

What is Springboard?

Springboard is an Opportunity Centre for children to learn through play. It exists to provide a safe and stimulating environment for pre-school children from birth to 5 years old with special needs. The children have individual programmes and named key workers. We also follow OFSTED requirements.

We also run a Baby Group for children under two years, and we provide a support and information service for all parents and carers, and help to co-ordinate all the various agencies which may be involved with the family. Our aim is to enable every child to reach his/her full potential.

On average, there are 50 children with special needs at Springboard, and they can attend for up to four years if they start as babies. They may attend for 1-2 sessions per week, depending on their needs. There are 5 sessions per week, with up to 7 adults and 10 children in each session.

History

The Centre began in 1977 in one room with a social worker and a few volunteers, and was moved from one venue to another over several years. Finally, a site at Frogwell Hospital was found and a second-hand MOD transportable building was donated. This became a well-established Centre with gardens and equipment until the Hospital was sold by the Health Authority.

A new site had then had to be found and the money raised for a new Centre. After an immense amount of effort and determination, a new pre-fabricated building was ready in 1990, and served us well for 20 years. In August 2010 we moved to King's Rise Children's Centre in Pewsham, Chippenham, a modern and more spacious centre, which we share with The Rise Trust.

The group is well established and working with all the latest pre-school initiatives and plans. Over the last 33 years, Springboard has become an essential service to pre-school aged children with special needs in North Wiltshire.

Who Do We Help?

1. Children with:
 - a) Cerebral Palsy
 - b) Autism - diagnosed or under review
 - c) Medical syndromes or acquired illness
 - d) Down's Syndrome or other genetic syndromes
 - e) Physical abnormalities
 - f) Significant sensory delays/disorders of hearing, sight, language
 - g) Significant developmental delay in one or more areas
2. Children who have been physically, emotionally or sexually abused when it has caused developmental delay
3. Children whose physical, emotional, social or intellectual development is likely to be significantly impaired because of their circumstances, quality of care, etc.

How Do We Help?

The staff at Springboard are very experienced in the sort of difficulties encountered by the children and their parents, and can quickly help the family overcome many of their initial concerns. Over a period of time, we find that both children and parents gain confidence and the sort of expertise needed to give the children the best possible start.

The staff at Springboard consists of the Manager, who manages the organisation of the group, the Playleader, Assistant Playleader and five Playroom Assistants. There are also a small number of volunteers who work with the children in various sessions. Finally, there is the Secretary and a Receptionist who play a vital role in the running of Springboard.

Professionals from the Bath NHS Health Trust meet parents and assess children at Springboard. These people are medical officers, educational psychologists, physiotherapists, an occupational therapist, and speech and language therapists. The input of all these professionals helps with the overall development of the children, and is incorporated into their individual programmes.

How You Can Help Springboard

Springboard is a registered Charity. We receive funding from the Local Authority, which covers our basic costs. It does not cover the costs of new equipment, improvements or special activities. We therefore seek funding for these areas from the local community, the corporate sector and Charitable Trusts.

We run occasional fundraising events, which we always need help with, and we also need to find more volunteers to work within the Playgroup.

If you would like to help Springboard, please complete the form below and return it to:

Angela Pearce, Springboard, King's Rise Children's Centre, Lodge Road,
CHIPPENHAM, Wilts., SN15 3SY
Tel. 01249 657145

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel.

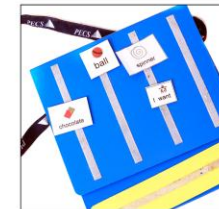
Fax

Please tick as applicable:

- I would like to make a donation, and enclose a cheque/CAF voucher for:
 - £10 £25 £50 £100 Other, £.....
- As a UK tax payer, I would like this gift to be treated as a Gift Aid donation
(Springboard can claim the tax back, thereby increasing the value of your gift)
- I would be interested in volunteering, please send me some information
- I would like some information about how Springboard could help my child
- I would be interested in helping with fundraising activities

SPRINGBOARD

North Wiltshire Opportunity Group for Pre-School Children with Special Needs



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