NECANN COMMUNICATION
November 2026

INTRODUCTION 2
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS & CONTACT DETAILS 2
NECANN MEETING DATE 2
CO CHAIR COMMENTS 3
NEW MEMBERS 4
RESEARCH 5
INFO AND EVENTS - REGIONAL 6
- Upcoming Events at Toby Henderson Trust 6
- The SEND Club United Launch 9
- SEND Exclusive Hire: Santa Express Train with The Sensory Place! 11
- Upcoming Events at The Sensory Place 13
- Useful Vision Lending Library at The Lemington Centre 13
- Free Cancer Awareness Support from Healthworks 14
- Hadrian Education and Development Services - Upcoming Events 16
- Guide Dogs Time To Play 18
- The Special Lioness Upcoming Events 20
- 1Voice - Communicating Together Upcoming Events 21
- Teesside Deaf Children's Group Christmas Party 2026 22
- Looking for supportive, welcoming early years groups in Newcastle? 26
- Upcoming Events at Life Science Centre 29

INTRODUCTION

Hello and welcome to the latest North East CANN Update.

North East Children's Additional Needs Network shares information and helps to increase the reach of your services for children and young people in the region.

Regarding updates and information, if you have material or information that you would like forwarded to the members of the Network, or any updates, please ensure that you email it to Miriam on northeast@cann-network.org, before the end of the month.

Thanks to everyone who shared the information below for our latest update, which contains information and sessions for children and young people with additional needs and their parent carers.

You can find these Communications on the CANN Network site at:
https://www.cann-network.org/blog/

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS & CONTACT DETAILS

Website:	www.cann-network.org
Admin:	northeast@cann-network.org
Chairs:	chair.northeast@cann-network.org
BlueSky:	https://bsky.app/profile/necann.bsky.social
LinkedIn:	https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-cann/
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/northeastcann

NECANN MEETING DATE

Please let us know if you need any support accessing the meetings

Next Meeting
TBC

CO CHAIR COMMENTS

As the autumn leaves begin to settle and we move into November, we want to take a moment to thank all of our members across the North East for your continued passion, dedication, and collaborative spirit.

A quick update regarding our regional network gatherings: we have no further NECANN meetings scheduled for the rest of this year. We are already hard at work finalising our calendar of dates and host locations for 2027, and we will be sharing those with you very soon so you can get them marked in your diaries!

With November also bringing Carers Rights Day, our focus naturally turns to the incredible parent carers and families we support. The run-up to the winter season can bring unique pressures—from sensory overload during festivities to the ongoing navigation of statutory systems and winter pressures. Seeing the sheer breadth of accessible, inclusive events being shared across our region this month—from relaxed ice skating and signing Santas to carer support groups and youth clubs—is a true testament to the strength of our SEND community.

We encourage everyone to keep sharing your news, resources, and upcoming winter events with Miriam so we can continue amplifying your fantastic work.

Thank you, as always, for your commitment to improving outcomes for children, young people, and families across the North East. We wish you all a safe and positive couple of months ahead, and we look forward to reconnecting at our regional meetings in the new year!

With best wishes,

Bev, Tracey, & Kerry
NECANN Co-Chairs

NEW MEMBERS

If you know of any groups that may be interested, please get them in touch!

If you are not yet on the CANN website, you can be added by completing this form: https://www.cann-network.org/member-registration-form/

INFO AND EVENTS - REGIONAL

Upcoming Events at Toby Henderson Trust

Looking for parent carer support around autism and toileting? 🌟
Our network members at The Toby Henderson Trust are running their monthly Pre, During & Post Autism Diagnosis Parent Support Group in Gosforth.
Event Details:

- Theme: Toileting Issues (for parents and carers only)
- Date: Tuesday 3rd November 2026
- Time: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
- Venue: Gosforth Civic Centre, Regent Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3HD

Open to all parents and carers, regardless of where you live. It offers a chance to connect with other families in a supportive environment, focusing on practical advice and shared experiences around toileting challenges.
Find out more details on their website:
https://www.ttht.co.uk/event/pre-during-post-autism-diagnosis-parent-support-group-3/

The Toby Henderson Trust

Pre, During & Post Autism Diagnosis Parent Support Group

Open to all parents and carers, regardless of where you live, this monthly group will offers the chance to connect with other families. Each session will focus on a key theme, providing information, and practical advice .

Our upcoming groups in 2026...

Tuesday 1st September at 1.30pm -3pm
Self Care and crafts before the return to school for parents, children and young people

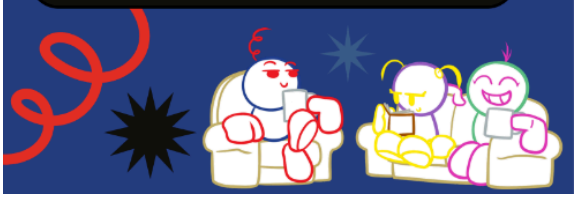
Tuesday 6th October at 1.30pm -3pm
Sleep Issues - parents only

Tuesday 3rd November at 1.30pm -3pm
Toileting Issues - parents only

Tuesday 8th December at 1.30pm -3pm
Preparing for Christmas - parents only

Groups are held at Gosforth Civic Theatre, Regent Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3HD.

Places need to be booked to attend. We would love to see you! If you'd like to join us, please email us at: **admin@ttht.co.uk** or call us on **0300 365 3055.**



The Toby Henderson Trust

DADS UNITED

A community for dads, stepdads and male carers of autistic children, young people and adults, or those who may be autistic.

This is a chance to have a night at the dogs, meet like-minded people, have a laugh, chat about anything, not just the kids, and spend time with others who understand the journey. No pressure, no judgement, just good company and a community to be part of. This group is facilitated by our trustees, James and Kevin who have lived experience and Andy, a former SENDCo with a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Places need to be booked to attend. We would love to see you! If you'd like to join us, please email us at: **admin@ttht.co.uk** or call us on **0300 365 3055.**



THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 6PM-9PM

NEWCASTLE GREY HOUND STADIUM NE6 2XJ

The Toby Henderson Trust

The reality of AUTISTIC JOY

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

1pm-2.30pm

For parents/carers of autistic children and young people, the autism diagnosis will usually have come as a direct result of looking at "deficits" that meet a specific criterion to receive this diagnosis. From the outside looking in, being autistic has often been viewed negatively in our society. But what about the positive aspects of being autistic... and there are many if we just know how to recognise them.
We will cover the beauty of autistic joy, what it means to "info dump", stim and when Joy becomes just too much.

This webinar aims to take us all on a real journey where we embrace the ups and downs of autistic joy, through lived experience of actually autistic children, young people and adults, as well as parents/ carers and those who work closely within the field of autism every day.



Scan here to view this event on our website

HOW TO BOOK

To register for this event please complete our online booking form via our website: www.ttht.co.uk. Alternatively you can book your place by emailing admin@ttht.co.uk or by calling us on 0300 365 3055.

The Toby Henderson Trust

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SELECTIVE MUTISM

A Monthly Group for Parents & Carers

Monday 16th November
10am - 11am at Toby House

Join us for a supportive parent group hosted by our Speech and Language Therapist, Emily, focused on children and young people who are diagnosed autistic, or potentially autistic, and who experience Selective Mutism (sometimes known as Situational Mutism).

Selective Mutism is anxiety-based and presents as a child or young person being unable to speak in certain situations, whilst being able to communicate freely in others.

This welcoming session is an opportunity to learn more about Selective Mutism, share strategies and experiences with other parents, and connect with families who truly understand the challenges and successes that can come with supporting a child with SM.

To book, contact us on via email: admin@ttht.co.uk or call us on 0300 365 3055.

Groups will be held at Toby House, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7AD.





The SEND Club United Launch

Dear Professionals and Organisations,

We're delighted to announce in Collabration with The SEND Club CIC : the launch of The SEND Club United and invite you to be part of something special.
📅 Saturday 7th November 2026
🕛 12:30pm – 4:30pm
📍 Newcastle United Foundation

More than a club, uniting the heart of the SEND community.

This exciting event will bring together families, young people, professionals, community organisations and local partners to celebrate inclusion, build connections and shape a stronger future for the SEND community.
Whether you're a parent, carer, professional, volunteer, organisation or someone passionate about inclusion, we'd love to hear from you.

Register Your Interest
Please complete our short Interest Form to:

- Receive event updates
- Be first to know when tickets are released

- Tell us how you'd like to be involved
- Share any accessibility requirements
- Express interest in volunteering, exhibiting or partnering

👉 Complete the Interest Form here:
[The SEND Club - Professional/Volunteer Vendors – Fill out form]

A day of inclusion, connection and community for the whole SEND family.

📍 Newcastle United Foundation

📅 Saturday 7th November 2026

⏰ 12:30pm – 4:30pm

🎟️ Tickets are completely FREE.

We're a not-for-profit CIC, so if you're able to make a small donation when booking, every penny goes straight back into The SEND Club and our SEND community. 💞

👉 REGISTER NOW:

Get your FREE tickets here🔳 👇

https://www.abler.io/shop/newcastleunitedfoundation/disability/product/Q2x1YlNlcnZpY2U6NjUwNzg=?fbclid=IwY2xjawUMtKNwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAGJyaWQRMDVSckVkMWFQckc2ZnluQ2xzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEev2I-9AxYhxGPvP1hRn8jMA_M4VGA-NoFWPQD8HmO5JdRjdiRqrdHZ9hMf4c_aem_vzQd-bqgX4dLSqdgtIGGdw



SEND Exclusive Hire: Santa Express Train with The Sensory Place!

Looking for a festive experience tailored for families with additional needs? The Sensory Place has organised an exclusive SEND hire of the magical Santa Express Train at Stephenson Steam Railway in North Shields.

Quieter carriages are also available to help ensure a calm, comfortable, and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Date: Saturday 19th December 2026
Time: 9:30am

Location: Stephenson Steam Railway, North Shields
Cost: £12.50 per person

Spaces are limited, so early booking is recommended.

Book online via The Sensory Place website:
https://thesensoryplace.net/book-online



Upcoming Events at The Sensory Place









Useful Vision Lending Library at The Lemington Centre

Healthworks and Useful Vision offer a fantastic, free toy and resource lending service for families who have a child with a visual impairment.

The library has a wide selection of sensory toys, musical instruments, and interactive resources designed to support development and play. It is a great way to try out different items at home.

Supported by NAPI and Children & Families Newcastle.

Location: The Lemington Centre

How to borrow: To borrow an item or find out more about the resources available, please email usefulvision@hwn.org.uk.



Free Cancer Awareness Support from Healthworks

Healthworks, the community health charity, offers a wide range of free cancer awareness services for companies, community groups, and organisations.

Services include:

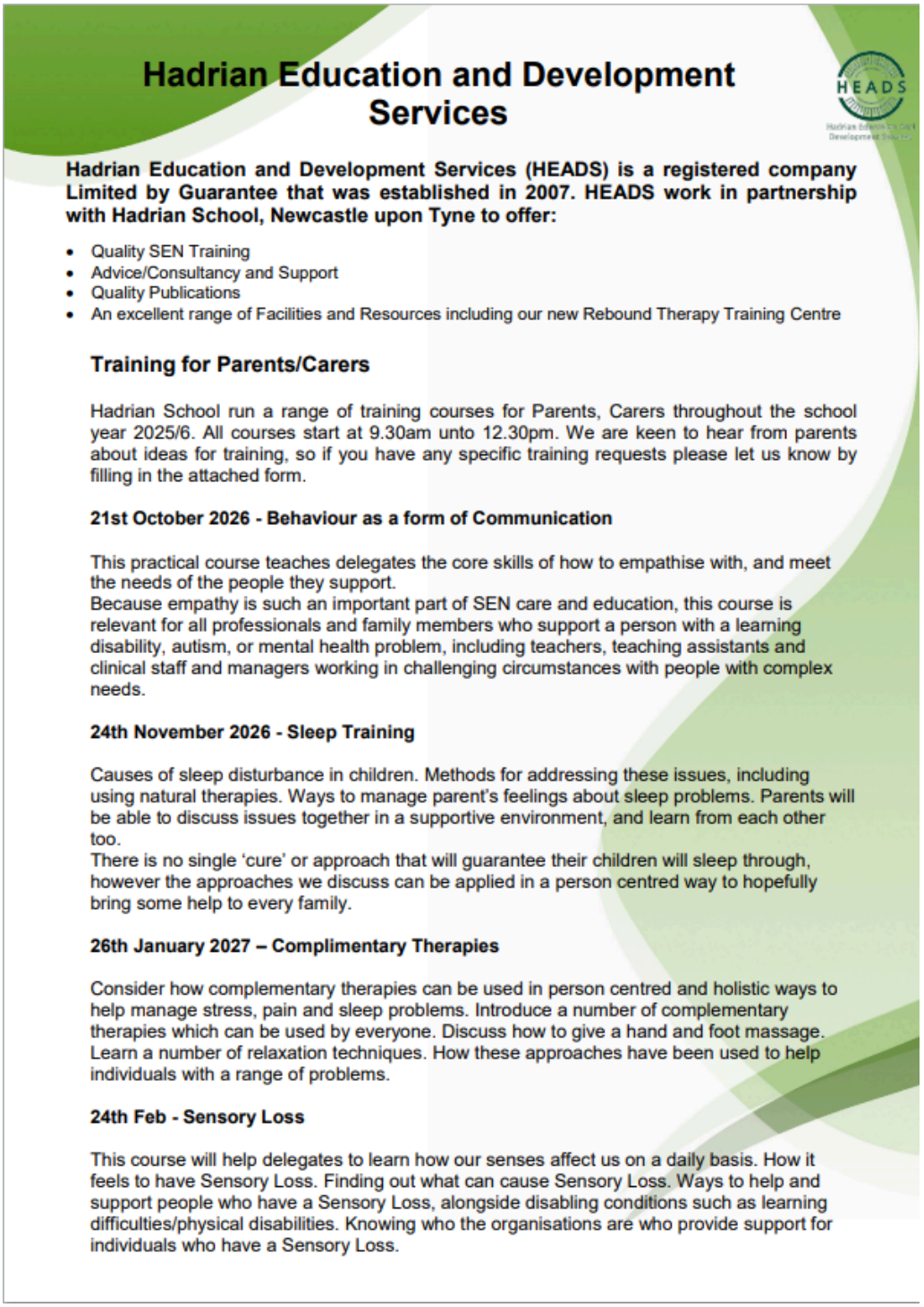
- 45-minute cancer awareness talks
- Cancer awareness stalls
- Online cancer awareness training
- Cancer Champions training courses (free across Newcastle and Gateshead; a small charge may apply outside these areas)

Whether you want to arrange a talk for your team, host an information stall, or upskill staff through champion training, Healthworks can help support your community or workplace.

Contact the team to find out more: Phone: 0191 264 1959 Email: cancerawareness@hwn.org.uk Website: https://www.healthworksne.org.uk (You can also scan the QR code on the flyer for full details)



Hadrian Education and Development Services - Upcoming Events



Hadrian Education and Development Services

Hadrian Education and Development Services (HEADS) is a registered company Limited by Guarantee that was established in 2007. HEADS work in partnership with Hadrian School, Newcastle upon Tyne to offer:

- Quality SEN Training
- Advice/Consultancy and Support
- Quality Publications
- An excellent range of Facilities and Resources including our new Rebound Therapy Training Centre

Training for Parents/Carers

Hadrian School run a range of training courses for Parents, Carers throughout the school year 2025/6. All courses start at 9.30am unto 12.30pm. We are keen to hear from parents about ideas for training, so if you have any specific training requests please let us know by filling in the attached form.

21st October 2026 - Behaviour as a form of Communication

This practical course teaches delegates the core skills of how to empathise with, and meet the needs of the people they support.
Because empathy is such an important part of SEN care and education, this course is relevant for all professionals and family members who support a person with a learning disability, autism, or mental health problem, including teachers, teaching assistants and clinical staff and managers working in challenging circumstances with people with complex needs.

24th November 2026 - Sleep Training

Causes of sleep disturbance in children. Methods for addressing these issues, including using natural therapies. Ways to manage parent's feelings about sleep problems. Parents will be able to discuss issues together in a supportive environment, and learn from each other too.
There is no single 'cure' or approach that will guarantee their children will sleep through, however the approaches we discuss can be applied in a person centred way to hopefully bring some help to every family.

26th January 2027 – Complimentary Therapies

Consider how complementary therapies can be used in person centred and holistic ways to help manage stress, pain and sleep problems. Introduce a number of complementary therapies which can be used by everyone. Discuss how to give a hand and foot massage. Learn a number of relaxation techniques. How these approaches have been used to help individuals with a range of problems.

24th Feb - Sensory Loss

This course will help delegates to learn how our senses affect us on a daily basis. How it feels to have Sensory Loss. Finding out what can cause Sensory Loss. Ways to help and support people who have a Sensory Loss, alongside disabling conditions such as learning difficulties/physical disabilities. Knowing who the organisations are who provide support for individuals who have a Sensory Loss.

22nd March 2027 – Mental Health Awareness Training

HEADS Training in partnership with Hadrian School and Traincon Learning are facilitating a Mental Health Awareness Training course very soon. We would like the course to take place physically at the HEADS Training Centre at Hadrian school where we have strict COVID practices in place, but depending on what delegates preferences are we can facilitate via zoom too, just let us know what is practicable for yourself if you would like to book..

23rd April 2027 - Introduction to Autism

We will consider autism as a condition and how it impacts on the lives of individuals and how, in turn this can reflect on their learning. We will develop an understanding of how individuals with this condition may need to be supported in a school environment and the adaptations that can be made. Special reference will be made to sensory issues and the importance of working in a person centered way.

26th May 2027 - ADHD Training

An introduction to what ADHD is and how people with ADHD may experience the world. Some common issues people with ADHD may have and ideas on how to support them. A celebration of neurodiversity and how being different can be positive for individuals and others.

30th June 2027 - Introduction to Epilepsy

This course will help delegates to understand more about people with Epilepsy, understand what Epilepsy is. Some causes of Epilepsy. The effects on daily living of Epilepsy. Using a person centered approach to support individuals with Epilepsy. Learn how to deal with seizures. And understanding common treatments for Epilepsy.

If you would like to book a place on any of the training, could you please email:

david.palmer@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk or daniel.coffey@hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk, or call school on 0191 273 4440.

Guide Dogs Time To Play

Do you have a child aged 0–4 with a vision impairment in the North East?

Guide Dogs is running their supportive My Time to Play programmes across the region, helping little ones build essential early movement, sensory skills, and confidence through play. It is also a welcoming space for parents and carers to connect and gain practical advice from early years specialists.

Upcoming programmes:

Hebburn (South Tyneside): Starts: October (runs fortnightly) When: Wednesdays, 1:30pm – 3:30pm Where: Hebburn Family Hub, Campbell Park Road, Hebburn, NE31 1QY

Chester-le-Street (County Durham): Starts: January When: Wednesdays, 10:00am – 11:30am Where: Chester-le-Street Family Hub, Grey Avenue, Chester-le-Street, DH2 2EL

More programmes are currently in development across the North East!

For specific start dates, session schedules, or to sign up, get in touch with the local team: Email: MTTPNewcastle@guidedogs.org.uk Call: 0800 781 1444 Learn more about the programme: https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/mttp





The Special Lioness Upcoming Events

Special Events & Seasonal Fun:

- Saturday 31st October: Halloween at The Special Lioness (Sessions at 10:00 am, 11:30 am, and 1:00 pm)
- Tuesday 24th November: Christmas Craft Coffee Group @ The Special Lioness Office (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)
- Sunday 13th December: Panto Time! Penguins of Madagascar @ Harraton & District Community Centre (2:30 pm – 5:00 pm)
- Sunday 20th December: Santa's Grotto! (Time slots selected at booking)
- Monday 21st December: Pinocchio Panto @ Harraton & District Community Centre (2:00 pm – 3:30 pm)

Regular Sessions & Groups:

- Little Explorers (Mondays & Thursdays): Sessions run 10:00 am – 11:30 am and 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm on 2nd, 5th, 9th, 12th, 16th, 19th, 23rd, 26th, and 30th November, and 3rd, 7th, and 10th December.
- Ready, Steady, Play (Tuesdays, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm): Running on 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th November, and 1st December.
- Coffee Mornings @ Portland Academy (Thursdays, 9:30 am – 11:30 am): Running on 5th November, 19th November, and 3rd December.

Book your places and view full details here:https://www.thespeciallioness.com/events

---

1Voice - Communicating Together Upcoming Events

Book here: https://www.1voice.info/events

1Voice Presents: An Evening With Gregor Gilmour - "My AAC journey and what I do now."
Online - Tuesday 3.11.26 - 7:30pm
Meet Gregor Gilmour, as he shares his inspiring AAC journey, from discovering augmentative and alternative communication to navigating his education and becoming an AAC mentor with AT Therapy. Gregor's story highlights the challenges and achievements of using AAC communication, and how his experiences now help support and empower others in the AAC community.

- Tues 3rd November, 7:30-8:30

1Voice AAC Parents & Carers Online Chat
Online - Friday 20.11.26 - 1pm

Parents and carers of people who use AAC are invited to join us for an online chat. All are welcome. If you've not been before and are a bit nervous about joining in, please come along. We are a really friendly bunch of people! It's a great way to ask for help and/or support from others who are likely to have 'been there'.

These online get-togethers give parents and carers of AAC users an opportunity to ask questions and share experiences in a supportive group. We discuss a wide range of topics relating to life with AAC, responding to the issues and questions people come with.

Please note that this event is for 1Voice members only, allowing us to track invitations and maintain the meeting's security.
1Voice Membership is free and gives you access to our events and opportunities.
You can sign up here: https://www.1voice.info/join-us

1 Voice Dreams Workshop with Beth Moulam
Hollybank School, West Yorkshire, WF14 0DQ
Saturday 5th December 2026
1Voice Yorkshire and North East Branch welcomes all 1 Voice members new and old to join us and participate a Dreams Workshop run by Beth Moulam.

When: Saturday 5th December
Time: 10.30-3pm
Where: Hollybank Trust, Far Common Road Mirfield, WF14 0DQ

What to expect: Day includes: facilitated dreams workshop, time for lunch (bring your own), time to socialise and a presentation from a 1Voice role model.

Who is this for: This event is primarily for AAC users but parents and siblings are welcome to come and dream too.

AAC users will need a dream partner to participate if they need someone to scribe for them or facilitate their answers.

There are no age restrictions. The workshop is interactive.

You will leave with your own dream and plan on where to go next to implement it.
Your dream is all about you and doesn't have to be big or fancy. Previous dreams have included anything from getting a pet, going on a special holiday to playing Boccia for England.

Teesside Deaf Children's Group Christmas Party 2026

The Play Factory - Thornaby
Thornaby, England

Tuesday, December 1 • 4 PM - 6 PM

Overview
Join us for a FREE Christmas celebration for deaf and vision impaired children and their families across Teesside!

🎄 You're Invited to Our Christmas Party! 🎅
Teesside Deaf Children's Group is excited to invite deaf and vision-impaired children and their families from across Teesside to a magical Christmas celebration! ❤️

Hearing siblings and CODAs (Children of Deaf Adults) are very welcome too! 🥰

🎁 What's Included?
We've got lots of festive fun planned for everyone!

🎅 Santa's Grotto with a Signing Santa and Signing Elf! Every child will have the opportunity to visit Santa and receive a special Christmas gift.

🎄 Soft Play
🏎️ Go-Karts
🥤 Unlimited Juice
🥪 Picnic Bag
🎨 Christmas Arts & Crafts

🎟️ Completely FREE Entry!
Thanks to the incredible generosity of the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) and the Birkdale Trust, we're delighted to offer this event completely free of charge!

We're also extremely grateful to the Deaf Empowering Network (DEN) and Child Deaf Youth Project (CDYP) for helping us bring the magic of Santa's Grotto to life, and to STARS for their support.

Without the generosity and kindness of these organisations, this event wouldn't be possible. ❤️

📍 Event Details
📅 Tuesday 1 December 2026

⏰ 4pm – 6pm

📍 The Play Factory, Thornaby, TS17 9LT

🎟️ Booking Information – Please Read!
Booking is essential as places are limited!

To help us plan and ensure every child is catered for, please book one FREE child ticket for every child attending, including:

Deaf children

Vision-impaired children
Hearing siblings
CODAs (Children of Deaf Adults)
Parents and carers do not need to book a separate ticket.

❤️ Important: All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Parents and carers remain responsible for their children and their supervision throughout the event.

💬 Accessibility & Communication
We want every child and family to feel welcome, included and comfortable.

Our event will feature a Signing Santa and Signing Elf, helping to make the Christmas experience accessible and enjoyable for families who use British Sign Language (BSL).

If you or your child have any additional accessibility or communication needs, please let us know when booking so we can do our best to accommodate them.

🎄 We can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you all!

We're looking forward to bringing families together for some festive fun, friendship and Christmas magic.

With love,
The Teesside Deaf Children's Group Team ❤️

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teesside-deaf-childrens-group-christmas-party-2026-tickets-2003451316820?lid=x7r08kx6mqn3

Looking for supportive, welcoming early years groups in Newcastle?

Our network members at North East Autism Society run weekly Family Development Parent & Toddler Groups, specially designed for children aged 5 and under who are going through the diagnostic process or have a diagnosis of autism.

Here are the Tuesday sessions available:

Morning Session – Byker
- When: Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- Where: Byker Sands Family Centre, 19 Raby Cross, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2FF

Afternoon Session – Benwell
- When: Tuesday afternoons, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
- Where: Carnegie Building, Atkinson Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 8XS

Please note that spaces must be pre-booked in advance.

To book a space or find out more details, please get in touch with Lauren Abbott:

- Phone: 07795 320 314
- Email: lauren.abbott@ne-as.org.uk

NE AS Parent and Toddler Groups





Sunshine Fund Santa Bus

Our free and accessible Santa Bus is back in Newcastle this Christmas so any promo would be appreciated.



North East CANN
www.cann-network.org
northeast@cann-network.org

Upcoming Events at Life Science Centre

We have four up and coming events which I think might be of interest to some people:

- Our normal Relaxed Sunday Sessions Relaxed Sunday Sessions - Centre For Life
- Relaxed Ice Skating Sessions Ice Skating - Relaxed Sessions - Centre For Life
- Relaxed Santa Experience Sessions The Santa Experience: Operation Christmas Eve - Relaxed Sessions - Centre For Life
- For the first time we have a BSL interpreted Santa Experience The Santa Experience: Operation Christmas Eve - British Sign Language (BSL) Sessions - Centre For Life