'S WINTER SONG TUTTI FRUTTI

Sunday 22 November 2026 at 11am and 2pm.



At the Endeavour Theatre, West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS.

Both performances are the same, so please just book whichever time you prefer. Please book tickets for this show.

The performance lasts 50 minutes.

Step into a twinkling, snow-dusted world with Red Robin's Winter Song. This gentle and joy-filled winter play will warm hearts and spark imaginations - perfect for young children and their families.

From award-winning writer Manjeet Mann this enchanting story follows one small but brave Red Robin who chooses to stay behind as the other birds leave for winter. While the forest falls silent and snow begins to

fall, Red Robin hears a mysterious song on the wind, one that leads to new friendships, unexpected discoveries, and a special place to call home.

Brought to life by Tutti Frutti Productions, this story is full of wonder and adventure. With beautiful songs, fun-filled wintery moments, and cosy storytelling, Red Robin's Winter Song is a celebration of friendship, courage, adapting to change and ultimately, finding where you truly belong.

Filled with beautiful music and playful adventures, this heartwarming production is gentle enough for the youngest theatre goers from age 3 upwards.

Please book online at:

<https://watermans.ticketsolve.com/shows/873667782/events>



Access & facilities at West Thames College

The address is **West Thames College, London Road, Isleworth, London TW7 4HS.**

The College is close to the corner of London Road (the A315) and Spring Grove Road (next door to Isleworth Fire Station).

There is a large car park which is accessed from Harvard Road, a side road off London Road, which runs along the side of the College. From the car park, use the entrance at the rear of the College building.

The Theatre is inside the main College building. At weekends, it is accessed only through the entrance at the rear of the building from the car park. On weekdays, you can access through the car park entrance, or through the main front entrance of the College on London Road.

Different levels of the building are accessible by lift. There are also stairs, if preferred.



There are toilets, including accessible toilets.

The Theatre has wheelchair spaces and the building is fully accessible to wheelchair users.

On public transport, the College is 5 minutes walk from Isleworth train station.

Buses 117, 235, 237, E8 and H37 stop outside the College.

When arriving by public transport:

On weekdays, access is through the front, main entrance.

At weekends, please use the rear entrance, off the car park, from Harvard Road.

HOW TO BOOK FOR WATERMANS

Please book separately for the Ceyda Tanc dance show and Red Robin's Winter Song. The Gruffalo day activities are all drop-in sessions so no need to book.

Please remember to book 1 ticket for each person attending the activity.

Please don't book extra tickets that you may not need, as this means that other people will not be able to attend.

If you need further information about the activities, or support with the online booking process on our website, please email us at info@watermans.org.uk and one of the Watermans team will respond as soon as possible.

October half term 2026 activities



Community
Sports
Trust

Multi Sports

(Badminton, Table Tennis, Boccia,
Dodgeball, Basketball & Football)

DROP-IN SESSIONS – NO NEED TO BOOK!

These are drop-in sessions - you will need to bring your child's UIN and pathway with you and book in with us when you get to the studio.

Springwest Academy

(indoor sports hall)
Browells Lane, Feltham
TW13 7EF*



*Please note, this session is taking place in the Dance Studio, not the sports hall! Please look out for the signs when you arrive.

Friday 30 October (10am to 2pm)

For more information or to book a space, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfcst.com



Programmes specifically for deaf and hard of hearing children

Brentford FCCST will be running a number of exciting new programmes for deaf children and their families during the October half term holiday.

Activities will be confirmed nearer the time.

For further details, please contact Ben Lampert on blampert@brentfordfcst.com or 07842 479295 (Text only).



Outdoor Kayaking (Katacanoe boats)

Brentford Lock/Canal

(meeting place - 8 Bradshaw Yard, Brentford, TW8 8GH)

Wednesday 28 October (3.30 – 5pm)

Thursday 29 October (3.30– 5pm)

Age: 7+

Please note:

We would strongly encourage families to book **two spaces per session** (the Short Breaks participant, plus an older sibling or parent). All participants must be aged 7 or above. At the time of booking, please indicate whether you would like to book **one or two spaces**.

Towards the end of the session, fading light/darkness may become an issue. The kayaking instructor will end the session slightly early, if they decide that the conditions are becoming unsafe.

For more information, please contact Chris Tribe on shortbreaks@brentfordfcst.com



Horse Riding – Park Lane Stables

Families can book one session

Come and meet the horses at Park Lane Stables for a session that will give the young people a chance to meet the horses, learn about grooming the animals and a chance to have a ride. There are 3 young people in each session. Please note that there is a weight limit of 12 stones.

Sessions during the holidays are:

Monday 26 October

2pm-3pm

3pm-4pm

Tuesday 27 October

11am-12pm

12pm-1pm

Wednesday 28 October

9am-10am

10am-11am

11am-12pm

12pm-1pm

Address for the horse riding sessions:

Park Lane Stables

Park Lane
Teddington
TW11 0HY

Please note closed shoes/boots should be worn – sandals are not safe footwear for horse riding or being in the stables. This includes parent/carers as well as the young people.

To book a place, please call Short Breaks on 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk.



October half term 2026 activities

Lampton Leisure – Swimming Lessons

Hanworth Airparks

Uxbridge Road, Hanworth TW13 5EG

Tuesday 27 and Friday 30 October

Available time slots: 1.15pm-2pm and 2.15pm-3pm

Heston Pools & Fitness

New Heston Road, Hounslow TW5 0LW

Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 October

Available time slots: 1.15pm-2pm and 2.15pm-3pm

Isleworth Leisure Centre

Twickenham Road, Isleworth, TW7 7DJ

Wednesday 28 October

Available time slots: 1.15pm -2pm and 2.15pm-3pm

Please note there is a very high demand for the lessons - the team will aim to offer more than one lesson (if that is indicated), but please understand this may not be possible.

Please note all swimming lesson timings include a 30 minute lesson for each child, followed by 15 minutes of fun free time supervised by the instructors.

To register your interest in the swimming lessons, please email the pool that you would like to attend on the following email addresses:

Hanworth: Emyr Ben Youssef

EmyrBen.Youssef@lamptongroup.co.uk

Heston: Alexandra Kister

Alexandra.Kister@lamptongroup.co.uk

Isleworth: Amine Chelli

Amine.Chelli@lamptongroup.co.uk



- **Pathway 3** families should register their interest by **Friday 9 October**
- **Pathway 2** families should register their interest by **Tuesday 13 October** and
- **Pathway 1** families by **Friday 16 October**.

You will be put on a wait list and after the closing date for your pathway, you will then be directly contacted by Lampton Leisure to book the lessons in.



Decisions R Us

Bid for up to £250 for a short break or activity!!

Please note that applications to Decisions R Us can be made every other financial year. So, for example if you apply in this financial year, ie. from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, you will have to wait until after 1 April 2028 to apply again. If you have any queries, please call on the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.

Last year young people in Hounslow were given the opportunity to apply for funding for their own 'personalised' short break activity. These included horse riding, swimming lessons, gymnastic classes, even rock climbing...

Once again, funds have been allocated to young people on pathway 1 and 2, aged 5 up to 18, living in Hounslow who are looking for help with a short break or activity. This can include equipment that will help them access a short break! Young people and parent/carers on their behalf can bid for up to £250 to fund their own short breaks.

The activity needs to be positive and enjoyable, that gets the young person out and about in the community, hopefully developing a hobby or a skill. We are very flexible in what can be applied for as each child has their own interests but there are some no-nos:

- No electronic equipment including laptops, mobiles, gaming consoles
- No furniture or household items
- The only holiday that could be funded would be one for the young person themselves such as a PGL holiday or a residential with a youth club.
- No Merlin annual passes

The application form is available from the Short Breaks team or from the downloadable documents on the Short Breaks web page www.hounslow.gov.uk/shortbreaks which ideally the young person will then need to complete (where possible) or with help from an adult. Young people can attach a picture, film, photo or other media to the application form if required to express or support their idea.

Applications will be then presented to the Decisions R Us Panel who will make a decision about each application.



Decisions R Us Panel Date

13 January 2027 – deadline for applications Friday 8 January

If you have any queries, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.



October half term 2026 activities

Redlees and Reflections Play Centres

Sunday Sessions Drop-In – 10am to 2pm

Families **do not** need to book the sessions at Redlees and Reflections on a Sunday - these are drop-in sessions. **Please bring your child's UIN with you.**

See below dates for the Sunday sessions at the Redlees and Reflections play centres up to the end of December 2026:

October 2026

4 October	Redlees
11 October	Reflections
18 October	Redlees
25 October	Reflections

November 2026

1 November	Redlees
8 November	Reflections
15 November	Redlees
22 November	Reflections
29 November	Redlees

December 2026

6 December	Reflections
13 December	Redlees
20 December	Reflections
27 December	Closed

Redlees and Reflections Play Centres

For those that are new to Short Breaks, Redlees and Reflections are two play centres in the borough that have been adapted for children with disabilities with adapted play equipment, sensory rooms etc.

Both venues are safe and secure. Family groups are welcome.

Please note that Play team staff have the right to refuse entry should numbers within the centres reach their capacity.

Redlees Play Centre

Worton Road, Isleworth, TW7 7DW (the play centre is in the corner of the Redlees Park car park (accessed via Worton Road) which is next to the outdoor courts.



Look for a purple sign with 'Redlees Play Centre' – there is secure access so you will need to buzz the staff to let you in.

Reflections Play Centre

c/o Hounslow Urban Farm, Faggs Road, Feltham TW14 0LZ – the centre is next door to the entrance of the Urban Farm.



If you have any queries, please call 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre – NO NEED TO BOOK!

You will need to bring your child's UIN with you and book in with us when you get to the leisure centre before you go into the pool.

Depending on how many families come along, we may have to manage how many are in the pool at any one time so please bear with us and the Lampton Leisure team on the day.

Family Swim – Drop-In Session

Exclusive Short Breaks swimming sessions at Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre have been arranged for:

Wednesday 28 October

Time: 9–11.30am

Please note that all children must be supervised in the pool – Brentford's Pool Admissions Policy is a ratio of one adult to two children under the age of 8. If you are bringing more than two children under the age of 8, there must be two adults in the pool with them.

Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre

658 Chiswick High Road, Brentford TW8 0H

To find out more information please ring the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636 or e-mail: shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk.



Pool Party – Drop In Session

Come and join us for a dip and a dance! A pool party has been organised for:

Friday 30 October

Time: 5-7pm

Please note that all children must be supervised in the pool – Brentford's Pool Admissions Policy is a ratio of one adult to two children under the age of 8. If you are bringing more than two children under the age of 8, there must be two adults in the pool with them.

Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre

658 Chiswick High Road, Brentford TW8 0HJ

To find out more information please ring the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636 or e-mail: shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



Services Throughout The Year

Music Therapy – Richmond Music Trust



Richmond Music Trust are offering a slightly adjusted programme to children and families offering both direct contact music therapy sessions and online sessions.

Our online music therapy programme during the summer has been very popular and we have received some lovely feedback from families, which showed clearly that music therapy via video link can really work well for some children. Therapists and parents have been amazed about how effective children can engage in online music therapy accessing one to one and group sessions. As we are still unable to use our usual premises at the Hub, we have decided to offer a mixed programme offering both **online sessions** as well as **direct contact** sessions.

Online Music Therapy Programme on Saturdays

Sessions will be a little different but our therapist Sara Cole will create a fun and child-centred experience including shared musical activities, singing and games. These sessions will be uniquely tailored to your child's needs, choices and ability. We have vacancies for weekly one to one sessions and vacancies in weekly small group session.

Sessions will need to be attended jointly with a parent, carer or sibling so that your child is supported to maintain engagement. If you have musical instruments at home these can be used and the therapists will also provide you with ideas of how to use household items for sound production.

This programme is open to children from Pathway 2 & 3. We accept referrals from those that would like to try out this mode of engagement or continue on from the summer programme.

How does it work?

All you need is a computer (PC or MAC), tablet or Ipad and a reasonably stable internet connection. You will need to install the free Zoom application and we will send you all the info of how to do this. **If you need any help, Joanna Dawson from Hounslow Short Breaks or Andreas Rosenboom from Richmond Music Trust are available to help if required.**



Direct Contact Music Therapy Sessions on Saturdays at Richmond Music Trust, Twickenham, TW2 6RB

The Trust also offers sessions from their premises in Twickenham, TW2 6RB and therapist Muhamad Badry will be offering sessions on Saturdays between 10 and 4pm. We will adhere to social distancing and have a variety of measures in place to assure Covid Safety.

How do I enrol?

Please contact us if you wish your child to access the music therapy programme, by emailing: musictherapy@richmondmusictrust.org.uk

Please let us know if you wish to access the online or the direct contact option.



Services Throughout The Year

Heathrow Gymnastics Club – Play Gym

This service is only available to children registered with Short Breaks up to the age of 7 and up to 130cm in height on pathways 2 and 3.



You can use this service throughout the year, not just in the holidays!

Please note that on arrival parents are required to fill in a registration sheet which will be asked for basic information about their disabled child, including their disability and UIN number. Short Breaks will only pay for the disabled child – any siblings or friends will need to be paid for by the parent/carer.

The play gym sessions are open to children on pathway 2 and 3 up to 7 years old or 130cm (4 feet, 2 inches). Brothers and sisters are welcome to attend but will need to be paid for by the family. Session times below.

There is no need to book the sessions but arrive promptly to make sure you can access the session.

Heathrow Gymnastics Club, Green Lane, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW4 6DH

To find out more information, please ring the Short Breaks team: 020 8583 3636 or email shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk



Monday - Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10am – 11am	9.30am – 10.30am	Closed
11am – 12pm	10.30am – 11.30pm	
12pm – 1pm		
1pm – 2pm		
2pm – 3pm		
3pm – 4pm		

Congratulations...

If you have any good news stories, let Short Breaks know and we will publish it in future newsletters.

Please call us on 020 8583 3636.



Childminding – 24 Hours Free Childminding Service



The Short Breaks Service will pay for an introductory 24 hours childminding free. This is an opportunity for you and the childminder to start building a long-term supportive relationship for your child.

A registered childminder is a person who looks after children in the childminder's own home.

Registered childminders are found on the Hounslow Family Services Directory at www.hounslow.gov.uk/childcare. Select the search for childminders button and choose your area. You will see a list of childminders and will need to click on each name to see their full profile.

Some childminders may have listed specific experience they have in caring for children with a particular special need/disability. From this information, it's advisable you then contact the childminder to see if they can accommodate your child's individual

needs along with the hours and days you are looking for.

Once you have found someone who meets your needs, call the Short Breaks team who will organise payment of the first 24 hours directly with the childminder. It will then be down to you to continue any ongoing payments with the childminder for further care.

- Your family/child must be registered with Short Breaks to use this service
- Your child must meet level of need pathway 2 or 3
- Once the 24 hours introductory offer is over, it is your responsibility to continue paying for the service.

For more information or to discuss organising your childminding, please call the Short Breaks team on 020 8583 3636.





**Should you require this Newsletter
in a format other than English please
contact the Short Breaks team on
020 8583 3636 or email:
shortbreaks@hounslow.gov.uk**

**Children with Disabilities Social
Work Team, Safeguarding and
Specialist Services**

London Borough of Hounslow
Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road,
Hounslow TW3 3EB
Telephone: 020 8583 3636

www.hounslow.gov.uk

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