

SEND MATTERS

Summer Holidays Edition

**The official newsletter
of SEND related issues
in Bedford Borough**

Inside this issue:

Stay and Play Summer Club

One Percent Better 2025

**Neurodiversity Support
on Bedfordshire & Luton
Children's Health Website**

Festival of Inclusion Recap

BBPCF Summer Holiday Fun

Supported Interns

Summer of SEND 2025

Spectrum Gaming

Empowering Students with SEND

Fire Station Open Day

Inclusive Art Competition

Free Inflatable Fun

WELCOME

from Chris Morris, Service Director – Education, SEND & School Infrastructure

Welcome to this Summer edition of our SEND Matters newsletter.

Summer of SEND 2025 is already in full swing and it has been so good to see so many families attending events such as our Festival of Inclusion. One Percent Better and the SEND area at the Kite and Motoring Festival.

I feel really privileged to be able to attend these events and speak to so many of you and hear first hand what is going well and any areas of challenge that you may have.

The Summer of SEND lasts until the end of August and, as always, the Summer edition of SEND Matters is jammed full of information on events and activities

that are available across the summer as well as helpful advice and guidance on things to do over the holidays and how best to prepare your young person for any upcoming transitions.

I hope that you find the information in this edition helpful and please do get in touch with our local offer team with any ideas or information you would like to see in future editions of SEND Matters.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you a happy Summer Holiday and I look forward to seeing many of you in the new academic year

Best wishes, Chris

STAY AND PLAY SUMMER CLUB AT THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

You said...

Families of young children with SEND told us they wanted more clubs to access when their children are not in an Early Years setting over the summer holidays. You asked for a place to belong—somewhere people understand SEND, where you can feel confident your child's needs will be met, ask questions, and simply be yourselves.

We did!

The Early Years Support Team is thrilled to announce that, for the second year running, we are proudly hosting the **Stay and Play Summer Club** for families with primary-aged or younger children and their siblings.

Parents and carers can book up to two sessions each week and are welcome to come along with siblings and relatives to enjoy the safe, supportive space at the Child Development Centre—knowing the sessions are staffed by experts who are there to help.



**SUMMER
STAY AND PLAY**

**INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
FOR EARLY YEARS CHILDREN WITH SEND**

July 28th – August 9th
Child Development Centre, Kempston

Session 1: 9.30am – 11.30am **Session 2:** 12.00 – 2.00pm

Book Via Eventbrite

A maximum of 2 bookings per week per family. Siblings welcome, all children must have a ticket.

All children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

<https://tinyurl.com/4ns7xrcu>

 **BEDFORD**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

This year, we recommend packing your child's swim clothes or a change of clothes – we're planning plenty of exciting water play in our new Garden of Dreams, immersive sand play in the purpose-built sand pit, opportunities to explore the jungle planting area, and the chance to burn off energy on the trampoline, swing or climbing frame.

If a calmer pace is preferred, there are picnic benches and books to share too.

Tickets are going fast... don't miss out!

ONE PERCENT BETTER 2025

Every Bedford Borough child CAN... because every professional WILL!

(Education Strategy 2024–2034)

This powerful vision was clearly brought to life at One Percent Better 2025.



The idea behind One Percent Better is simple yet transformative: empower everyone working with children with SEND to grow—whether in knowledge, experience, networks, skills, or joy. Marginal gains, when sustained across a year and an entire workforce, add up to a profound impact.

On Sunday 2nd June, families came into the Child Development Centre. The beaming smiles, laughter, play and interaction spoke volumes about their sense of belonging and joy.



The opportunities offered were as unique as the children themselves—from crafting, paddling, climbing, bouncing, spinning, picnicking, singing, and listening to inclusive stories, to meeting animals, exploring the Toy Library, chatting with professionals from the NHS, Education, BBPCF, and SSG, or simply relaxing in the chill-out area, becoming a book fairy, or enjoying an ice cream.

Practitioners from pre-schools, childminders, Bedford College, health teams and other services gathered on Saturday 1st June for inspirational workshops led by experts from across Health, Education and BBPCF.

They networked in the Garden of Dreams and took away resources and thought-provoking ideas to enhance their practice.

Feedback from both days was overwhelmingly positive:

- “Having a space where our children can truly be themselves, free from judgement, is everything.”



- “Everyone was so receptive.”
- “The more we can work together, the better we will all be, so I really appreciate being part of One Percent Better.”
- “It was so well thought out with so much to do.”

Want to see and hear more?

Watch here: [Don't stop thinking about tomorrow!](#)

Save the date

1st June 2026 – We will be raising at least One Percent Better... again!



NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT ON BEDFORDSHIRE & LUTON CHILDREN'S HEALTH WEBSITE

Every child is unique, and their brains work in different ways. Neurodiversity is the idea that differences in thinking, learning, and behaving are natural and valuable - just like differences in personality, talents and interests.

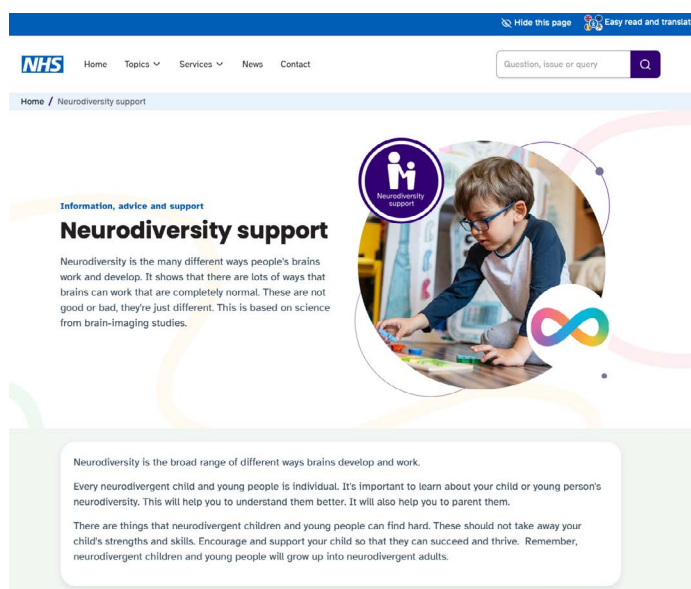
This is why we have developed the neurodiversity support pages, which can be found on the new Bedfordshire and Luton Children's Health website.

The content was developed in collaboration with neurodivergent people, families, and clinical staff. Each page is structured to reflect real-world concerns, such as diagnosis, medication, jargon-busting, and where to find help.

There are plenty of helpful pages and articles which have been developed to help neurodiverse children and their families.

You can find the pages here:

<https://bedslutonchildrenshealth.nhs.uk/neurodiversity-support>.



FESTIVAL OF INCLUSION RECAP SATURDAY 24TH MAY 2025, RUSSELL PARK, BEDFORD

The event was such a positive day, where families came together to explore new things with activities such as sensory circuits, SEND friendly Yoga and Chair Dance and have fun with face painting, inflatable 'danger runs' and climbing walls.

We also had inspiring and brilliantly entertaining performances from Born to Perform, Song Squad and Living it Up.

There were lots of smiling faces and families were incredibly grateful for this opportunity to come together from all parts of the Borough and celebrate all that makes us an inclusive community here in Bedford.

[#belonginbedford](#)



BBPCF SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN

Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum have some fun activities to attend over the Summer Holidays...



Inflatable Fun

Friday 1st August,
from 12.00pm to 2.00pm, at
Box End Park Aqua Park, Bedford.

Animal Fun

Friday 29th August,
from 10.00am to 1.00pm,
at the Addison Centre, Kempston.

For more information, please visit www.bbpcf.co.uk/event-list,
or to book you spot, contact communications@bbpcf.org.uk.



SUPPORTED INTERNS

On 27th June, we came together to celebrate our amazing 'Class of 2025' interns who have completed the Supported Internship programme.

It was a great way to recognise all the hard work, growth, and contributions they've made during their time with us at Bedford Borough Council.

Chris Morris, Service Director for Education, SEND & School Infrastructure, joined us to present certificates to each intern, recognising their dedication and achievements.

If you would like to find out more about our Supported Internship Programme, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to all our interns - we're excited to see where your paths lead next!



SUMMER OF SEND 2025

The Summer of SEND is back for its 5th year! We already have 500+ events on the calendar.

Following feedback that the calendar is too big, we have now created weekly and monthly calendars.

We are constantly updating the Summer of SEND pages with new and exciting events, so please do keep checking back to see what's new and also follow us on [social media](#) for the latest updates.



SPECTRUM GAMING NOW AVAILABLE FACE-TO-FACE

We are excited to announce that the Spectrum Gaming Offer that we have in Bedford Borough is now extending to offer face-to-face, in-person sessions!



You will still be able to take advantage of all of the amazing activities and things online but now you will be able to meet up with people in person.

If you are interested in finding out more check out the information in the flyer; we can't wait to see you there!



SPECTRUM GAMING

A new in-person activity is here and its in

Bedford Borough



SSG

Spectrum Gaming are working in partnership with SSG Services to support Spectrum Gaming members to be able to attend their amazing existing offer in person at their venue in Bedford.

Funded by:



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL



Parent Carer FORUM

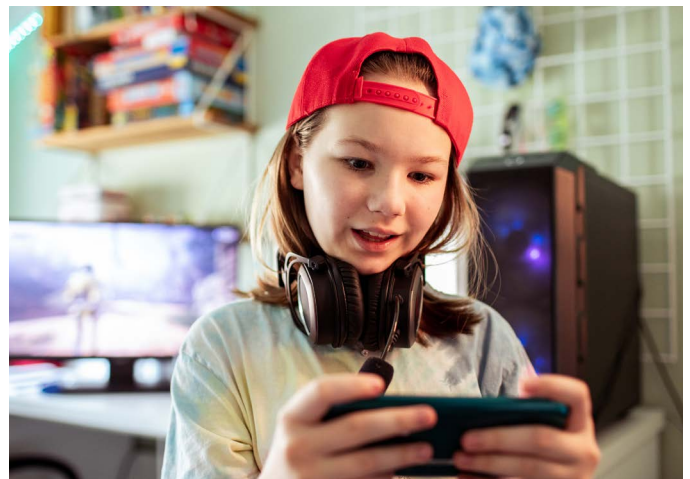
Sessions run:

Friday - 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Saturday - 9:30am to 1pm

To attend you can reach out directly to SSG via info@ssgservices.co.uk and their team will get in touch with you! Or if you need any help, contact Spectrum Gaming on the info below

www.spectrumgaming.net bedford@spectrumgaming.net



EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH SEND PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD WORKSHOPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

On 25th June, we hosted a morning of workshops to support students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in preparing for adulthood. Over 50 students attended the event, which focused on building practical life and career skills.



The initiative is part of a broader commitment to support SEND students in navigating the journey toward independence, further education, and employment.

Four workshops were delivered throughout the morning, each focusing on an element of preparing for adulthood:

CV Writing

Led by staff from Bedford College, this session helped young people understand how to present their skills, experiences, and aspirations effectively on paper. Young people learned how to tailor their CVs for different roles and gained tips on how to stand out to potential employers.

Interview Preparation

Led by staff from Bedford College, this session offered practical advice on how young people can manage their digital footprint – the trail of information you leave behind when using apps or websites, and how employers can view this information before an interview.

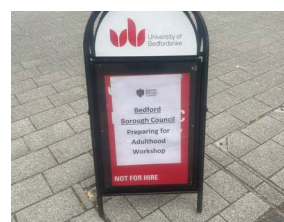
Wellbeing

Delivered by CHUMS, a mental health and emotional wellbeing service, this session focused on building resilience and self-esteem. Students were encouraged to reflect on their own wellbeing and were given practical strategies to use to increase resilience.

Finances & Budgeting

Facilitated by representatives from Barclays Bank, this session introduced students to essential money management skills. Topics included budgeting, saving, understanding bank statements, and making informed financial decisions.

The young people who attended, actively participated in discussions, asked thoughtful questions, and engaged with the facilitators and their peers.



Thank you to all the schools and young people who took part. It was a fantastic morning encouraging young people to develop skills that will support them as they prepare for their next steps into adulthood.

design & print

> HIGH QUALITY
> FAST TURNAROUND
> COMPETITIVE RATES

SEND MATTERS

ISSUE 31 - JULY 2025

ISSUE 32 - JULY 2025

ISSUE 33 - JULY 2025

WE CAN DESIGN & PRINT LITERALLY ANYTHING YOU WANT...

- Posters & Flyers
- Booklets
- Vinyl Banners
- Large Posters (up to A0 size)
- Pop-Up Displays
- Leaflets
- Brochures
- Plan Prints
- ... & much more!

TO FIND OUT MORE OR GET A QUOTE...

Call **01234 228154**, email us at print@bedford.gov.uk or visit bedford.gov.uk/designandprint

BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Design & Print is a department of Bedford Borough Council

EXCLUSIVE SEND ONLY FIRE STATION OPEN DAY

This year SEND exclusive fire station open day is Saturday 16th August 2025, drop in from 2pm to 5pm. Siblings and grandparents are welcome.

The children/young people are more than welcome to dress up as their favourite superhero.

We are delighted that the initiative developed by Bedford Local Offer and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue of the exclusive fire station open day, has been rolled out across Bedfordshire, and recently Milton Keynes.



EXCLUSIVE SEND ONLY Relaxed/Quiet Fire Station Open Day

Come along & visit Bedford Fire Station on Barkers Lane...



Saturday 16th August, 2pm to 5pm

- Explore the fire engines
- Meet fire fighters
- Engage with Fire Safety Team about fire safety in your home
- Book in a FREE home safe and well check with the safety team

To register your interest (so we have a rough idea of numbers), please email:

@ Local.Offer@bedford.gov.uk

Please include how many people in your group will be attending.



LOCAL OFFER CORNER

Twenty-minute videos on SEN Provision for children / young people moving to secondary school in Bedford Borough.

To help get a better of understanding of support for SEN children and families each of the secondary schools in Bedford Borough have recorded a twenty-minute recording to give a bit of insight into SEN Provision in their setting.

These recordings are ideal for parents/carers and a range of other people to watch to gain an insight of what things may look like at secondary school.

These include the following:

- Vision & ethos of the school
- Provisions available
- Use of Teaching Assistants
- SEN identification & monitoring processes
- Contact with parents/ carers
- Transition details (some of these dates may now have changed, please check with schools)

To view the videos, please [click here](#).



INCLUSIVE ART COMPETITION

Calling all Budding Artists and Creative people... who are 25 or under

Use your creativity and produce a piece of Art or Media on one of the following topics...



Kindness

Acceptance

Belonging

Bullying

You can submit work in any medium such as a drawing, painting, creative writing, script, video, sculpture, collage, photography, the opportunities are endless!

The only stipulation is that the entry must be sent to us digitally therefore a photograph or video must be taken of the piece of work and submitted to local.offer@bedford.gov.uk

The closing date for the competition is 5.00 p.m. on 31st August 2025

Entries will be displayed in an exhibition in Bedford Central Library during September 2025, and winners for each of the 4 categories will receive a £50 gift voucher (which will be awarded to an individual or a school/group depending on the type of entry).



Selected entries will be shared on Bedford Borough social media platforms and may be used in topic related promotions, communications and social media

To see the full T&C's for the competition please see below.

INCLUSIVE ART COMPETITION *CONTINUED*

Belong in Bedford Borough Art & Media Competition Terms and Conditions

- Entries can be submitted by a School, provision, group, or an individual
- One entry per person
- The competition is open to anyone who lives or studies in Bedford Borough, or to Schools, provisions or groups that have a Bedford Borough postcode
- The competition consists of four categories:
 - Kindness
 - Acceptance
 - Belonging
 - Bullying
- Entrants should select one of the above areas and produce a piece of Art or media around the subject area, this could include:
 - A drawing, painting, picture, piece of Art
 - A piece of creative writing
 - A video or script
 - A song
 - Sculpture (if a Sculpture please email a picture to the entry email and further information will be provided)
- All entrants should be 25 years or under
- **Entries must be submitted digitally and emailed to local.offer@bedford.gov.uk. With the title 'Belonging in Bedford' Art Competition**
- All entries must include the entrant's name, age, category entered, contact details (telephone and email address) and the title of the piece. If it is a school submission the School name should be included. For all entrants under 18 this must include a parent or guardian's contact details unless it is a School submission, this will act as validation that the parent or guardian / School agrees to the child entering the competition.
- Entries must be a photograph or scan of the original drawing and be submitted as a .jpg file with a minimum 300 dpi. They should be emailed to local.offer@bedford.gov.uk, with the subject as 'Belong in Bedford Art Competition' and all requested details in the body of the email.
- Videos should be submitted as an MP4 file.
- For entries submitted as a group from a school or group (such as a class or year group batch of entries), it is the school's responsibility to ensure that parents or guardians have given permission for their child to take part.
- All entries must be received by 5pm on 31st August 2025. We regret that any entry received after this date will not be considered.
- By entering the competition, entrants accept that Bedford Borough may put their work on public display, or use in promotional material in Bedford Borough around the topic area selected. Entry does not guarantee display.
- By entering the competition, entrants agree to have their first name, age and artwork shared across all of Bedford Borough's social media and publicity channels.
- Bedford Borough accepts no responsibility for any work submitted; entrants submit their work at their own risk.
- Art work will be displayed in an exhibition in Bedford Central Library and the winners will be selected in September 2025. The judges decision will be final.
- There will be one winning entry from each of the 4 categories.
- Each winner will receive a £50 gift voucher, School entries will go to the school and individual entries will go to the individual. The prize has no monetary value and cannot be exchanged or used elsewhere.
- Winning entries, along with selected others, will be displayed in Bedford, in topic-related promotional material and on all Bedford Borough Social Media Platforms



FREE INFLATABLE FUN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND AT KEMPSTON ACADEMY

The popular SEND inflatable sessions will continue across the school holidays.

These will be split into 45-minute slots for children and young people aged 5 to 16, and a separate session for young people aged 17 and above.

Each session will alternate every 45 minutes from younger to older sessions.

A parent/carers is required at all sessions.

Dates and Times

Wednesday 23rd and 30th July 2025, sessions available between 9am and 3.15pm.

Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th August 2025, sessions available between 9am and 3.15pm.

Friday 1st, 15th and 29th August 2025, sessions available between 10am to 1pm.

For more information and how to book, please email: info@ssgservices.co.uk.

A promotional poster for SSG (SEND Support Group) inflatable fun sessions. The background is a warm orange-yellow gradient with a sunburst pattern. At the top right is the SSG logo, which consists of a stylized 'S' inside a circle followed by the letters 'SSG'. The main title 'SEND INFLATABLE FUN SESSIONS FOR 17-25'S' is written in large, bold, blue-outlined white letters. Below the title are four colorful illustrations of different inflatable games: a castle-like structure, a slide, a bouncer, and a goal. The text 'SUMMER 2025' is written in large, bold, blue-outlined white letters. Below this, it says '45 minute Inflatable Fun sessions for children aged 5-16 and young adults aged 17-25 with SEND in Bedford to access for free* on selected dates throughout July & August'. The venue is listed as 'Venue: Kempston Academy, Hill Rise, Kempston, Bedford MK42 7EB'. A list of featured inflatables includes 'Disco Dome, Helter Skelter, Danger Run Inflatable Obstacle Course, Soft Play Arena, Basketball Shootout, Party Fun Bouncer, Inflatable Football Goal'. At the bottom, it states '*Sessions are fully funded by Bedford Borough Council for those eligible'.

Email info@ssgservices.co.uk to book



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you would like to receive emails directly into your inbox relating to SEND and general Children's Services updates in Bedford Borough, we would love for you to sign up to our Gov Delivery System.

Visit the Gov Delivery website by [clicking here](#), enter your email address and then select 'Your Child and You' to subscribe.

If you have any suggestions as to what content you would like to see in future editions of SEND Matters then please email your ideas to sendprogramme@bedford.gov.uk

