



Good Outcomes Positive Futures

Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service

Family Information Pack

Vision Impairment



Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service is hosted by Achieving for Children on behalf of RBWM as part of the Berkshire Joint Agreement between RBWM, Slough, Bracknell Forest, Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire.

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Welcome to Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service Parent Information Pack

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child will recently have been diagnosed with a vision impairment and referred to Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service (SCS) for support from a Teacher of the Vision Impaired.

We recognise that this is a difficult time for families and hope that the information in this pack will help you understand more about vision impairment, its educational implications and how we can support you as a family. You may not want to read it from cover to cover immediately; it is there for you to refer to and to provide you with information as and when you need it.

Head of SCS	Jane Peters	07887 540921
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General Enquiries	Olivia Greasley	01628 796786

You can find out more about us on:

- Our website - <http://berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk>
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/berksscs/>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/berksscs>

To view how Berkshire Sensory Consortium collect, use, retain and disclose personal information about you and your child please visit our website:

<https://www.berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk/privacy-notice/>

Your child has been allocated a Teacher of the Vision Impaired (QTVI) from Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service (SCS).

Your Sensory Consortium Service Teacher will be able to:

- Provide support, information and advice for the family.
- Help with provision of visual stimulation programmes.
- Be a link to other professionals which may include attending outpatient appointments with the family where requested.
- Attend joint assessments with other professionals, i.e. Speech and Language therapists.
- Liaise with nursery schools on transition into education and writing of reports for Education providers including Education, Health and Care Plans where appropriate.
- Provide 1:1 teaching in the home or nursery school environment.
- Assess and teach Habilitation skills.
- Carry out environmental audits of the home or nursery environment.
- Assist with provision, maintenance, use and evaluation of specialist equipment.

1. Information about Berkshire Sensory Consortium Service

Specialist Education Support Service for

- Deafness / Hearing loss
- Vision Impairment
- Multi-Sensory Impairment

A joint arrangement between all Local Authorities within Berkshire

- Bracknell Forest Borough Council
- Reading Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
- Slough Borough Council
- West Berkshire Council
- Wokingham Borough Council

The arrangement is hosted by Achieving for Children on behalf of RBWM.

Referral to the Sensory Consortium Service can be by medical professionals or schools.

All referred children with vision impairment are visited at the earliest possible opportunity. We may see children from birth and throughout full-time Local Authority education.

As a specialist service, our role is to:

- Assess the functional vision of a child diagnosed with a vision impairment.
- Support and provide information for families of pre-school children on strategies for increasing functional vision or using tactile and other senses if necessary.
- Liaise with families and share views and ideas with them.
- Support and provide information to enable the child to access the curriculum and give advice about safety issues in schools.
- Give in-class teaching support when appropriate.
- To provide specialist teaching as required i.e. Braille, specialist IT equipment

- Write reports for the Education, Health and Care Plan if required and contribute to Annual Reviews.
- Liaise with other involved professionals.

The Sensory Consortium Service provides qualified experienced specialist staff who are always willing to discuss parental concerns about the visual difficulties of their children. Please do not hesitate to contact your designated Teacher of Vision Impaired Children in these circumstances, so that any concerns can be addressed as soon as possible.

The Sensory Consortium Service also organises a pre school group called Busy Bees for vision impaired babies and toddlers for families in Berkshire.



2. Pre-schools programme

Early Support Materials

The revised and updated Early Support resources can be freely accessed from <http://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/our-work>
Hard copies are no longer available from DfE Publications.

Information Resources

The Early Support information resources describe, discuss and explore either a specific condition/disability or more general information that parents, carers and young people may find useful to know. Areas covered are:

- Behaviour

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- If your child has a rare condition
- Childcare
- People you may meet
- Useful contacts
- General information
- Living without a diagnosis
- Multi-sensory impairments
- Neurological Disorders
- Speech Language and Communication Needs
- Sleep
- Deafness and Hearing Loss
- Looking after yourself as a Parent
- Cerebral Palsy
- Learning Disabilities
- Downs Syndrome

Vision Impairment RNIB A Guide for Parents

Developmental Journals

The Early Support Developmental Journal

The Journal for vision impaired children can be obtained from your QTVI.

Home Teaching Programme

A qualified teacher for children with a vision impairment is available to you to work at home with you and your child. In consultation with yourselves, the teacher will devise an individualised teaching programme. This may include an early vision stimulation programme and preparation for school or nursery. The Developmental Journal for children with Vision Impairment is used in partnership with parents of children 1-3 years to support their development during these early years.

Habilitation Programme

A Habilitation Specialist may be available to work with your family and your child to help when appropriate. The programme will look at how best to help your child move safely and independently around familiar and less familiar environments.

Parent Programme

The Service offers workshops for parents of newly diagnosed children with a vision impairment.

Information about national and regional parent events and organisations are passed on to you.

Record Keeping and Liaison

All records are accessible and available to carers as specified by data protection regulations and service policy. We always discuss any formal report with yourselves prior to circulation.

We plan and evaluate our teaching programmes with you and value the partnership approach which ensures that we learn as well as contribute to learning. It is our view that the parents/carers are the experts about their child.

We hold multi-professional meetings where we seek to share ideas and exchange information about the different services and plan how best to coordinate our support for your child/young person. Our reports are shared with you and your comments included as well as your presence at such meetings.

In some cases a professional or a parent may request an individual case meeting. In these cases, parents/carers are always essential participants.

Education, Health and Care Plans

All children and young people can be referred to us following a confirmed diagnosis of a vision impairment. A number of children may require additional support above what the Service routinely is able to offer and therefore may move to having a multiprofessional assessment which is a more formal assessment which may lead to having a Educational, Health and Care Plan. This can usually happen in time for nursery or school entry when additional support is required. Parents/carers are fully involved in the process, decisions and discussions about the needs of your child and we will ensure that we provide all of the information at an early stage to help you .

Our Promise:

- To provide qualified, specialist staff.
- To deliver the support plan we make with you to the best of our ability.
- To respect your skills, knowledge and views.
- To offer support as well as ideas.
- To share all our written reports with you.
- To actively listen to any concerns you have and take appropriate action.

- To let you know as soon as we know if a member of staff is ill or an appointment needs to be changed.

We ask you:

- To help us plan the support programme.
- To share your ideas and views with us.
- To let us know what things work well and what things don't.
- To provide a safe and quiet place for our work with you at home.
- To take a full and active part in all our sessions.
- To keep a diary of all your appointments so that we can arrange sessions at times and dates that suit you.
- To let us know as soon as you know if you need to cancel or change an appointment.

As a Specialist Service our role is to:

- Share ideas and experience.
- Contribute to the resources available to your family.
- Work in partnership with yourselves and other services involved.
- Offer real and practical support.
- Offer specialist education programmes.

3. Specialist Habilitation Provision

A Habilitation Specialist is someone who teaches children with a vision impairment to get themselves safely from A to B as well as teaching independent living skills. The Sensory Consortium Service has two members of the vision impairment team who have additional specialist qualifications in the teaching of mobility and orientation skills (Habilitation).

The Habilitation Specialist works with pupils at each educational stage:

- Pre school
- Primary
- Secondary
- Further Education

At each stage, the use of an appropriate mobility aids such as a long cane, symbol or “hoople” is considered and where necessary, appropriate training given. Personal safety is considered very important at all levels.

Age appropriate independent living skills are taught at each stage and advice given to parents and settings.

Pre School

Advice is provided for parents to help them encourage their child to move around confidently and independently. Frequent visits may not be required but once the child is mobile may vary from weekly to yearly depending on the degree of visual loss, visual functioning or any other additional needs. Many skills which contribute to safe navigation are learned at this age and advice is always given on an individual basis.

Primary Level

Habilitation training is normally provided for pupils at infant schools when they have more severe or profound vision impairment. An environmental assessment of the school site for safety as well as teaching actual routes for the pupil and specific mobility skills may be provided. Advice may also be given to school staff.

Continued training for children with severe/profound vision impairment may be given throughout junior school. It may include advice to parents who have particular concerns regarding their child’s increased independence, e.g. crossing the road.

Secondary Level

Habilitation training might be used to help the pupil with vision impairment to learn the layout of the school. One common fear of all pupils going to secondary school is the fear of getting lost! A little bit of extra time spent with a vision impaired pupil can usually help to allay these fears. If at least they know where to go to on the first morning and where the toilets are, it is a big help. Independent travel to school may become necessary at this stage and the Habilitation Specialist might be involved in assessing the safety of the route, the skills of the pupil and providing training where necessary.

Pupils with less severe vision impairment often benefit from a Habilitation Assessment and mobility training. Training often involves the use of public transport so the young person can go and meet their peers in town at the weekend, go to the library or go shopping on their own if they want to.

Habilitation training might also be used to develop confidence and independent travel to work experience placements. Being able to get to work is part of the whole experience and for some young people with vision impairment this can be very daunting.



4. Pre-School Groups For Children With Vision Impairment

BUSY BEES



The Sensory Consortium Service runs a pre-school group for children with vision impairment called 'Busy Bees' which covers all of Berkshire.

The 'Busy Bees' Group meets fortnightly in the Building for the Future premises, called 'Our House', at Toutley Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 1QN. 'Our House' has a dark sensory room and a wide range of equipment and play areas, which all the children can enjoy.

The session lasts from 10 a.m. until midday. The session begins with a general play time using all the facilities and resources the building offers, followed by a whole group activity, singing songs. We provide refreshments for the parents and their children as well as the opportunity to undertake a craft activity.

For families in the East of Berkshire, pre-school pupils with vision impairment may attend the Sensory Consortium Service 'Chatty Monkeys' Pre-Schools Group Tuesday mornings 9.15am to 11am at Chalvey Nursery School, Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough. SL1 2SR.

Families in the West of Berkshire may find Chatty Monkeys at Swings and Smiles more convenient. It's held on Friday lunchtimes from 1-2.30pm at 'A Place to Play', Lower Way, Thatcham.

Further information can be found on our website <https://www.berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk/chatty-monkeys-and-busy-bees> / from either your own VI teacher or from Nicoleta Carnuta on 07823 533019.

Both sessions are relaxed and friendly. Any child with a vision impairment is welcome to attend, and this includes children who have any vision impairment from mild to profound, as well as children who have complex needs. Often siblings and extended family such as grandparents will also come along and join in the activities.

5. Multi-Agency Working

The Sensory Consortium Service recognise the importance of multi-agency working and are partners with other professionals from:

- Health
- Social Services
- Education
- Voluntary Organisations

We aim to provide a family friendly service as outlined in the DfE Quality Standards for Education Support Services for Children and Young People with a Vision Impairment.

In order to achieve this we:

- Hold an annual Multi-Agency Day involving professionals and parents to look at how we can provide better support and joint working.
- Have joint clinics and regular meetings with colleagues in Health from both the Royal Berkshire and King Edward VII Hospitals. We also have named liaison community links with the London Hospitals Great Ormond Street and Moorfields as well as Oxford.
- Joint support plans and assessment with a range of professionals, for example, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, early years teachers.
- Twice yearly PPAC (parents and professional around the child) meetings can be arranged. These may include attendance by Health, Social Services, other education professionals and the Education Authority as appropriate to the child's needs.
- We provide training for other Health and Education professionals.
- Regular liaison with Social Services.

6. Informed Choice

- The Sensory Consortium Service (SCS) is an Education Service employed by your Local Authority. As such, it is committed to the Local Authority Policy of Inclusion.
- SCS teachers should:
 - share their expertise with you about sensory needs.
 - be clear about what they can provide and what preferences and choices it may be more difficult to obtain.
 - support you in making the right decisions and expressing preferences and choices for your child and family.
 - assist you with any changes over time which may influence your preferences and choices.
- Your SCS teacher will provide you with information about arrangements for supporting your child's special educational needs.
- The Local Authority will always seek to provide support in the local community for your child unless this is not feasible in fully meeting your child's needs.
- Your SCS teacher will assist you in making contact with your local Information Support and Advice Services (formerly parent partnership) as well as a meeting with the local Special Needs Department to discuss preferences and choices where required.
- "Early Support – Helping you Choose. Making Informed Choices for you and your Child" published by the DfE is available from your SCS teacher or directly from DfE publications. Tel. 0845 602 2260.

There are different types of Educational Provision for children with Vision Impairment. All children who have a sensory impairment will have different needs but they in common with their peers should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

Pre School Setting and Mainstream Schools

This is often the preferred choice of parents and children who want to attend the local school with their friends.

A mainstream pre school setting will offer the Foundation Curriculum which complements the National Curriculum. A mainstream school will offer the National Curriculum to a child with a sensory impairment making reasonable adjustments where necessary, which might include an appropriate level of additional adult support. Where appropriate an Education, Health and Care Plan will indicate the outcomes expected and the type and level of support provided to meet these outcomes.



The support where appropriate, may include teachers and specialist support assistants with additional experience and/or qualifications for working with children and young people with sensory impairment. All schools are offered in-service and training for staff. Individual teaching programmes are provided as necessary.

Resource Base

In addition to the above a qualified teacher for children with a vision impairment (QTVI) or teacher of the deaf (ToD) will be part of the school staff and therefore there is likely to be a higher level of access to specialist teaching and specific pastoral care programmes. (See section 13)

Special School

When a mainstream school or resource base is unable to meet the child's needs, a special school may be considered.

Some special schools support children with learning difficulties. Where the child also has a sensory impairment, additional inputs will be offered in the same way as for mainstream schools.

Specialist schools for sensory impairment often require some residence because of low incidence of need and thus few schools offering this type of provision. Special schools can offer a greater extended curriculum which may include a significant element of self help and independence skills. Class sizes tend to be smaller with more specialist staff and children have the opportunity to meet and work alongside others with similar disabilities. They also generally offer on-site provision of physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and other professional services deemed necessary.

Attendance at such schools may mean that the child is at a distance from the family and local community and issues sometimes arise when transition to the wider community has to take place at the end of schooling.

Special schools in Berkshire are:

Local Authority	School	Website
Bracknell	Kennel Lane	www.kennellaneschool.com
Reading	The Avenue	http://www.avenue.reading.sch.uk
RBWM	Manor Green	www.manorgreenschool.co.uk
Slough	Arbour Vale	http://arbourvale.slough.sch.uk
West Berkshire	Castle	www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk
	Brookfields	http://brookfieldsschool.org/
Wokingham	Addington	http://addington.schooljotter2.com/

7. Resourced School

There is only one Resourced School within Berkshire for children with vision impairment. It is a secondary school only.

Highdown Academy

Emmer Green
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 8LR

<https://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/>

The Vision Impairment Resource supports the inclusion at Highdown of students who have a vision impairment.

Students are included as much as possible in mainstream lessons, although they receive 1-1 tuition for additional skills such as Braille and the use of access technology according to their needs. The Resource aims to ensure effective learning and to promote independence by equipping the students with the necessary skills to achieve this on leaving school.

Support offered to students includes:

- In-class support
- Individual teaching in the Resource Centre
- Work in small groups
- Adaptation of texts to large print, Braille, audio and electronic formats
- Individual tuition in key skills such as touch-typing and Braille
- A quiet working space
- Equipment to enable access such as cameras, magnifiers and screen readers

Students are supported by visits from a QTVI (qualified teacher for children with vision impairments) experienced in inclusion within a mainstream setting, aided by a team of specialist teaching assistants. Students also benefit from access to a qualified children's habilitation specialist and specialist careers advice.

Outside class students are fully included in any activities they wish to do, and also take part in activities for young people with vision impairments (recent activities have included a visit to an audio-described theatre performance and clubs for cricket and goalball).

The Resource accommodates up to 8 students who have an Education Health and Care plan for a vision impairment.

Please contact Mrs Arnold (Head of SENCO) if you have any questions or concerns. You can phone on 0118 9015800 or email [hj@highdown.reading.sch.uk](mailto:hjf@highdown.reading.sch.uk)

8. Information, Advice And Support Service (formerly Parent Partnership)

Following the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, the Parent Partnership Service became known as the Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS).

The IASS continues to offer an impartial and confidential service to parents and carers who may be concerned about their child or young person's educational or other needs, and/or the provision made for them. In addition, they will offer a service to children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities who may want to receive information, advice or support themselves.

Local Authority	Phone	Website
Bracknell	01344 354011	https://bracknellforestiass.co.uk/
Reading	0118 937 3421	http://cyp.iassnetwork.org.uk/service/reading-information-advice-and-support-service-for-send/
RBWM	01628 683182	https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/assessment-and-education-health-and-care-planning/information-advice-and-support-service-ias
Slough	01753 787693	http://cyp.iassnetwork.org.uk/service/slough-parent-partnership-sendiass/
West Berkshire	0300 303 2644	http://cyp.iassnetwork.org.uk/service/west-berks-sendiass/
Wokingham	0118 9088233	http://cyp.iassnetwork.org.uk/service/wokingham-sendiass/

9. Vision Impairment – Sensory Needs Service (Social Services)

Specialist VI Social Care workers within your local authorities can provide the following services as below. However, in our area this service is usually provided by your BSCS Teacher as the Social Services Sensory needs team work mainly with adults. They are notified when a young person is registered as sight impaired or severe sight impaired as they hold this register – they will then automatically check that BSCS service is involved (they will contact the family and us to ensure that the young person has all the services that they need) and as long as this is the case then they may need to have little involvement with families until the transition to adulthood.

If BSCS were not involved they could provide these services;

- Functional assessments of vision of a young person diagnosed with a vision impairment.
- Advice and information on sight loss and/or where to get further assistance.
- Support in the teaching of independent living skills in the home environment.
- Advice regarding the learning of communication skills, i.e. computer skills, Braille or writing skills etc.
- Mobility training which may include teaching of routes in the young person's home area.
- Support at school reviews if required.
- Advice on completion of disability benefits. (this may be an area when they can provide additional support as SCS teachers have less knowledge of disability benefits)

Contact details for local authority teams:

Local Authority	Phone no:	Email:
Bracknell (The Children's Specialist support team)	01344 352020	Childrens.SocialCare@Bracknell-For est.gov.uk
Reading	0118 937 3641	info@BrighterFuturesforChildren.org
RBWM (Children and Young People's Disability Service (CYPDS))	01628 685878	CYPDS@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Slough	01753 787693	sendass@scstrust.co.uk
West Berkshire (Children & family social care services)	01635 503090	child@westberks.gov.uk
Wokingham (Sensory Needs Team)	0118 974 6548	deafservices@optalis.org or visualimpairment@optalis.org

10. Toys and Play Equipment

Children with a severe or profound vision impairment are likely to miss out on a huge amount of incidental learning, such as the colours, shapes and detail of objects in the environment.

Children who have severe /profound vision impairment are often delayed in gross motor movements, as they lack the visual motivation to move towards a toy.

As vision is the unifying sense it is important that you help your child make the most of the other senses.

When playing with your child:

- Talk about what you are doing to explain sounds etc.
- Use your child's name to let them know you are talking specifically to them.
- Use toys that are brightly coloured.
- Use sound making toys to encourage reaching and moving.
- Play on a contrasting background (e.g. use a white sheet under a set of brightly coloured posting shapes).
- Encourage feeling of a wide range of textures (some VI children are reluctant to touch new textures).
- Use exaggerated facial expressions to encourage response.
- Use high contrast bold pictures to encourage fixation and later to help with early reading skills, such as telling stories through pictures.
- Repeat activities to encourage understanding.

The most important aspect of play with a child who has vision impairment, is giving them a wide range of hands on experience.

11. Hospitals

Below is a list of the hospitals with Ophthalmology Departments most frequently attended by children within the area covered by the Sensory Consortium Service. Staff at these hospitals may also be able to advise children about the availability of low vision aids.

<p>Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Trust London Road Reading RG1 5AN</p> <p>Tel: 0118 322 5111</p> <p>Eye Casualty 0118 322 8855</p>	<p>King Edward VII Hospital NHS Trust St Leonard's Road Windsor Berkshire SL4 3DT</p> <p>Tel: 01753 8600441</p>
<p>Moorfields Eye Hospital 162 City Road London EC1V 2PD</p> <p>Tel: 020 7253 3411</p>	<p>Oxford Eye Hospital <i>Radcliffe Infirmary</i> Woodstock Road Oxford OX2 6HE</p> <p>Tel: 01865 234567 (Emergencies) Email for appointment enquires: Eye.Hospital@ouh.nhs.uk</p>
<p>Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust Great Ormond Street London WC1N 3JH</p> <p>Tel: 020 7405 9200</p>	<p>Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust Portsmouth Road Frimley Camberley Surrey GU16 5UJ</p> <p>Tel: 01276 604604</p>

'The Eye Clinic Liaison Officers, Sarah Short and Sonya Nikchevska, work across the Berkshire region. They work across all RBFT Hospital sites including Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, Prince Charles Eye Unit in Windsor, West Berkshire Community Hospital in Thatcham and Brants Bridge in Bracknell.

They work closely with the medical staff within the eye clinics, and they are the link between the hospital and other services offering support to those with

vision impairment in the community. They have time to dedicate to families to talk about their concerns and to provide practical and emotional support.

If you are unable to see them at the hospital, feel free to telephone or email them:

Tel: 07771 624195

Email: sarah.short7@nhs.net sonya.nikchevska@nhs.net

12. Useful Contacts

General	
<p>ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND (RNIB) Supporting People with Sight Loss Our information, products and services support blind and partially sighted children and young people, their families and professionals across the UK.</p> <p>http://www.rnib.org.uk/ Tel: 020 7388 1266 Helpline: 0303 123 9999</p>	<p>BERKSHIRE VISION Berkshire Vision is an independent local charity that aims to enable and support visually impaired people in Berkshire to live safely and independently and to enhance their quality of life.</p> <p>http://www.berkshirevision.org.uk/ Tel: 0118 987 2803</p>
<p>RNIB EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICE We offer emotional support through our Sight Loss Counselling team, a group of professional telephone and online counsellors.</p> <p>https://www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss/community-connection-and-wellbeing/sight-loss-counselling/</p>	<p>VICTA (Visually Impaired Children Taking Action) Support visually impaired children and young people by providing funding for equipment (laptops, Brailers, sensory toys etc) and for vacation schemes such as those run by Action for the Blind.</p> <p>www.victa.org.uk</p>
<p>CHILDREN’S AND YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES GUIDE DOGS.</p> <p>https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/services-we-provide/children-and-young-peoples-services/</p>	<p>CONTACT A FAMILY (CAF) A charity for families with disabled children. We support families with the best possible guidance and information.</p> <p>Tel: 020 7222 2695 https://contact.org.uk/</p>

<p>ALEXANDER DEVINE The Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service supports any child age 0-18 with a life threatening or life limiting condition. It funds Alexander's Nurses who support families across Berkshire in their own homes, providing much needed respite, palliative care, emotional and practical support. Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service Children's Hospice Service in Berkshire Tel: 01628 822777</p>	<p>Look UK A national charities supporting young people with a vision impairment and their families. Look provide mentors and activities for young people. https://www.look-uk.org/</p>
<p>THAMES VALLEY TIGERS GOALBALL CLUB Thames Valley Tigers Goalball Club is the only local club offering regular Goalball coaching by elite Goalball players. We are open to Visually Impaired people and sighted alike. We welcome anyone along over 9 years old as long as they are able to play and willing to give it a go. Contact Richard Claridge. Tel: 07581368305. https://www.facebook.com/thames.goalball E: thamesvalleygoalball@gmail.com</p>	<p>COUNCIL FOR DISABLED CHILDREN www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk</p>
<p>CEREBRA (Grants, information and support for anyone closely connected with a child who has a brain injury, developmental problem, mental disability or neurological disorder) Freephone: 0800 3281159 http://www.cerebra.org.uk/</p>	<p>READING SIGHT A one-stop shop for people working in the libraries to find information that will help them to support visually and/or print impaired readers. www.readingsight.org.uk</p>

**THAMES VALLEY ADVENTURE
PLAYGROUND (TVAP)**

Tel: 01628 628599
<http://tvap.co.uk/>

DEAFBLIND UK

Tel: 01733 358100
<http://deafblind.org.uk/>



(Photographs courtesy of Berkshire Vision website)

Resources	
<p>ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND (RNIB) RNIB provide a many educational resources and information which can be accessed through their website.</p> <p>https://www.rnib.org.uk/children-young-people-and-families/resources-parents-blind-or-partially-sighted</p>	<p>AUDIO MATERIAL – CALIBRE</p> <p>An audio library for the blind and print disabled.</p> <p>Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP22 5XQ</p> <p>Tel: 01296 432339 www.calibre.org.uk</p>
<p>TACTILE AND AUDIO BOOKS – THE LIVING PAINTINGS TRUST Experiencing paintings through sound and touch.</p> <p>Queen Isabelle House Unit 8, Kingsclere Park Kingsclere, Newbury Berks, RG20 4SW</p> <p>Tel: 01635 299771 http://www.livingpaintings.org/</p>	<p>LARGE PRINT BOOKS – BLIND CHILDREN UK (CUSTOM EYES</p> <p>Blind Children UK (Custom Eyes Books) CustomEyes Guide Dogs, Hillfields, Burghfield Common, Reading, ,RG7 3YG</p> <p>E: customeyes@guidedogs.org.uk Tel: 0118 983 8275</p> <p>https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/services-we-provide/children-and-young-peoples-services/customeyes-books/</p>
<p>BRAILLE/PRINT – CLEARVISION</p> <p>ClearVision Project Linden Lodge School, 61 Princes Way, London SW19 6JB</p> <p>Tel: 020 8789 9575 www.clearvisionproject.org</p>	<p>RNIB READING SERVICES</p> <p>Accessible books to lend directly on your device</p> <p>https://www.rnib.org.uk/reading-service/books/rnib-reading-services-online-library</p>

<p>Cerebra Library A large selection of switch toys, and other sensory toys to borrow https://cerebra.org.uk/get-advice-support/library/join-the-library/</p>	<p>New Life A charity for disabled people, have a equipment grant service. https://newlifecharity.co.uk/equipment/</p>
<p>Well Child A National Charity for Sick children have a list of organisations that offer grants for equipment and therapies. https://www.wellchild.org.uk/get-support/information-hub/grants-for-families/</p>	<p>Meru Adapted Toy Service. They sell adapted toys and equipment and will adapt and existing toy for the cost of the postage. https://www.merushop.org/what-we-do/</p>

Bookstart



bookstart

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Bookstart is the programme that encourages all parents and carers to enjoy books with children from as early an age as possible. They want every child in the UK to develop a lifelong love of books.

Working through locally-based organisations, Bookstart gives the gift of free books to children at around eight months, 18 months and three years, along with guidance materials for parents and carers.

Bookstart also aims to foster a love of books through a range of fun activities. But Bookstart packs are only half of the gift to children and their families. The other, more lasting gift is the message of enjoying books together.

Booktouch packs especially designed for children with a vision impairment are available from your Sensory Consortium Service Teacher or Local Library.

Further information about the their Booktouch packs is here:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookstart/families/what-bookstart-can-offer-you/additional-needs-packs/>

13. Funding Sources

<p>Family Fund</p> <p>https://www.familyfund.org.uk/FAQs/what-can-we-apply-for</p>	<p>The Edward Gosling Foundation</p> <p>https://www.getgrants.org.uk/about/</p>
<p>Caudwell Children</p> <p>https://www.caudwellchildren.com/equipment/</p>	<p>Children Today Charitable Trust</p> <p>http://www.childrentoday.org.uk/how-we-can-help/</p>
<p>Family Action</p> <p>https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/grants/educational-grants/</p> <p>'grants to individuals over the age of 14, looking to unlock their educational potential by participating in further education'</p>	<p>Lifeline 4 Kids</p> <p>http://www.lifeline4kids.org/what-we-do/</p>
<p>Cerebra (Grants, information and support for anyone closely connected with a child who has a brain injury, developmental problem, mental disability or neurological disorder) Freephone: 0800 3281159 http://www.cerebra.org.uk/</p>	<p>Thomas Pocklington Trust</p> <p>Grants to fund training and employment up to £75,000</p> <p>https://www.pocklington.org.uk/partner-with-us/our-grant-programmes/</p>
<p>Guide Dogs</p> <p>Sensory Equipment Grants</p> <p>https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting-support/information-and-advice/sensory-equipment-grants-for-children/</p> <p>Technology grants</p> <p>https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting-support/information-and-advice/how-can-technology-help-me/assistive-technology-grants-for-children/</p>	<p>VICTA (blind and partially sighted)</p> <p>http://www.victa.org.uk/</p> <p>Grants for technology: https://www.victa.org.uk/grants/</p> <p>Sensory Play Pack: https://www.victaparents.org.uk/early-years-sensory-pack/</p>
<p>The Powell Family Foundation</p> <p>Provide grants for specialist equipment, training and adaptations for people with VI</p> <p>https://tpff.org.uk/apply-for-grant/</p>	

14. Glossary

For glossary terms used in sensory impairment, please see the NatSIP website.

<https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/sersen-sesip-document-archive/109-si-glossary>