



News and information across Dorset (and beyond) for children who are disabled and their families and carers

Short-breaks for May half-term

It looks like bright times are ahead, as restrictions are beginning to lift and the days become warmer. After such a challenging year, It's key that we all remember the importance of short breaks.

Short breaks allow you to spend some time apart from your child so you can have a break, and your children can enjoy some new experiences and have fun.

Remember, you can search for short breaks and other activities taking place this half-term on the Family Information Directory.

Search for activities here



You are receiving this newsletter because you have registered as a member of The Xchange network for Dorset families with children who are disabled or because you have asked to receive a copy. If you no longer wish to be registered with The Xchange or to receive the newsletter, please send us an email with your details and marked 'unsubscribe me' to info@xchangeonline.co.uk

Dorset Outdoor Education Service

Short Breaks June 2021

The Dorset Outdoor Education Service is running a range of fun activity days for 7 -17 year olds with mild to moderate disabilities.

Information for parents/carers

Sessions will run from 10am to 2.30 pm (please bring own lunch, snack and refillable water bottle). Groups will be small, no more than 6 per day, and there will be one tutor to three children. All our staff are trained in first aid and all activities are fully risk assessed. All sites are suitable for visitors in wheel chairs and have an accessible toilet.

Camp Fire Fun -Carey Outdoor Education Centre, Wareham

Wednesday 2nd June ages 12—17 years

Try your hand at archery on one of our woodland ranges. Then fire lighting followed by some camp fire cooking.



Water Sports Adventure - Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre

Friday 4rd June ages 7—17 years

Learn new skills on the water with our paddle sport activities followed by centre based challenges and activities. (Wet suits provided)

Booking

Each activity day costs £6 per participant. Please get in touch if you have difficulty paying as we want all families to have the opportunity to book. Refunds can only be made if you cancel more than one week prior to the day, or if we have to cancel. Please call 01929 552265 to book.

What happens if the activity I want is full?

We have a waiting list and if someone cancels we will offer the space to someone else!

How to find out about what's on!

- Join our mailing list to get our leaflets directly- call **01929 552265**.
- Find information in the Xchange newsletter.
- You can also find out more from the Family Information Directory.

Family Information Directory



Climbing and Team Challenge -Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre

Thursday 3rd June ages 7—11 years

Enjoy an adventurous day climbing on our traverse wall and 6.5m rock tower. Have fun and work as a team to solve exciting challenges!



How to get involved !

Call us to find out about what is on and how we can support your child. You can tell us which activities you'd like to book. After we have confirmed a space you will be e-mailed an online booking and consent form. Once we have this we will e-mail all the information you need for the day and the online payment link (£6 per child per day, but please let us know if this is tricky).

THE Remix & Premix

The Remix are recruiting!

The Remix is an inclusive performance group who meet monthly in Weymouth and Verwood. We are on the lookout for young people aged 12- 18 years who like to perform. We are just about to start rehearsals for our next production which will be taking place as part of the Inside Out Dorset Festival in September. The Remix welcomes young people of all abilities, and we have a team of support staff to ensure that everyone can take part. The Remix is funded by Dorset Council's Short Breaks initiative and Children in Need.

For more information about the group and previous shows have a look at the Activate Performing Arts website

Find out more



How to get involved and join the fun

Our Short Breaks Team is ready to hear from you - we've got lots of activities up for grabs across Coping with CHAOS, Project My Time, Awesome Nights and STARS and would love to have you as part of it.

Coping with CHAOS

Support for the whole family giving all children equal access to play together, as well as a network of parents.

Awesome Nights

A youth club for those aged 13 - 18 every Wednesday evening, let's let teenagers, be teenagers.

Project My Time

Holiday activities for children and young people, allowing them to develop social skills, confidence, and independence.

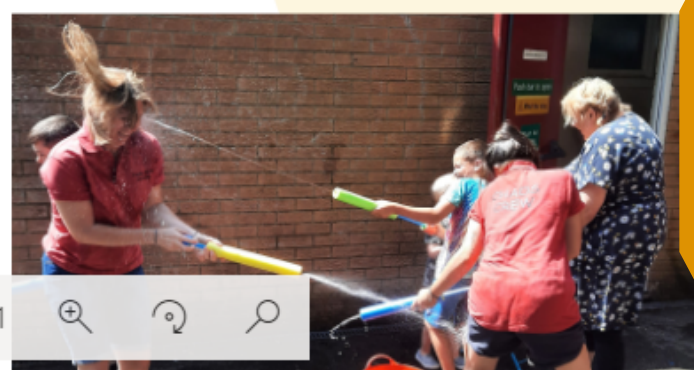
STARS

Especially for SEN siblings, providing support, advice, and time to be themselves.

Well, how do we get involved?

Head to diverseabilities.org.uk/children to get an overview of our services and fill in our registration forms. All our services are open for self-referral to those in Dorset Council postcodes, with those in BCP also able to self-refer for Coping with CHAOS, Project and STARS.

chaos@diverseabilities.org.uk | 01202 718238



COPING WITH CHAOS



MAY HALF TERM 2021

Mon 31st May

Become a Bubbleologist!

Come and join us for a fun filled morning of bubble play and experiments and become a bubbleologist!

The Families Centre, Bond Avenue, West Moors, BH22 0LL

9am - 12pm

Quiter Yoga Bubble session followed by Quiet Just Play

A relaxed afternoon where children can experiment with bubbles during a sensory yoga style session. Children will then have chance for free-flow activities in a quieter environment.

The Families Centre, Bond Avenue, West Moors, BH22 0LL

1pm - 4pm

Tues 1st June

Zorbing

Climbing inside a giant inflatable ball and roll around the field.

Also access to play park and trampolines.

Minimum age: 10 years old

9am - 11am

Bush Craft

Fun filled session of fire lighting, shelter building, and survival skills. Also access to play park and trampolines.

11:30am - 1:30pm

Archery

Come along and test how good your aim is at our archery session. Also access to play park and trampolines.

Minimum age: 8 years old

2pm - 4pm



All sessions at: Butchers Coppice Activity Centre, Holloway Avenue, Bournemouth, BH11 9JW

Weds 2nd June

Pamper day and fashion show!

Join us for a creative session where there will be the chance to make pamper items such as face masks, bath bombs and soap.

We will also be having a little fashion show on the stage so please bring clothing changes and even make up if your children would like to join in.

Durweston Village Hall, Church Road, Durweston, Blandford Forum, DT11 0QA

10am - 3pm



Thurs 3rd June

Upton Country Park

Join us for a morning at Upton Country Park. Will you choose to go in the play park, or possibly on a mini beast hunt in the woods?

9am - 12pm

Upton Country Park

Join us for an afternoon at Upton Country Park. Will you choose to go in the play park, or possibly for a walk down to the stream? You could even bring a picnic!

Both sessions:
Upton Country Park, Poole Road, Upton, Poole, BH17 7BJ

1pm - 4pm

Lemur Landings

Private hire of Lemur Landings Soft Play venue.
PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Lemur Landings, Tower Park, Poole, BH12 4NY

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fri 4th June

Nerf battle survival

Which team will win? An exciting day where children will get in to teams, build huge forts to be their base and then battle it out to be champions with our nerf gun sets.

If the weather is good enough we may even get out the water balloons for the battle and also the slip and slide!

Durweston Village Hall, Church Road, Durweston, Blandford Forum, DT11 0QA



10am - 3pm

West Dorset Play Opportunities

Thurs 3rd June

10am - 12pm
OR
1pm - 3pm

Tue 1st June

10am - 12pm
OR
1pm - 3pm

Information for all session

Location:

Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre, Knightsdale Road, Weymouth, DT4 0HS

To book sessions please contact Lesley on 01305 834533
on Wednesday 26th May 10am - 12noon ONLY

Due to the impact of Covid-19 on how we run our services we can only support a limited number of families on each session to ensure we maintain social distancing regulations where possible. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Weekends: June - July 2021

Saturday sessions

Saturday 12th June
Saturday 26th June
Saturday 10th July
Saturday 24th July

Sunday sessions

Sunday 6th June
Sunday 20th June
Sunday 4th July
Sunday 18th July

Information for all session

The Families Centre, Bond Avenue, West Moors, BH22 0LL

10am - 2:30pm

Access to sensory room, cinema room, soft play room, games consoles and a variety of toys.

No 1 to 1 staff available - limited staff on sessions to assist where needed.

Short-breaks



Have fun on the farm

Outdoor short break sessions for young people
Aged 8 – 18 Years with SEND

We run holiday clubs and After-School Clubs at
our farm near Sherborne

Rylands Farm (near Sherborne)

Meet the animals, have fun, play outdoor games and try different arts and crafts.

**Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd,
Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th June**
10am – 2pm
£10.00 per session



To book email office@futureroots.net or call **01963 210703**

We always like to meet any young person before we take any sessional bookings, so if you are new to us, please call to arrange a visit and then get a consent form sent to you.

Experienced staffing to support young people to attend without a parent / carer is available.
Call Naomi 01963 210703 for more information and to book a place



THE CHATTERBOXES
PART OF YMCA BOURNEMOUTH

YMCA

ARE YOU A CHATTERBOX?

If you are aged **11-18**,
live in Dorset and
want to **make new**
friends then this is
the project for you.

The Chatterboxes is a
youth action project run
by disabled young people
who want to make a difference.

The Chatterbox Project
in Wimborne would
like to invite you to
join our youth
group; currently
available
online.

We are also offering 1:1
support for young people who
struggle with using online platforms

For more information please contact Poppy Sargeant
07827848479 or email poppy.sargeant@ymcabournemouth.org.uk

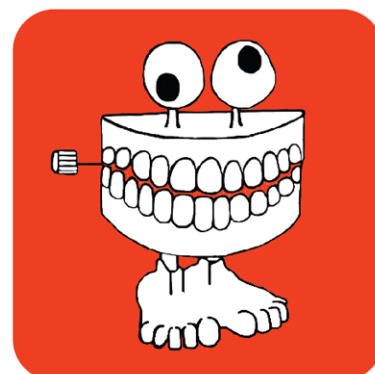


Monday's
Online session
from
6-7.30pm



If you would like to
find out more about
project, then please
click check out a
video which young
people who attend the
project created to
explain more:

Watch now



Short-breaks



Facebook: @chatterboxes



Instagram: @The_Chatterboxes



Twitter: @Chat_boxes

Some useful links from the Contact charity website about common concerns for parent/carers.

“Is your child having difficulty meeting certain milestones? It is never too early to seek help or advice.

It can be very difficult to decide whether your child is just slow in developing and will catch up or whether you need to ask for help. For some children, getting help early can make a real difference, and there are lots of different people who can help.”

On the pages linked below you'll find tip and hints so you can support different areas of your child's development:

[Behaviour that challenges
Helping you and your child sleep
Feeding and eating
Potty and toilet training
Speech, learning and movement](#)

1-1 Listening Ear service

You might be struggling emotionally and looking for strategies to help you cope. Or maybe you just need to talk to someone who understands the extra challenges you face and who can point you in the right direction to get the support you need for your family.

To help, we offer 1-1 telephone appointments with a family support adviser for parent carers looking for a listening ear, reassurance and practical and emotional support.

Making an appointment is simple: [Visit our Eventbrite page](#), choose the day (morning, afternoon or evening), and when you register choose the time slot you want. Appointments are regularly updated and are subject to availability.

Book a free appointment

Carer Support Dorset supports unpaid carers of all ages across the Dorset Council area with information, advice and guidance on all things carer-related.

As well as being able to register, receive the Carers Card and regular newsletters, we run virtual cuppa sessions, giving carers chance to speak to others in similar circumstances and listen to an exciting array of guest speakers.

Our ‘Here to Talk’ befriending service helps reduce social isolation by pairing carers with one of our volunteers for regular phone calls.

We also run regular training workshops on a number of themes such as mental health and emotional resilience.

To find out more, or to register with our service, please contact us on 0800 368 8349, email admin@carersupportdorset.co.uk or visit

[Carer Support Dorset website](#)

Home-Visiting Volunteers

Home-Start West Dorset is a local charity supporting families with children under 5 through the use of Home-Visiting Volunteers. Families may need practical and emotional support for reasons such as disability, isolation, relationship breakdown, mental ill health or maybe they are just finding the parenting journey a struggle.

Contact us today to find out more.

**Office@homestartwestdorset.co.uk
01305 265072**



[About our Local Offer](#)

Information about our Local Offering Dorset including strategies and plans.

Dorset Council's Local Offer is for children and young people from 0 to 25 years with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) they provide information, advice and support for children and their families.

[Click here to sign up for Dorset Council's SEND Newsletter](#)

[Education and Learning](#)

Getting the right support for children and young people with SEND.

[Transport](#)

Find out about the transport support available for children with SEND.

[Activities](#)

Details of activities, short breaks and events in Dorset for children and young people with SEND and their families.

[Children's social care](#)

Support advice and guidance for families of disabled children

[Childcare](#)

Childcare information and support for children with SEND and their families.

[Preparing for Adulthood](#)

Preparing for adulthood- information and support for young people with SEND and their families.

[Services to help support your child](#)

Find information about services in Dorset to help you and your family.

[Money](#)

Funding available to children and young people with SEND and their families

[Health](#)

Health information and support for children and young people with SEND and their families

[I think my child may have SEN or a disability](#)

Who to talk to and where to find help.

[Give us your feedback](#)

Give feedback about any part of our SEND offering.

[Make a complaint](#)

Complain about a service you have received from the council or other organisations.

[You said, we did](#)

Feedback that you have given us and what we've done because of your comments.

[Safety and wellbeing](#)

I want to report a child protection concern.

[Get help for my family](#)

Help when you need it.

The Dorset Max Card App explained!

Why did we do it?

Families told us that they wanted to be able to find Max Card venues quickly and easily when they were planning to go out. Or even while they were out already. Some families said that they didn't know where to find out this information or didn't want to print off a list and carry it with them.

So, we developed the FREE Dorset Max Card App.

But, what is it?

The Dorset Max Card app. is an online list of all the venues that are signed up to the Dorset Max Card scheme. As an app it means you can use it on smartphones, tablets, laptops or P.C.s. It is available on Windows, Apple and Android phones. You can also use it on any browser with internet access.

What does it do?

Our app lets you see where you can go and the concessions that you and your child get by using your Dorset Max Card. Look at the categories it covers and at this detailed entry example for Lemur Landings...

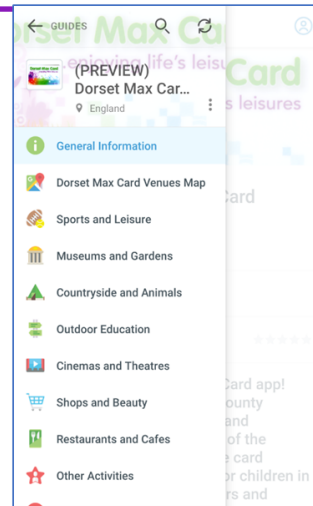
It's also full of contact details and websites as well as having a super helpful link to Google Maps so you can find your way to new and exciting places!

We update the app information regularly to make it the most up-to-date way of finding out where to make the most of your Dorset Max Card.

Where do I get it?

You can download or use the online version of the Guide by following this link: <https://guidebook.com/guide/76355/>

To see how to download the app on Android and Apple devices go to our website: <https://>



Click on the links below to visit the App in its

Website form:



[Sports and Leisure](#)



[Museums and Gardens](#)



[Countryside and Animals](#)



[Outdoor education](#)



[Cinemas and Theatres](#)



[Shops and Beauty](#)



[Restaurants and Cafes](#)



[Other Activities](#)



[More to Do and See](#)



We can't guarantee that the venue details are completely up to date. Please ensure that you call and check that they still offer the concessions before visiting any venue.

You are invited to a LIVE online briefing session about plans to create more specialist education provision for Dorset

Please join Theresa Leavy, Dorset Council Executive Director for Children and Vik Verma (Director of Education from June 2021).

We would like to talk about our five-year [plan](#) to create more provision for children and young people with special educational needs or disability and our SEND Strategy.

Following our recent SEND Survey this is a further opportunity for you to have a say, and to help us shape our plans.

When are the LIVE online sessions?

To listen and to share your thoughts, or to ask questions please use one of following links:

Thursday 13 May from 6.30 pm.

**Join the LIVE session by
clicking this link.**

Friday 14 May from 9.30 am.

**Join the LIVE session by
clicking this link.**

Can't make these dates or times?

We hope you can join us, but don't worry if you can't, we will share a recording of the briefing afterwards.

Also joining Theresa and Vik will be Kath Saunders, Head of Locality & Strategy and Miriam Leigh, Principal Educational Psychologist.

New school and centre of excellence will go-ahead.

We are delighted to let families know that plans for a new SEND school were approved by councillors last month (29/4). The new school has fantastic facilities and will hopefully welcome around 280 pupils next year – we are working hard to progress these bold plans quickly.

Families may know that the site near Shaftesbury was operating as a private school (St Mary's) until last summer – despite appearances much of the site has modern facilities. Councillors made the important decision to use the site to deliver high quality education for Dorset children and young people with SEND, after carefully considering the views of local people, who overwhelmingly said it should continue to be used for education.

We will keep you updated on these plans and we will share information as soon as we can about how to find out if it might suit your family.

Find out more

We are making changes to support young people's next steps

From 1 August, Dorset Council will have a new service to reduce the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training when their full time education ends at age 16. This will take over some of the work we contract [Ansbury Guidance](#) to deliver, as their service will end on 31 July.

For now, young people can continue to use Ansbury and then they will transfer to our new service. We'll be in touch with them to explain how this will work.

If you have any questions about your young person's future please contact your school or up to 31 July you can still [contact Ansbury](#).