

## Introduction

If you are a new parent, or are new to the area, this booklet is for YOU! Leighton Buzzard can be a good place for young families and the idea behind this booklet is to introduce you to what is going on for families with young children.

We hope this booklet will help you make the most of living here.

---

### Table of Contents

<b>Childcare and Pre-School Provision</b>	<b>2</b>
Childminders and Childminding	4
Day Care Nurseries	5
Playgroups/Pre-Schools/Sessional Nurseries	6
<b>Lower Schools</b>	<b>9</b>
Out of School Care	10
Home Education	10
<b>Useful Contacts and Organisations</b>	<b>11</b>
Support Organisations	11
Activities for Pregnancy, Postnatal Mums and Babies	20
Toddler Groups	21
Term Dates	23
Activities for Toddlers and Children	24
Children's Clubs	24
Children's Centre Activities	27
Parks and Recreation Grounds	30
Annual Town Events	31
Places to Eat	32
<b>Health Services</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Local Churches</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Days Out</b>	<b>37</b>

---

Edited by Rachel McVeigh.

Cover picture by Juliette

Printing by Rush & Warwick Ltd, Leighton Buzzard

First published 1979. 29<sup>th</sup> edition March 2011. The printing costs of this edition have been funded by Leighton-Linslade Town Council, the Leighton-Linslade Carnival Committee and Action for Children's Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres.

Information for this booklet was collected and compiled in March 2011, and is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of going to press. Neither the PSLA or the editor can accept responsibility for any errors or misinformation. For further information or if you have any amendments or additions for future editions, please contact Mary Flach on 01525 378262, or email [mary.flach@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mary.flach@yahoo.co.uk).

**This booklet is compiled and produced by volunteers.**

## Childcare and Pre-School Provision

Within our area, there are many providers of early learning and childcare for children up to the age of 5. There is no single type of childcare that will best suit every family. Childminders, day care nurseries and playgroups/pre-schools/sessional nurseries are inspected regularly by Ofsted and their reports are available on line ([www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)).

Contact providers and arrange a visit to help you decide what will best suit you and your child.

**Contact Central Bedfordshire's Family and Youth Information Service (0300 300 8119 – see page 13) for more information.**

---

### Costs

Families who are in work and who pay for Ofsted registered childcare can get financial help with this through tax credits. Also, some employers offer childcare vouchers that can be used in certain settings.

---

### Free early education places for 3 and 4 year olds

*(Entitlement for all)*

All 3 and 4 year olds in England are entitled to a minimum of 15 hours of free learning per week for 38 weeks of the year, delivered flexibly over a minimum of 3 days. This is available from the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

You do not need to apply for this entitlement, but your setting will ask you to complete a funding form termly. If wished, you can split the funding to fund sessions at two different settings.

A number of different settings in our area can offer free sessions - private day care nurseries, nursery classes attached to lower schools or private schools, playgroups/pre-schools/sessional nurseries and accredited childminders.

---

### Free childcare for 2 year olds

*(Targeted children only)*

Free childcare for 2 year olds is not available to all. The funding is aimed at the most disadvantaged 2 year olds in order that their parents/carers can access training, family support or courses. Places are limited and there is a waiting list in operation. Priority is given according to a child's needs. The funding is for 10 hours a week, term time only.

Funding is available from a child's 2nd birthday. In order to qualify, the parent/carer must be living within the Central Bedfordshire area and **MUST** be on one of the following:

- Income Support
  - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
  - Child Tax Credit at a higher rate than the family element
  - Extra Working Tax Credit relating to a disability
  - Pension Credit
-

And also meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Child subject to Section 17 or 47 of the Children Act 2006
- Child with Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or Single Agency Referral (SAR)
- Sibling of a child referred through the Multi Agency Support Team (MAST)
- Child with speech and language needs, including English as Additional Language (EAL)
- Parent with chronic health issues or registered disabled
- Teenage parent (not accessing Care To Learn funding)
- Parent accessing Income Related Employment Support Allowance (ESA).
- Living In specific areas of Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Sandy, Flitwick East and Leighton-Linslade Central

Referrals can be made by anyone who feels a child is in need of the funding.

Contact Laura Hutchinson, Childcare Outreach Development Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council Office, who will guide you through the referral process.

Tel: **0300 300 4929**, Mobile: **07792 220335**

email: [laura.hutchinson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.hutchinson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

---

### **Types of childcare and pre-school provision**

Below we have tried to explain the different types of provision available to help you see what best fits your needs and commitments. As demand for places is quite high, you may need to think ahead and put your child's name on a waiting list a long while before you would like them to start. In the case of day nurseries and childminders, you may need to reserve a place, before your baby is born, if you are returning to work soon after the birth of your baby.

**Nannies** - Nannies come to look after your child in your home. Their cost varies and you may have to pay your nanny's tax and National Insurance. They will often fit in with non-typical working hours. They may choose to register with Ofsted. Private nanny agencies will have a list of nannies.

**Registered childminders** - Childminders usually look after babies/children in the childminders own home and will often look after children from more than one family. One of their greatest assets is their flexibility – many will work early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays and can provide a home from home environment. You may have to take your holiday when your childminder takes theirs.

**Day care nurseries** - Nurseries can care for babies from a few weeks old and they can attend full time, or part time. They are all privately owned and their hours fit in with a "typical" working day. They are open all year round, but are not open at weekends.

**Playgroups/pre-schools/sessional nurseries** - These offer care and education from the age of 2 or 3 and sessions run for between 2 and 4 hours during term times. Some are privately owned, others are voluntary and community-based groups where parents are involved on a committee working behind the scenes.

Some providers are now able to offer "wraparound care", which is child care provision before and/or after the usual pre-school session times. Normally this takes the form of a breakfast, lunch time or after school club and may provide sessions during the school holidays.

## Childminders and Childminding

Some parents choose to become childminders, enabling them to receive an income whilst staying at home with their child. Training, paperwork and inspections are involved!

**Contact the Central Beds Family and Youth Information Service (0300 300 8119 – see page 14) for more information about how to become a child minder and for a full list of childminders in your area.**

---

### Leighton Buzzard Childminding Association

The Leighton Buzzard Childminding Association provides support and information for parents and childminders in Leighton-Linslade and the surrounding areas.

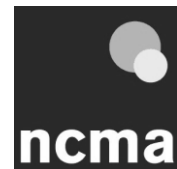


If you need advice on finding or becoming a childminder contact Tunja, on **01525 371595**, or visit the website **[www.lbcma.org.uk](http://www.lbcma.org.uk)**.

---

### National Childminding Association (NCMA)

NCMA's mission is to ensure that families in every community have access to high quality, home-based childcare, play, learning and family support so they can help their children reach their full potential.



Weekly childminders Creative Play drop-in sessions are held every Tuesday from 10.00am – 11.30am at the Roundabout Children's Centre, East Street, Leighton Buzzard. They are open to established and newly registered childminders, nannies and home-based child-carers. Please also come along if you are interested in childminding or looking for a childminder.

Michelle Johnson, the local NCMA Coordinator can be contacted on **01525 217959** or by email at **[michelle.johnson@ncma.org.uk](mailto:michelle.johnson@ncma.org.uk)**

---

### Smiles Childminding Group

Are you looking for childcare? Or a childminder/nanny interested in joining a small friendly group?

We meet once a fortnight on a Wednesday 9.30 – 11.00am at the Salvation Army Hall, Lammas Walk, Leighton Buzzard. Grandparents looking after their grandchildren are very welcome too.

Phone 07952 682418 for meeting dates and child minding vacancies.

## Day Care Nurseries

### **Cedars Day Nursery, Mentmore Road, Linslade, LU7 2PA**

- Tel: 01525 850200, Fax: 374875, email [cedars.nursery@childbase.com](mailto:cedars.nursery@childbase.com)
- Core hours Mon – Fri 8.00am – 6.00pm also open 7.30am – 6.30pm
- Children aged 6 weeks – 5 years

*Cedars Day Nursery gives children the opportunity to both learn and play in secure and stimulating surroundings.*

### **Footsteps Private Day Care Nursery, 11 Albany Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1NS**

- Tel: 01525 375679, email [info@footstepsnursery.co.uk](mailto:info@footstepsnursery.co.uk)
- Monday – Friday 8.00am – 6.00pm, children aged 3months – 8 years
- Open 51 weeks of the year excluding Bank Holidays

*Our nursery provides a safe happy homely and stimulating environment, catering for each child's needs encouraging confidence and independence.*

### **Gingerbread Day Nursery, The Old School, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond, MK17 9DB**

- Tel: 01525 270340, website: [www.gingerbread-daynurseries.co.uk](http://www.gingerbread-daynurseries.co.uk)
- Monday – Friday 8.00am – 6.00pm (excluding Bank Holidays)
- Children aged 3months – 8 years

*A flexible, homely day nursery. No minimum sessions. Spacious indoors and out, rural location.*

### **Headstart Day Nursery, Briggington House, Hockliffe Rd, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9NX**

- Tel: Rochelle 01525 852020, email: [lb@headstartnursery.net](mailto:lb@headstartnursery.net),
- Website: [www.headstartnursery.net](http://www.headstartnursery.net)
- 8.00am – 6.00pm, full time flexible and term-time only sessions available
- Children aged 3 months – 5 years

*We provide an excellent, stimulating environment tailored to each individual child, in a safe, secure and most importantly, happy setting.*

### **Home Farm Day Nursery, Winslow Road, Swanbourne, MK17 0SW**

- Telephone 01296 720835, email [carolyn@homefarmnursery.co.uk](mailto:carolyn@homefarmnursery.co.uk)
- Website: [www.homefarmnursery.co.uk](http://www.homefarmnursery.co.uk)
- Monday-Friday, 7.30am - 6.30pm, full and part time sessions from 3 months+

*Caring for children from 3 months to 5 years, providing quality care and education within a calm and secure atmosphere. Set in a rural area, with extensive views across farmland.*

### **Little Acorns Childcare, Overstone Combined School, Church St, Wing, LU7 0NY**

- Telephone 07714 308550, email [info@little-acornschildcare.co.uk](mailto:info@little-acornschildcare.co.uk)
- [www.littleacornschildcare.co.uk](http://www.littleacornschildcare.co.uk)
- Monday – Friday 7.30am – 6.30pm

*New spacious, purpose built day nursery. Home cooked meals using local produce, yoga and french classes. Wrap around care available for school aged children+holiday play schemes.*

### **Mucky Pups Childcare Ltd, Gallery Lane, Great Brickhill, MK17 9AA**

- Tel: 01525 261992, email: [paula@muckypupsnursery.com](mailto:paula@muckypupsnursery.com)
- Website: [www.muckypupsnursery.com](http://www.muckypupsnursery.com)
- Monday – Friday 8.00am – 6.00om excluding Bank Holidays
- Children aged 3 months – 8 years

*Small day care provision with 46 places. We aim to offer home from home care.*

## **Playgroups/Pre-Schools/Sessional Nurseries**

### **Bluebell Heath Playgroup, Heathwood Lower School, Heath Rd, L. Buzzard, LU7 3AU**

- Tel 07946 847004 session times or 07882 706430 admissions
- Monday - Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm and 12.15 – 3.15pm
- Children aged 2½ - 4 years

*A pre-school on the site of Heathwood Lower School. Up to 24 children per session. Ring us and arrange a visit.*

### **Bluebell Playgroup, Southcott Lower School, Bideford Green, Linslade, LU7 2UA**

- Tel: 07842 216983
- Monday - Friday 8.45 – 11.45am and 12.15 – 3.15pm
- Children aged 2½ - 4 years

*Bluebell Playgroup offers a high standard of provision for pre-school children. Come and make friends, paint, play games and much more! "Messy Play" holiday club also*

### **Brooklands Playgroup, Leedon Lower School, Highfield Road L. Buzzard, LU7 3LZ**

- Tel 07890 716319
- Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm and 12.30 – 3.30pm

*Established pre-school. Offers a variety of activities following a curriculum set out from the Early Years Foundation Stage guidelines. Max 30 children*

### **Bumble Bees Playgroup, Beaudesert School, Appenine Way, L. Buzzard, LU7 3AJ**

- Tel: 01525 853333, email: [bumblebees.play@btconnect.com](mailto:bumblebees.play@btconnect.com),
- Website: [www.bumblebeesplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.bumblebeesplaygroup.co.uk)
- Monday – Friday 8.50 – 11.50am and 12.00 – 3.00pm

*We provide a friendly and stimulating atmosphere. Emphasis on learning through play.*

### **Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Academy, School Lane, E. Bray, LU6 2DT**

- Tel: 01525 220468
- Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm and 1.00 – 3.30pm
- Children from 2 years
- Lunch Club available, Breakfast and After School Club from 3 years

*Bright and spacious building with secure outdoor area. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum to help our children play, learn and grow.*

### **Heath Barn Preschool, St Leonard's Lower School, Heath & Reach, LU7 0AX**

- Tel: Margaret Smithers 01525 237172 or 07933 743066
- Email: [HBPreschool@aol.com](mailto:HBPreschool@aol.com)
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am – 3.15pm
- Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am – 12.00pm
- Children aged 2½ - 5 years

*We are a small friendly traditional playgroup offering a range of activities in a safe and caring environment. We have recently relocated to a new purpose built setting in the grounds of St Leonard's Lower School.*

**Hedgelands Nursery, Hornbeam Community Hall, Hornbeam Close, LU7 3FE**

Also at **Eggington Village Hall, Eggington, LU7 9BW**

- **Tel: Denise Akindulureni 01525 379678 or 07817 713163**
- **Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm and 1.00 – 3.00pm at Hornbeam Close**
- **Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm at Eggington**
- **Children aged 2 - 5 years**
- **Optional Lunch Club 12.00 – 12.30pm**

*We provide pre-school education for 2 to 5 year old children in a friendly, happy, fun and informal environment.*

**Honeysuckle Nursery School, 67 Plantation Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3HJ**

- **Tel: Natalie 01525 378938 or 07850 392020, email: hns@radir.com**
- **Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm**
- **Children aged 3 – 5 years**

*Small homely sessional pre-school. Achieved outstanding rating in 2011 Ofsted inspection.*

**Linslade Childcare, c/o Linslade Lower School, Leopold Road, Linslade, LU7 2QU**

- **Tel: Sandra Ridge 07957 751919**
- **Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm and 12.30 – 3.30pm**
- **Optional Lunch Club 12.00 – 12.30pm**

*The Early Years Foundation Stages of the curriculum appropriate to the ages of the children will be followed.*

**Little Ashes Preschool, Parish Hall, Horsepond, Rotten Row, Great Brickhill, MK17 9BA**

- **Tel: 07855 215154**
- **Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm with optional lunch club until 12.30pm**
- **Children aged 2½ years to school age**

*A large modern airy hall in a beautiful village setting, surrounded by fields and woodland, which are regularly accessed by the pre-school. Rated outstanding in latest Ofsted inspection.*

**Little Bluebells, Hockliffe Lower School, Woburn Rd, Hockliffe, LU7 9LL**

- **Tel: 07891 377581**
- **Monday – Friday 12.15 – 3.15pm**
- **Children aged 2½ - 5 years**

*A 12 place pre-school within the grounds of Hockliffe Lower School. Can form part of wraparound care at the school.*

**Mary Bassett Preschool, Mary Bassett Lower School, Bassett Rd, L. Buzzard, LU7 1AR**

- **Tel: 01525 373017**
- **Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm and 12.00 – 3.00pm**
- **Children aged 2½ - 4 years**

*An exciting bright dynamic learning environment. Children are supported in learning through play. Rated outstanding at latest Ofsted inspection.*

**Mentmore Rd Under-Five Playgroup, The Pavilion, Mentmore Rd, Linslade, LU7 2NY**

- **Tel: Wendy on 01525 376235 or 07845 971542 during playgroup hours**
- **Email: wendyryan@talktalk.net**
- **Monday - Friday 9.15am – 12.15pm**
- **Children aged 2½ - 5 years**

*We are a well-established playgroup offering plenty of indoor and outdoor activities for children to learn through play.*

**Oscar Club, Taywood House, Brooklands Drive, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3PG**

- **Tel: 01525 376314**
- **Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm (3+ yrs)**
- **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1.00 – 3.00pm (2+ yrs)**
- **Lunch Club Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday**

*Based on Clipstone Brook School site. A friendly playgroup.*

**Stanbridge Pre-School, Stanbridge Lower School, Tilsworth Rd, Stanbridge, LU7 9HY**

- **Tel: 01525 210328, email: stanbridgelower@bedfordshire.gov.uk**
- **Monday – Friday 9.00am – 12.00pm**
- **Children aged 3+ years**

*We value all children and welcome their experiences, culture and interests, for challenging play opportunities both indoor and out, offering individual learning pathways for each child.*

**Tilsworth Montessori School, The Leys, Dunstable Road, Tilsworth, LU7 9PU**

- **Tel: Mrs Courtenay-Robin 01525 211055**
- **Monday - Friday 9.15am – 12.15pm**

*The first Montessori School in Bedfordshire. A small friendly school. Rated outstanding by Ofsted.*

**Totternhoe Preschool, Church Road, Totternhoe, LU6 1RE**

- **Tel: 01582 668841, website: www.totternhoepreschool.co.uk**
- **Monday – Friday 8.45/9.00am – 12.00/12.15pm**
- **Wednesday and Friday 12.00 – 3.00/3.15pm**
- **Children aged 2 - 4 years**

*Small friendly village pre-school backing onto school grounds and wooded area. Managed by a qualified and experienced Early Years teacher.*

**Vandyke Pre-School, St George's Lower School, East Street, L.Buzzard, LU7 1EW**

- **Tel: 01525 385005 session times or Maureen on 01525 758152**
- **Website: www.home.btconnect.com/vandykepreschool**
- **Monday – Friday 9.15am – 12.15pm**
- **Lunch club 12.15 – 12.45pm**
- **Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12.45 – 3.15pm**

*Purpose built modular building. Spacious and very secure with its own outside play area.*

**Willows Pre-School, c/o Greenleas Lower School, Derwent Rd, Linslade, LU7 2AB**

- **Tel: 01525 372898, Email: info@willows-preschool.co.uk**
- **Monday – Friday 8.55 – 11.55am and 12.20 – 3.20pm**
- **Lunch club 11.45am – 12.30pm**
- **Wrap-around care available**

*Long established friendly pre-school in new purpose built premises. Fun and stimulating activities for all the children, helping their development and social interaction.*

## Lower Schools

A parent must ensure that their child is in receipt of full time education when they become of statutory school age. A child becomes of statutory school age the term following their 5th birthday. Many schools will admit children before they are of statutory school age i.e. in the September (or in some cases the term) following a child's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. This may be full time or part time, depending on the school's individual admission policy. Some schools have a nursery unit/class, which takes children before they are four. Applications for these are handled by the individual school.

All school admissions and applications for reception class (4 years +) are made through the local authority (Central Bedfordshire Council). It is a good idea to visit the school before making a choice. If you would like to know which school is in your local catchment area, or receive a "Starting School" booklet and application form, or advice, phone 01234 718120, or visit the website. You can apply online:

**[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/onlineadmissions)**

---

### School Names & Addresses

**Beaudesert  
Lower School**  
 Appenine Way  
 Leighton Buzzard,  
 LU7 3AJ  
 Tel: 01525 373019

**Clipstone Brook  
Lower School**  
 Brooklands Drive  
 Leighton Buzzard,  
 LU7 3PG  
 Tel: 01525 376085

**Doverly Down  
Lower School**  
 Heath Road  
 Leighton Buzzard,  
 LU7 3AG  
 Tel: 01525 377233

**Eaton Bray  
Academy**  
 School Lane  
 Eaton Bray,  
 LU6 2DT  
 Tel: 01525 220468

**Greenleas  
Lower School**  
 Derwent Road  
 Linslade,  
 LU7 2AB  
 Tel: 01525 371735

**Heathwood  
Lower School**  
 Heath Road  
 Leighton Buzzard,  
 LU7 3AU  
 Tel: 01525 377096

**Hockliffe  
Lower School**  
 Woburn Road  
 Hockliffe,  
 LU7 9LL  
 Tel: 01525 210330

**Leedon  
Lower School**  
 Highfield Road  
 Leighton Buzzard,  
 LU7 3LZ  
 Tel: 01525 374713

**Linslade  
Lower School**  
 Leopold Road  
 Linslade, LU7 2QU  
 Tel: 01525 372085

**Mary Bassett  
Lower School**  
 Bassett Road  
 Leighton Buzzard,  
 LU7 1AR  
 Tel: 01525 373017

**Pulford C of E  
VA School**  
 Pulford Road  
 Leighton Buzzard,  
 LU7 1AB  
 Tel: 01525 372188

**St. George's  
Lower School**  
 East Street  
 Leighton Buzzard,  
 LU7 1EW  
 Tel: 01525 372096

**St Leonard's Heath &  
Reach C of E VA Sch**  
 Thrift Road,  
 Heath and Reach,  
 LU7 0AX  
 Tel: 01525 237253

**Southcott  
Lower School**  
 Soulbury Road  
 Linslade,  
 LU7 2UA  
 Tel: 01525 375753

**Stanbridge  
Lower School**  
 Tilsworth Road,  
 Stanbridge,  
 LU7 9HY  
 Tel: 01525 210328

**Totternhoe  
Lower School**  
 Church Road,  
 Totternhoe,  
 LU6 1RE  
 Tel: 01582 662959

## Out of School Care

Some lower schools offer Out of School Care, where children are cared for before and/or after school, and sometimes in the school holidays. These clubs offer children supervised activities (or quiet reading/rest time if your child prefers) and are particularly useful for working parents. Some are open exclusively to the pupils of the school at which they are based, but others welcome pupils from neighbouring schools and children younger than school age. Fees vary.

**Bluebell After Sch Club**  
 Southcott Lower School  
 Tel: 07708 492361

**Hockliffe After School Club**  
 Hockliffe Lower School  
 Tel: 07891 377581

**Mary Bassett Fun Club**  
 Mary Bassett Lower School Tel:  
 01525 373017

**Early Birds Club**  
 Southcott Lower School  
 Tel: 01525 375753

**Leedon School Club**  
 Leedon Lower School  
 Tel: 01525 374713

**OSCAR Club**  
 Clipstone Brook Lower  
 Tel: 01525 376314

**Eaton Bray Lower Sch Club**  
 Eaton Bray Lower School  
 Tel: 01525 220468

**Linslade Childcare**  
 c/o Linslade Lower School  
 Tel: 07957 751919

**Sunflower Club,**  
 St Leonards School  
 Tel: 01525 237253

**Greenleas Activity World**  
 Greenleas Lower School  
 Tel: 01525 371735

**Little Saints**  
 Pulfords VA Lower School  
 01525 372188

**Stay & Play Club**  
 Doversy Down Lower School  
 (also serves Heathwood School)  
 Tel: 07517 752979

For information on **Holiday Schemes**,  
 contact the **Family and Youth Information Service on 0300 300 8119**

---

## Home Education

A growing number of families are choosing to educate their children at home. If you are considering this and would like to find out more, information is available from:

**Angus McCormick**  
 Advisor for Elective Home Education  
 Council Offices  
 High Street North  
 Dunstable  
 LU6 1LF  
 0300 300 6197  
[angus.mccormick@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:angus.mccormick@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**Milton Keynes Home Educators Network**  
[www.mkhen.org.uk](http://www.mkhen.org.uk)  
 email: [info@mkhen.org.uk](mailto:info@mkhen.org.uk)

**Home Education Advisory Service**  
 PO Box 98, Welwyn Garden City  
 Herts, AL8 6AN  
 Tel: 01707 371854  
[www.heas.org.uk](http://www.heas.org.uk)

**Education Otherwise**  
 PO Box 7420, London N9 9SG  
 Tel: 0870 730 0074  
[www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)  
 Local contact: Paula Curl on 07791 850545

## Useful Contacts and Organisations

This section deals with groups and organisations that offer services, information, social contacts and activities to families with young children. They have been broadly split into three categories:

**Support Organisations** – organisations that can offer support and information to families, new parents and those who are planning a family. This section also includes support groups for parents of children with special needs.

**Activities for Pregnancy, Postnatal Mums and Babies** – groups and organisations that provide activities and social contacts for expectant and new parents. This section includes information about local parent and toddler group.

**Activities for Toddlers and Children** – groups and organisations that offer activities for toddlers, pre-school and older children.

Whilst several of these groups are professional or commercial bodies, many others are charities and voluntary organisations, run by parents, for parents. These groups are always on the lookout for additional volunteers to help them carry out their services to the local community. If you are in a position where you are able to give any of your time (no matter how little) to a worthwhile cause, please do consider volunteering to work for one of the charitable organisations listed. You will be made very welcome. The Voluntary & Community Action Organisation (see page 20) can give you information about local community groups in need of volunteers, or contact the groups directly.

---

### Support Organisations

---

#### Autism Bedfordshire

Autism Bedfordshire provides support and services for autistic spectrum disorder throughout Bedfordshire and Luton. It has a helpline service.

Members and their families can join others at the Saturday morning LOAF (Loads of Autistic Fun) sessions at Southcott Lower School, Bideford Green. There is a selection of outdoor and indoor activities.

**[www.autismbeds.org](http://www.autismbeds.org)**

For further information call **01234 350704** or email: **[enquiries@autismbeds.org](mailto:enquiries@autismbeds.org)**

---

#### Bedfordshire Domestic Violence Partnership

Are you suffering from domestic violence?

Domestic violence is not acceptable, and you do not have to put up with it.

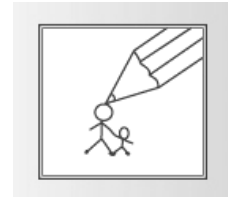
**[www.bedsdv.org.uk](http://www.bedsdv.org.uk)**

Bedfordshire local information line: **0800 202 1796** (24hr freephone)

Phone 999 in an emergency

## Central Bedfordshire Parent Partnership Service

Are you the parent or carer of a child with special educational needs? Would it help to talk to someone in confidence about your concerns, or to help you understand the statutory assessment process? We offer a free and confidential information and support service which includes:



- a telephone help line
- a range of leaflets on different aspects of special educational needs
- contact details of voluntary organisations and support groups
- help with filling in forms and writing letters
- help with reading through and understanding reports
- support in meetings with schools and the LEA.

We also offer two monthly drop in sessions in Dunstable where parents can come and talk to a volunteer or officer

- 1.00 – 2.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month  
Downside Children’s Centre, The Annexe, Downside Lower School, Oakwood Ave, Dunstable, LU5 4AS
- 1.00 – 2.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
Beehive Children’s Centre, Beecroft Lower School, Westfield Rd, Dunstable, LU6 1DW

For more information contact **0300 300 8088** (24 hour answer phone),  
**parent.partnership@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**  
**www.bedscentralparentpartnership.co.uk**

## Central Beds Customer Service Centre

**Bossard House**  
**West Street**  
**Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1DA**  
**Telephone: 0300 300 8000**

Opening times:  
 Mon, Tues, Thurs  
 8.30am – 5.00pm  
 Wednesday 9.30am – 5.00pm  
 Friday 8.30am – 4.00pm



One stop shop for council services (town, district and county)

## Citizens Advice Bureau (C.A.B.)

**Bossard House**  
**West Street**  
**Leighton Buzzard**  
**LU7 1DA**

Opening Hours:  
 Monday 10.00am – 1.00pm and 4.00 – 6.30pm  
 Tues – Fri 10.00am – 1.00pm

Drop-in or telephone during the above times.  
 If follow-on visits are needed then appointments will be made  
 Tel: **01525 373878** (Advice Line - during above hours)  
 Tel: **01525 374589** (Administration Line)  
 Email (not for advice): **admin@leightonlinsladecab.org.uk**  
 Online advice at **www.leightonlinsladecab.org.uk**

The CAB provides a free, confidential and independent advice service on debt, welfare benefits, housing, employment consumer and many other issues. Enquiries can be made in person, by telephone or online via our website.

## Families United Network (FUN)

“FUN” is a group for families with special needs. Members get together and have fun. During school holiday times, trips and outings are organised and a drop-in centre is available.

FUN produces a “parent directory” including information on all you need to know about living in Central Bedfordshire with a child with additional needs. Get in contact to request a copy.

**Contact Diane on 01525 636680, [diane.fun@ntlworld.com](mailto:diane.fun@ntlworld.com) for more information**

Or look at the web site **[www.familiesunitednetwork.co.uk](http://www.familiesunitednetwork.co.uk)**

---

## Family and Youth Information Service

**The Family and Youth Information Service** is part of Central Bedfordshire Council's commitment to supporting all children and young people aged from 0 to 19 and their families. The service is available 24/7 via telephone, face to face, online through our 'Family Information Directory' and at information points including Sure Start Children's Centres.



We provide a one stop shop for impartial information on:

- childcare and early years education
- childcare brokerage service
- free nursery education funding
- before, after school and holiday care
- help with childcare costs
- local family support services
- parent and toddler groups
- activities and local groups for children and young people
- support groups and clubs/activities for children with disabilities
- maternity, paternity, adoption and parental leave
- financial support for parents and carers, rights as a working parent
- parenting support services
- lifestyle issues for young people  
**[www.13-19Central.co.uk](http://www.13-19Central.co.uk)**
- careers and option choices for young people
- volunteering, personal development for young people
- local 14-19 prospectus of learning opportunities **[www.forward-together.org](http://www.forward-together.org)**
- any other family issues.

### Opening times:

Mon-Thurs 8.30am – 5.15pm

Fri 8.30am – 4.45pm

answer phone outside these hours

Telephone: **0300 300 8119**

Email: **[fyis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:fyis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)**

Website: **[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/fyis](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/fyis)**

**[Facebook.com/letstalkcentral](https://www.facebook.com/letstalkcentral)**

---

## Focus on Parenting

### **[www.focusonparenting.co.uk](http://www.focusonparenting.co.uk)**

A private and confidential counselling service for families with babies and children up to 9 years old. We offer individual sessions for parents and children, with an experienced health professional to help them find different solutions to behavioural problems or worries.

Difficulties such as sleep problems, tantrums and crying, fussy eating, anger management, ADHD, relationship issues, bereavement, separation and divorce can be explored.

Daytime, evening and Saturday morning appointments available.

We are based in Dunstable, and our catchment area is South Beds and Luton.

**Telephone: 07934 241568 Email: [focusonparenting@btinternet.com](mailto:focusonparenting@btinternet.com)**

---

## **Fostering and Adoption**


Ever considered fostering or adopting in Bedfordshire?  
**You could make a REAL difference!**

Challenging and rewarding, fostering or adoption is about providing stability, encouragement and a loving home to children who for various reasons are unable to live with their own families either on a short/long term or permanent basis.



Central Bedfordshire Council  
and Bedford Borough Council  
**working together**

We are looking for people who can provide a safe, loving environment which will allow these young people to thrive. You don't necessarily have to be married, have children, or give up your job. What you DO have to do, is to want to give a child a home which will support, encourage and guide them if necessary into adulthood and be prepared for the challenges and rewards this will bring. In return for your commitment, we will provide you with comprehensive training and support to work in partnership, to provide these children with a positive life experience.

Do something incredible today..... 

If you feel you're up to the challenge, or would like to know more, we'd love to hear from you. Call us free on **0800 218 2002** or go to **www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk** for information.

---

## **Grandparents Support Group**

A support group for grandparents who are the main carers for their grandchildren. Providing support to people who've experienced court proceedings for residence care or contact orders. Sharing experience and ideas and helping people understand that they're not on their own in these circumstances.

Weekly meetings Tuesday 10.00am – 12.00pm term time only  
at Kents Hill Community Centre, Firthwood Crescent, Milton Keynes, MK7 6HQ

Contact Karen on **01525 753422**  
email **grandparent.sg@ntlworld.com** or visit **www.grandparentsupportgroup.org.uk**

---

## **Homebirth Group**

Monthly meetings. Supporting women and their partners in Leighton Buzzard/Milton Keynes.

Phone Sarah on **07947 188628** or email **phoebusflea@hotmail.co.uk**  
Visit our **Facebook** page under Leighton Buzzard and District Homebirth Support

## Home-Start

**Home-Start Central Bedfordshire**  
**201 Vandyke Road**  
**Leighton Buzzard**  
**Beds LU7 3HS**  
[www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk](http://www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk)  
[office@home-startcentralbeds.org.uk](mailto:office@home-startcentralbeds.org.uk)

Office Hours  
 Monday – Friday  
 9.30am - 2.00pm



Home-Start is a voluntary organisation offering support, friendship and practical help to families at home with children under five years of age. We have been working in Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and surrounding villages since 1984. There are approximately 350 schemes nationwide. Being a parent, wherever you live or whatever the situation can be difficult at times. Many parents feel exhausted and overwhelmed by the stresses of family life with under 5's. The service is free and confidential.

Homestart also runs a "Freedom Programme" which is for women who have been affected by domestic abuse. It aims to help women understand the beliefs of abusive men, to recognise potential abusers in the future and to gain confidence and self esteem. It is a rolling programme so women can join at any point. Crèche provided.

If you need help or would like to volunteer, phone Linda, Maggie, Jo or Margie on **01525 374656**

---

## La Leche League

New mother or pregnant? Phone local contacts on:	Mum to Mum support for breastfeeding. <b>01525 240351</b> (Amanda) <b>01525 713478</b> (Helen) <b>01525 403505</b> (Danielle)	
National helpline: <a href="http://www.laleche.org.uk">www.laleche.org.uk</a>	<b>0845 1202 918</b> <a href="http://www.llli.org">www.llli.org</a> <a href="http://www.lllbedfordandluton.org.uk">www.lllbedfordandluton.org.uk</a>	

---

## Leighton Buzzard Job Centre Plus

<b>9a Waterborne Walk</b> <b>Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1DH</b> <b>Fax: 01525 252931</b> <a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk">www.direct.gov.uk</a>	Opening hours: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
To claim for benefit	<b>0800 055 6688</b>
New Deal For Lone Parents Advisor	<b>01525 252962</b>
Jobseekers Direct	<b>0845 606 0234</b>

---

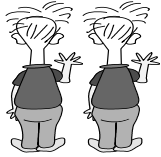
## Leighton Buzzard Mumpreneurs

A networking group of Mum Entrepreneurs.  
 We meet on the first Friday of each month to network, share customers and referrals. Open to new Mums and guests who are looking for an opportunity to have their own business  
 Tel: 01525 217216 or 07802 573838 or email [sarahannsmith@live.co.uk](mailto:sarahannsmith@live.co.uk)

---

## Leighton Buzzard Twins & Triplets Club

Are you expecting or raising twins, triplets or more? Why not join our fun, friendly and informal group? We offer:



- Nights out, nights in and trips to local events
- Daytime meetings for a chat and a cuppa where children can socialise together – held fortnightly on Tuesdays 9.45 – 11.15am at the Salvation Army Hall, Lammas Walk
- An annual party for the children
- Opportunities to buy, sell or borrow equipment



We are affiliated to Tamba (Twins and Multiple Births Association) and have access to their information and support services.

Contact Claire Watson **01525 381978** [www.leightonbuzzardtwins.org.uk](http://www.leightonbuzzardtwins.org.uk)

---

## Leighton-Linslade Town Council

**The White House  
 Hockliffe Street  
 Leighton Buzzard  
 LU7 1HD  
 Telephone: 01525 631920  
 Email: [info@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk)  
[www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk](http://www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk)**



For general information about Leighton Buzzard and Linslade and details of local events, organisations, activities and services.

Opening times: Mon – Thurs 9.00am – 5.00pm Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm

---

## Marriage Care

Marriage Care is a charity which aims to support marriage, relationships and family life. Relationship counselling is available for people in distress or difficulty with their partner or those close to them. Clients welcomed either individually or as a couple. Counselling takes place at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes, with clients making a contribution towards the price of counselling.

**Tel: 0800 389 3801 email: [info@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:info@marriagecare.org.uk) [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)**

---

## Milton Keynes Play Association Scrapstore

**[www.mkplayassociation.co.uk/scrapstore](http://www.mkplayassociation.co.uk/scrapstore)  
 2 Burners Lane  
 Kiln Farm  
 Milton Keynes  
 MK11 3HB**

**Tel: 01908 263033**

### Open to members on:

Monday	2pm to 5.30pm
Tuesday	10am to 5.30pm
Weds – Friday	10am to 4pm
1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat of each month	10am - 1pm

To become a member of Milton Keynes Play Association you need work with children. Courses are available (eg. First aid, child protection) There are variable rates of joining depending on which group you are representing.

---

## Miscarriage Support

Support for loss for early or late miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy. For free confidential support call Janet on **01763 249243** or email [janet.support@ntlworld.com](mailto:janet.support@ntlworld.com)

---

## National Childbirth Trust

### Leighton Buzzard and District Branch

We are your local branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT), the UK's leading charity for parents. The branch is run by volunteers to support new parents and parents-to-be. Being involved in branch activities is a great way to make friends and exchange experiences and information with other parents. New volunteers are always welcome.



Our range of services is available to everyone; you do not have to be an NCT Member:

- Nearly New Sales in June, Oct 2011
- Postnatal support groups
- Area coffee groups
- Breast Pump Hire
- Maternity and breast feeding bras
- Regular family events

For more information on any of the above, please call **0844 243 6186** or visit [www.nct.org.uk/in-your-area/leightonbuzzard](http://www.nct.org.uk/in-your-area/leightonbuzzard)

The NCT offers **antenatal courses** for women and their partners, run by experienced, qualified NCT teachers, covering the major aspects of pregnancy, labour and early parenting. Classes are friendly, informal and offer the opportunity to meet others expecting babies around the same time.

Please contact your NCT Parent Services Advisor, on **0844 243 6890** or go to [www.nct.org.uk](http://www.nct.org.uk) for more information.

---

## Netmums



**Netmums** is a local network for mums run by mums with a wealth of information and advice on being a mum or dad with young children in your home town. Whether you're looking for baby or toddler activities, mother and toddler groups, baby groups, pre-schools, nurseries or childcare; are desperate for somewhere new to take the kids; or would like to meet some new mum friends in your area, Netmums has the answer. [www.netmums.com](http://www.netmums.com)

---

## Opportunity Group - Leighton Buzzard Mencap

The Opportunity Group is held for children from nought to five years who have special needs. We aim to provide guidance and stimulation for the children and a caring and supportive framework for pre-school children and their parents.



We meet on Mondays and Wednesday at **Bassett Road Health Centre, Leighton Buzzard**  
For more information contact Gaye Beattie on **01296 682190**

---

## **Pre-School Learning Alliance**

The PSLA is a national educational charity. It promotes pre-school groups in which parents can, with growing enjoyment and confidence, make the best use of their knowledge and resources in the development of their children and themselves. On a national level, the organisation lobbies the government on issues that may affect parents or pre-school groups.



Locally the PSLA volunteers organise:

**Picnic in the Park** An annual event held on a Wednesday in mid-June at Parsons Close Recreation Ground. For a fun day in the park, come and join us on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011 from 10.00am to 2.00pm. (Or 22<sup>nd</sup> June if postponed due to rain). All pre-school groups, under 5s and their parents/carers are welcome. See press for details.

**Library Display** A colourful display by several of the local pre-schools is held in the children's section of the library, generally throughout November and beyond, celebrating children's achievements and publicising local groups.

**Talks** On issues of concern to parents.

**Information For Young Families** PSLA volunteers are also responsible for producing this booklet!

Please phone Mary on **01525 378262** if you would like to get involved.

---

## **Register Offices (Births, Deaths, Marriages & Civil Partnerships)**

**Leighton Buzzard** Bossard House  
West Street  
Leighton Buzzard  
LU7 1DA  
Tel: 0300 300 8089

Open:  
**Monday, Wednesday 12.30 – 4.00pm**  
**Friday 10.00am – 1.00pm**  
**Saturday by appointment**

**Dunstable** Grove House  
76 High St North  
Dunstable  
LU6 INF  
Tel: 0300 300 8089

Open:  
**Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday**  
**An appointment system is in operation**

---

## **Relate Bedfordshire & Luton**

An independent charity affiliated to the national Relate federation. The organisation provides adult, individual and couple relationship counselling and family counselling.

**Tel: 01234 356350 email: [appointments@relatebedsandluton.org.uk](mailto:appointments@relatebedsandluton.org.uk)**  
**[www.relatebedfordshireandluton.org.uk](http://www.relatebedfordshireandluton.org.uk)**

---

## Roundabout Children's Centre

Action for Children Roundabout Children's Centre  
St George's Lower School  
East Street

Leighton Buzzard  
LU7 1EW

Phone: **01525 384368**

[www.actionforchildren.org.uk](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk)

Email: [Rosemary.Brown@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:Rosemary.Brown@actionforchildren.org.uk)



Children's Centres are designed to make it easier for all families to access the services they need. Children's Centre staff work closely with other agencies such as Oral Health, SALT (Speech and Language Therapy), Job Centre Plus, NCMA (National Child Minding Association) and the Health Services to ensure they can provide up to date and relevant information. Our centres have expanded this year with **Roundabout Centre** based at St Georges Lower School, East Street, **Buttercup Centre** at Eaton Bray Academy (formerly Eaton Bray Lower School) from where we run activities at various venues.

Our sessions run all year round, with some variation during the school holidays and are designed to stimulate interaction between the parent and child, giving families the opportunity to discover and learn together through play in a supported and friendly environment.

The Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres offer a variety of FREE activity sessions for families with children from 0 to 5 years. The sessions listed on page 27 of this booklet are running in Leighton Buzzard at the **Roundabout Children's Centre, St. George's Lower School, East Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1EW** unless stated otherwise. Some of these also run in Eaton Bray. Please contact the Children's Centre for details.

---

## Spark Adult Learning

Spark Adult Learning offers a wide range part time courses that will help you learn new skills, improve existing ones and improve your mind and body.



Arts & Crafts ○ Business & Management ○ Complementary Therapies  
○ Computing ○ Dance English ○ Family Learning ○ Foreign  
Languages ○ Maths ○ Photography ○ Sport & Fitness

**Our local office is at The Riverside Centre, Bridge Street, Leighton Buzzard**

Telephone: **0808 100 3140** or visit: [www.myfuturetoday.org](http://www.myfuturetoday.org)

We also run free Family Learning workshops and courses for families and family adults (mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers). Find out how children learn, how to help with homework and brush up your literacy, language, numeracy and ICT skills so you are better able to support your child's learning.

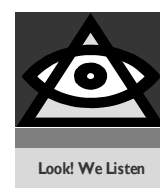
Email: [adultlearning@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

---

## Tactic Teenage Advice

**17 Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard Tel: 01525 373838**

Offering information, advice, guidance & counseling on sexual health (including pregnancy and parenthood), drugs, alcohol and careers for young people between the ages of 12 and 21.



### **The Good Counsel Network**

The Good Counsel Network is a pro-woman, pro-life organisation that offers counselling, practical help and moral support to women seeking abortion. **Tel: 01582 411155**

---

### **Two in Tune (South Bedfordshire Community Family Trust)**



Helps families build strong relationships between parents and enable the parents to raise happy children.

The trust has a team of experienced people who are keen to communicate with couples, working with them to help strengthen their relationships with each other and their children.

**Tel: 01525 372419**

**email: [mail@twointune.org](mailto:mail@twointune.org)**

**[www.twointune.org](http://www.twointune.org)**

---

### **Voluntary & Community Action**

Voluntary and Community Action is committed to strengthening the effectiveness of the voluntary and community sector in Bedfordshire by developing, enabling, promoting and supporting voluntary and community action. To find out more visit our website at **[www.action-centralbeds.org.uk](http://www.action-centralbeds.org.uk)**



For further information contact:

**Bossard House  
West Street  
Leighton Buzzard  
LU7 1DA**

**Telephone: 01525 850559**

**Fax: 01525 376281**

**Email: [mail@action-centralbeds.org.uk](mailto:mail@action-centralbeds.org.uk)**

Opening Hours:

Mon – Fri 9.30am – 3.00pm

And at other times by appointment

---

### **Activities for Pregnancy, Postnatal Mums and Babies**

---

#### **Baby Sensory**

**[www.babysensory.com](http://www.babysensory.com)**

Music, signing and massage to help your baby build up a vocabulary of sensory experiences. Fri 10.15 – 11.15am (7-13 months) and 11.30am – 12.30pm (0-6 months) in Woburn Sands. Contact Sarah Chapman on 07876 643276, email [northbucks@babysensory.co.uk](mailto:northbucks@babysensory.co.uk).

---

#### **Buggy Workout**

**[www.optimumvitality.co.uk](http://www.optimumvitality.co.uk)**

Join our fun outdoor class to work off that post natal weight, tone up whilst strengthening your pelvic floor - no need for a crèche as baby comes too!

Contact Alison on **07718 355244** or email **[alison@optimumvitality.co.uk](mailto:alison@optimumvitality.co.uk)**

---

## **Feet First (Reflexology)**

**[www.feetfirst-reflexology.co.uk](http://www.feetfirst-reflexology.co.uk)**

A trained reflexologist specialising in maternity reflexology, offering home visits to expectant mothers, helping to make particularly the latter stages of pregnancy more comfortable.

Phone Tracey Field on **01525 752655** or **07963 797613**

email **[tracey@feetfirst-reflexology.co.uk](mailto:tracey@feetfirst-reflexology.co.uk)**

---

## **Infant Massage Classes**

Home visits. Group/private lessons. Tuition given by Yoshie Buckley CIMI.

Pregnancy massage also offered – generally suitable from 20 weeks of pregnancy.

For further information phone **07941 549630** or email **[info@avalon-healing.co.uk](mailto:info@avalon-healing.co.uk)**

---

## **St Judes Clinic**

**Pregnant or have a young family? St Judes Clinic has all the help you need:**

**Paediatric Physiotherapy:** Advice on problems with balance and co-ordination and more serious conditions such as developmental delay, prematurity and hypermobility.

**Pregnancy Physiotherapy:** Treat the pain associated with pregnancy and receive advice and self-help exercises to help you have a happy, healthy pregnancy.

**Podiatrists:** Many knee, hip and back problems can be caused by your feet and affect posture and stability – Podiatrists are specially trained to assess and treat young feet.

**Tel: 01525 377751 E-mail: [enquiries@stjudesclinic.com](mailto:enquiries@stjudesclinic.com) Web: [www.stjudesclinic.com](http://www.stjudesclinic.com)**

**26 Lake Street Leighton Buzzard LU7 1RX**

---

## **Toes to Nose**

Baby massage classes – individual and group sessions.

Contact Victoria Heaps **01582 423519** or Carolyn Johnston **01525 374115**

or email **[info@toestonose.co.uk](mailto:info@toestonose.co.uk)**

---

## **Waterbabies**

**[www.waterbabies.co.uk](http://www.waterbabies.co.uk)**

Teach your baby to swim. Focus on water confidence and water safety. Healthy, rewarding and fun. Babies have to be under 1 year to start. Classes held in Wing, Soulbury, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury. Call **01295 709221** or email **[chasetheball@waterbabies.co.uk](mailto:chasetheball@waterbabies.co.uk)**.

---

## **Toddler Groups**

Toddler Groups are informal groups where the parent or carer attends with their baby or child. These groups can be used by anyone (parents, grandparents, carers etc) who's got a baby or toddler, right up to and including 4 year olds. They often provide a good way of getting out and making contacts and friendships. A small charge is generally made to cover the hall hire and refreshments. Most groups operate during term time only.

---

**Baby Barnacles, St Barnabas Church, Linslade**

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 2.00 – 3.00pm term time only
- Contact Father Bernard on 01525 372149

*Simple service followed by toys, crafts and refreshments.*

**Cheeky Monkeys, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Church Lane, Eaton Bray**

- Wednesday 1.00 – 2.45pm term time only
- Contact Rachel on 07789 760007, [cheekymonkeyseatonbray@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cheekymonkeyseatonbray@hotmail.co.uk)

*Under fives playtime, with creative play, singing and story time. Come along, make new friends and join in the fun!*

**Church Road Toddler Group, St Barnabas Church Hall, Waterloo Rd, Linslade**

- Tuesday 9.30 – 11.15am term time only. Contact Susanna on 01525 854057

*Come and have a cup of tea and chat at this relaxed and friendly group, while your children play.*

**Dad and Me Sessions, Roundabout Children's Centre, St George's Lower School**

- First Saturday of the month 10.00am – 12.00pm. Children under 5 years
- No charge. Contact Children's Centre on 01525 384368

*For male carers/fathers/partners/grandfathers, encouraging play with their little ones.*

**First Steps, All Saints Church, Church Square, Leighton Buzzard**

- Second and fourth Wednesday of the month 2.00 – 3.00pm term time
- Bible story, songs, instruments, refreshments. Contact Church Office 01525 381418

*Church service for babies and pre-school children*

**Hockliffe Street Baptist Church Toddler Activity Group, Hockliffe Street**

- Tuesday 10.00-11.30am, Thursday 1.15 – 2.45pm (babies and up to 2 years)
- Contact Church Office 01525 371312

*An organised, busy group. Come for a visit and put your name on the waiting list.*

*Thursday's group is a quieter more relaxed group for younger children.*

**Ladybird Parent & Toddler Grp, Scout Hut, The Lands (off Moorlands Rd), Wing**

- Monday 10.00 – 11.30am. Contact Anna on 01296 682680

*A casual, social group. Song and drinks time included.*

**Little Fishes Parent & Toddlers, St Leonard's Church Hall, Heath & Reach**

- Monday 1.30pm – 3.00pm. Contact Church Office 01525 234045

*A church based group. Art activities, story and music times*

**Meadow Way Toddlers, The Moorings, 201 Vandyke Rd, Leighton Buzzard**

- Friday 10.00 – 11.30am term time. Contact Children's Centre on 01525 384368

*A warm friendly group offering family learning opportunities through activities and support from a Roundabout Children's Centre worker. No waiting list, just call in.*

**New Parents Group, Bassett Road Clinic, Bassett Road, Leighton Buzzard**

- Friday 2.00 – 4.00pm. No charge. Babies up to mobile
- Contact Clinic on 01525 751100 or Children's Centre on 01525 384368

*For parents/carers to meet others, enjoy making new friends and sharing advice. Staff from the Children's Centre and health present.*

**Salvation Army Parents and Toddlers, Lammas Walk, Leighton Buzzard**

- Thursday 10.00am – 11.30am term time only
- Contact David on 01525 373780

*This is a medium sized group, down to earth and very friendly. Phone to book a place.*

**SmAll Saints, All Saints Church (and other venues), Leighton Buzzard**

- Tuesday and Friday 10.00 – 11.30am at All Saints Church, Church Square
- Thursday 10.00 – 11.30am at Pages Park Pavilion, Billington Road
- Thursday 1.30 – 3.00pm at Billington Village Hall.
- Contact Rowena on 01525 378230

*Friendly and organised groups affiliated to All Saints Church. Craft activities, simple Bible stories and songs.*

**Smiles Childminding Group, Salvation Army Hall, Lammas Walk, L Buzzard**

- Wednesday fortnightly 9.30 – 11.00am
- Contact 07952 682418

*A group for childminders, nannies and grandparents and their minded children.*

**Southcott Parent and Toddlers, Bideford Green Community Centre, Linslade**

- Thursdays 1.30 – 3.00pm term time only
- Contact Julie on 01525 378321

*An organised, busy group.*

**Stanbridge & Tilsworth P & T, Community Hall, Tilsworth Rd, Stanbridge**

- Thursday 1.30 – 3.15pm
- Contact Louise on 07951 266215 / 01525 210575
- Or Martine on 01525 210854, email [martinetourney@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:martinetourney@hotmail.co.uk)

*An organised group with a social life for Mums too! Coffee and chat, outside play in summer.*

**Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, St Giles' Church Hall, Totternhoe**

- Tuesday 9.30 – 11.30am term time only
- Contact Nicki on 07855 888338

*A friendly group run by local mums and carers. Toys, baby area, crafts and sing-along.*

**Trinity Toddlers, Methodist Church Hall, North Street**

- Tues, Weds, Friday 9.45 – 11.15am term time only
- Contact Alison on 01525 370030

*We meet in the Cellar Room at the Methodist Church in North Street. Entry at rear of church.*

**Young Parents Fun & Lunch Club, Roundabout Children's Cntr, St George's Lwr Sch**

- Monday 12.15 – 1.45pm lunch and play. No charge
- Term time and extra holiday sessions
- Contact Children's Centre on 01525 384368

*Advice and support for parents aged 24 years or under, from various agencies, giving young parents opportunities to play with their children and learn together.*

## Term Dates

Many toddler groups and children's activities operate only during term times. Term dates can vary from county to county. Term dates for 2011/12 in Central Bedfordshire are:

- Summer Term:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011  
 Half term – week commencing Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May  
 Training days on 26<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> July
- Autumn Term:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
 Half term - week commencing Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October  
 Training days on 5<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> October
- Spring Term:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
 Half term – week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
 Training day on 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Most Central Bedfordshire schools will be closed on the training days listed above to enable teacher training to take place in accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service. Check details with individual schools.

---

## Activities for Toddlers and Children

---

### Children's Clubs

**Al the Music Man – [www.althemusicman.co.uk](http://www.althemusicman.co.uk)** – Interactive and educational songs for children aged 6m to 3 years. Soulbury Village Hall, Monday 10.00 – 11.00am. Phone 07732 560980, email [althemusicman@btinternet.com](mailto:althemusicman@btinternet.com).

**Ballet and Baby Ballet** - Fun ballet classes for pre-school children held at Wing, Northall and Leighton Town Football Club (opposite Morrisons). Teaching by a professional dancer. Ballet for 4-7 year olds held at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre. Phone Emma at Little Luvvies, on **07958 084390**.

**Beacon Arts Dance School** - Ballet, tap and modern dance. Principal: Miss Lisa M Sabatini LISTD. Children from the age of 3 yrs for ballet, 5 yrs for modern and tap. Summer School for children of 5 yrs and above. Classes in Leighton Buzzard, Stewkley and Ivinghoe. Call **01908 645170** or **07834 281434** or email [lisabeaconarts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lisabeaconarts@yahoo.co.uk) for further details.

**Beaver Scouts** - Beaver Scouts take children (girls and boys) from 6-8 years. It is advisable to get your child's name on the waiting list. Contact Andy Goddon, Assistant District Commissioner, on **01525 755717** for information about your local Colony.

**Carol Speller's Dancing School** - Music and movement session from age 3. Tuesday at 4.00pm in Wing. Ballet and tap for older children. Phone Carol Speller ANATD on **01525 210565**.

**Cookie Tots - [www.kiddycook.co.uk](http://www.kiddycook.co.uk)** - Cooking activity classes for children aged 2-4 run during term time. Make easy, healthy recipes, taste new foods and enjoy activities and songs with a food theme. Contact Charlotte Carr **07870 108635**, email [leightonbuzzard@kiddycook.co.uk](mailto:leightonbuzzard@kiddycook.co.uk)

**Create Mayhem with Claire & Emily** - Arts, crafts, cooking, messy play activities for 1–10 yr olds. Monday and Tuesday during summer hols 9.30–11.00am. Booking recommended. Call Emily on **07983 515126**, or email **mle@talktalk.net**. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Cycle4LIFE – [www.cycle4life.weebly.com](http://www.cycle4life.weebly.com)** - Complete Beginners or Basic Cycling Skills aged 4 and upwards. Fun and supportive training, in groups or 1-to-1, delivered by our friendly, local and fully qualified instructors. Parents can also take advantage of road Confidence Cycle Training and tips on how to ride with children. Tel: 01525 382343 or email [cycle4life.training@gmail.com](mailto:cycle4life.training@gmail.com)

**Doreen's School of Dancing** - Tap and ballet from the age of 3½. Principle: Doreen Rolls UTD De. Established 50 years. Hockliffe Street Baptist Church on Monday and Tuesday. Phone **01525 237400** for details.

**Early Years Music – [www.bedfordshiremusic.com](http://www.bedfordshiremusic.com)** - Fun with music sessions for 3 – 5 year olds. Vandyke School, Vandyke Road, Leighton Buzzard. Part of Leighton Buzzard Music School. Contact Bedfordshire Music on **0300 300 8102**.

**Girls' Brigade** - A Christian activity group for girls from 4½ upwards - games, dancing, badges, crafts. Friday 6.00 - 7.30pm at the Trinity Methodist Church Hall, North Street. Phone Marilyn Powell on **01908 274203** for more details.

**Harlequin Gym – [www.harlequingymnastics.co.uk](http://www.harlequingymnastics.co.uk)** - Unit 8 Greaves Industrial Estate, Stanbridge Rd, L. Buzzard. Play gym – Mon & Weds 10am-12pm and 1-3pm (term time & holidays) Fri 10am-12pm (term time). Pay as you go. Gym classes Thursday from 3 years. Trampolining from 4 years. Hire the gym for a party. Phone **01525 374854**, or email [harlequingymschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:harlequingymschool@yahoo.co.uk).

**Inspire Sport and Fitness – [www.inspiresportandfitness.co.uk](http://www.inspiresportandfitness.co.uk)** – Ballet, tap and street dance classes from 3 years up. See website for details or phone Emily on **07743 861187**, email [inspiresportandfitness@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:inspiresportandfitness@hotmail.co.uk).

**JoAnn Latus School of Dance – [www.jolatusdance.co.uk](http://www.jolatusdance.co.uk)** – Dance classes for children from the age of 3. Ballet, tap, modern and jazz. Classes in Eaton Bray on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4pm. Contact Jo on **0780 051 8654** or email [info@jolatusdance.co.uk](mailto:info@jolatusdance.co.uk).

**Jo Jingles - [www.jojingles.com/leightonbuzzard](http://www.jojingles.com/leightonbuzzard)** - Basic introduction to music, singing and movement for children aged 3 months to 5 years in peer age groups, in Leighton, Linslade & Cheddington weekdays. Christine Levey **01525 381189**, [jo.jingles@sky.com](mailto:jo.jingles@sky.com).

**Leanne Hughes Theatre School - [www.lhtheatreschool.co.uk](http://www.lhtheatreschool.co.uk)** - Dance classes from the age of 3. ISTD ballet, tap and jazz. Enterprise Way off Grovebury Road. Phone **01908 676987**, email [lhtheatreschool@aol.com](mailto:lhtheatreschool@aol.com).

**Leighton Buzzard Swimming Club – [www.lb-sc.com](http://www.lb-sc.com)** - Learn to swim sessions on Sunday 6.00 – 7.00pm at Tiddenfoot. Qualified teachers. Senior swimmers help out in the water with classes. Phone Elsa **01582 657953** or Elaine **01525 221991**.

**Leighton-Linslade St John Ambulance Badger Sett** - Learning first aid and citizenship in a fun way. Junior group of St John Ambulance for all children aged 5 – 10 years. Meet on Wednesday 6.15 – 7.15pm during term time. Phone Stacey on **01525 372376** for details.

**Leighton Buzzard Mini Theatre – [www.lbct.org](http://www.lbct.org)** - Musical theatre sessions for 4 – 9 year olds. Saturday mornings during term time at Heath Barn, Eastern Way, Heath & Reach. Contact Sylvie on **01525 376797** for details

**Linslade Crusaders Swimming Club** - Swimming lessons from the age of 5. Learn to swim and stroke development. Lessons at Tiddenfoot on Sat and Sun mornings (8.00am) and Sun evening (5.00pm). Phone Alison **01525 217249** to go on the waiting list.

**Musical Minis – [www.musicalminis.co.uk](http://www.musicalminis.co.uk)** – Music, storytelling and dance session for babies and children under 5 years. Also available for parties. Relaxed atmosphere. First class – free taster session. Classes in Leighton Buzzard and Heath & Reach. Contact Paula Black on **01525 237194**, email [paula@musicalminis.co.uk](mailto:paula@musicalminis.co.uk).

**Premier Sport - [www.premiersport.org](http://www.premiersport.org)** - Teaching sports skills in an encouraging, safe atmosphere. Tots programme is for the 4 - 6 age group. Holiday courses available, birthday parties by arrangement. Tel: **0871 230 9455**.

**Rainbows – [www.bedsguiding.org.uk](http://www.bedsguiding.org.uk)** – The youngest section in Girlguidinguk, for girls aged from 5 to 7 years. Rainbows usually hold weekly meetings offering a varied structured programme of fun activities including craft, games, music and outings. *Parents volunteer helpers always welcome!* Contact the local enquiry line: **07803 845588**

**Socatots - [www.socatots.com/beds](http://www.socatots.com/beds)** - Soccer specific play programme for children from 18 months - 5yrs. Weekly classes running in L. Buzzard, Eaton Bray, Billington and surrounding areas. Contact Daniel Walker on **07968 778681** or email [d.walker@socatots.com](mailto:d.walker@socatots.com)

**Soccer For Tots UK** - Age appropriate soccer fun for 3-6 yr olds giving a great introduction to soccer in a non-competitive environment. Weekly 45 minute classes to build balance, co-ordination and communication skills. Phone **01525 237750** email [glen@soccerfortots.com](mailto:glen@soccerfortots.com).

**Stagecoach, Leighton Buzzard – [www.stagecoach.co.uk/leightonbuzzard](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk/leightonbuzzard)** - Drama, dance and singing lessons for 4 – 18 year olds. Confidence building creative and fun sessions on Saturday during term time. Parties for children from aged 4. Phone Wendy Ashman on **01525 222715** or email [leightonbuzzard@stagecoach.co.uk](mailto:leightonbuzzard@stagecoach.co.uk).

**The Greensand Trust – [www.greensandtrust.org](http://www.greensandtrust.org)** - Wildlife activities during holiday time for young enthusiasts and their families. Family and holiday events advertised through the website.

**Toddler Time – [www.toddlerthemk.co.uk](http://www.toddlerthemk.co.uk)** - Fun and lively music and movement sessions for the under 5s. Fridays all year round, 10-11am at the Tennis Club, Lake Street (opposite Morrisons). Call Annette on **01908 647405** or email Karen [info@toddlerthemk.co.uk](mailto:info@toddlerthemk.co.uk)

**Tots Tennis – [www.hitthecourt.co.uk](http://www.hitthecourt.co.uk)** – Co-ordination, ball and racket skills for children aged 3 – 5 years. Leighton Buzzard Tennis Club, Lake St. Contact Craig Keeling on **07958 938275** or email [craig@hitthecourt.co.uk](mailto:craig@hitthecourt.co.uk).

## Children’s Centre Activities

(See page 19 for information on Roundabout Children’s Centre)

Day	Activity	Age Group	Time	Venue	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Creative Play</b>	mobile – 5 years	9.30 – 11.00am	Children’s Centre	<b>Booking Required</b>
	<b>Young Parents Fun &amp; Lunch Club</b>	parents under 24 and their children	12.15 – 1.45pm	Children’s Centre	<b>Drop In</b>
	<b>Swim Session</b>	children 4m – 5 years	2.30 – 3.00pm term time	Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre	<b>Booking Required</b>
	<b>Story &amp; Rhyme</b>	children 0 – 5 years	9.30 – 10.00am term time	Willows Pre School, Greenleas Lower School	<b>Drop In</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>NCMA Creative Play</b>	childminders and children in their care	10.00 – 11.30am	Children’s Centre	<b>Drop In</b>
	<b>Playstop Gym</b>	mobile- 5 years	11.15am – 12.00pm term time	St George’s Lower School	<b>Drop In</b>
	<b>Baby Massage</b>	babies 8 wks - mobile	1.30 – 2.30pm term time	Children’s Centre	<b>Booking Required</b>
	<b>Baby Playstop Gym</b>	under 2 years	2.15 – 3.00pm term time	Bideford Green Community Centre	<b>Booking Required</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Baby Brasserie</b>	breastfeeding mums & babies	12.00 – 1.30pm	Children’s Centre	<b>Drop In</b>
	<b>Story and Rhyme Time</b>	0 – 5 years	2.30 – 3.00pm	Children’s Centre	<b>Drop In</b>
	<b>Creative Play</b>	0 – 5 years	2.00 – 3.00pm	Methodist Chapel Mentmore Rd	<b>Drop In</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Cookie Tots</b>	2-5 years	11.00 – 11.45am term time	Children’s Centre	<b>Booking Required</b>
	<b>Music, Movement and Rhyme</b>	mobile – 5 years	10.00 – 11.00am term time	Methodist Chapel, Mentmore Road	<b>Booking Required</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Early Explorers</b>	babies aged 6-18 months	10.30am – 12.00pm	Children’s Centre	<b>Drop In</b>
	<b>Mini Chefs</b>		1.30 – 2.15pm term time	Willows Pre School, Greenleas Lower School	<b>Booking Required</b>
	<b>New Parent Group</b>	new parents and babies	2.00 – 4.00pm	Bassett Rd Health Centre	<b>Drop In</b>
<b>Call for Further Details</b>					
<b>Parent Puzzle</b>	A 10 week parenting programme				<b>Booking Required</b>
<b>Freedom</b>	For women affected by domestic abuse				<b>Drop In</b>
<b>First Aid</b>	3 hour course for parents				<b>Booking Required</b>

**Parents/carers must stay and supervise their children during all of these sessions**

## Toy Library

The Toy Library is run by the **Roundabout Children's Centre** (see page 19). The catalogue of toys is available to view and make reservations from at the normal Children's Centre sessions. Toys can be collected and returned to the St Georges site on Fridays (term time only) from 12.15 - 1.15pm. Toys can be borrowed for 2 weeks or more, free of charge. Additionally, there is a mobile Toy Library service serving the surrounding local villages.

Contact **KathleenHumphries@actionforchildren.org.uk**  
 or phone **01525 384368** for more details.

---

## Leighton Buzzard Library

**Lake Street,  
 Leighton Buzzard LU7 1RX**

Opening hours:  
 Mon – Thurs 9.00am - 6.00pm  
 Friday 2.00pm - 6.00pm  
 Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm



The Library provides a wide range of books, music and information for all the family. There is no charge for joining and no lower age limit. To join, just bring along one proof of your address. You can borrow books, language courses, children's books on tape and jigsaws (free), CDs, videos, DVDs and adult books on tape/cd (for a fee). Internet access and office applications are available free. Instant membership is also available with no ID, allowing you to borrow up to four books and access the internet.

There is a well-stocked Children's Library, under 5s Rhyme Time sessions (approx monthly during term time) holiday activities, displays and class visits. There are "Storytimes" for under 5s on Tuesday (2.15 – 2.45pm), Wednesday (9.45 – 10.15am) and Saturday fortnightly (10.00 – 10.30am). Adults must remain with their children during these sessions. No booking is necessary. You can join the Bookstart Book Crawl Scheme – ask for further details. On the first floor there is a Coffee Bar, and a baby changing room. The Library welcomes new members.

For more information call in, or phone **0300 300 8059**  
**email: leightonbuzzard.library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk**  
**www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk** (select **libraries** tab)

---

## The Leighton Buzzard Theatre & Arts Centre

**Lake Street** (above the Library)  
**Leighton Buzzard  
 LU7 1RX**

**Admin: 0300 300 8130**  
**www.leightonbuzzardtheatre.co.uk**



170-seat professionally equipped Theatre and Cinema on the second floor, plus Lounge, Meeting room and Box Office Foyer. Professional programme of live events and films includes matinée shows for children and families, especially during school holidays. Participative workshops for children during school holidays. Local amateur groups also put on shows, including an annual pantomime in January. Licensed Bar for live events and film events.

Personal bookings from the second floor computerised Box Office, Monday to Saturday, 9.30am to 3.00pm (closed 12.30 to 1.00pm) and 45 minutes prior to performances.

### **Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre**

Mentmore Road  
 Linslade  
 LU7 2AF  
**Tel: 01525 375765**

**Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre** provides facilities for a variety of indoor and outdoor sports. It has two pools, one of which is a deck level variable based pool, which is ideal for babies. The Centre offers a range of courses including:

**Tiny Tumblers** 6m – 3 yrs  
**Toddlers Gym** 3 – 5 years  
**Swim Lessons** 4 months  
**Toddler Playtime** Shallow water play for under 5s - Thursdays 2.15 - 3.15pm  
**Children's Parties by arrangement**

**Tiddenfoot Crèche** Opening hours Mon - Fri 9.00am – 1.00pm.  
 For children aged 6 weeks to 5 years.  
 Max stay, 2 hours. Parent may not leave the premises.  
 Booking recommended – members can book 1 week in advance, non-members, 6 days.  
 Contact **01525 375765**

---

### **Other Local Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools**

**Aqua Splash at Leisure World**  
 Jarman Pk, Hemel Hempstd,  
 01442 292203

**Dunstable Leisure Centre**  
 Court Drive, Dunstable  
 01582 608107

**Aqua Vale Swimming & Fitness Centre**  
 Park St, Aylesbury,  
 01296 488555

**Flitwick Leisure Centre**  
 Steppingley Road, Flitwick,  
 01525 717744

**Bletchley Leisure Centre**  
 Princes Way, Bletchley,  
 01908 377251

**Houghton Regis Leisure Centre**  
 Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis  
 01582 866141

**Dolphin Splashdown**  
 Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes,  
 01908 501700

**Lea Manor Recreation Centre**  
 Northwell Drive, Luton,  
 01582 599888

## **Parks and Recreation Grounds**

<b>Adams Bottom</b> , Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard	Large open space and playground
<b>Alwins Field</b> , Linslade	Children's playground
<b>Appenine Way</b> , Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground
<b>Astral Park</b> , Billington Park, Leighton Buzzard	Large green open space, children's playground and fitness trail
<b>Danes Field</b> , Danes Way, Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground
<b>Derwent Road</b> , Linslade	Children's playground
<b>Draper Way</b> , Sandhills, Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground
<b>Johnson Drive</b> , Sandhills, Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground
<b>Linslade Recreation Ground</b> , Linslade	Large open space, suitable path for bicycle riding and children's playground
<b>Meadow Way</b> , Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground
<b>Nicholson Drive</b> , Billington Pk, Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground
<b>Memorial Playing Fields</b> , Mentmore Rd, Linslade	Large open space, two children's playground (one for under 5s), pavilion, bowling green, cricket pitch, football pitch and tennis courts. Garden of Remembrance
<b>Mill Road</b> , Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground
<b>Pages Park</b> , Billington Rd, Leighton Buzzard	Large open space, children's playground, pavilion, cricket pitch, three tennis and one basketball court, three Association football pitches and croquet lawn. The Leighton Buzzard narrow gauge railway station is situated in this park.
<b>Parsons Close Recreation Ground</b> , Parsons Close, Leighton Buzzard	Large open space, children's playground, splash and play, bandstand, skateboard park, cycle route
<b>Ridgeley Drive</b> , Sandhills, Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground
<b>Thrift Road</b> , Heath & Reach	Children's playground
<b>Vimy Road</b> , Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground and adventure trail
<b>Weston Avenue</b> , Leighton Buzzard	Children's playground

## Annual Town Events

- Pancake Race** Shrove Tuesday at Thrift Road Recreation Ground, Heath and Reach.  
 Races start at 1.30pm, light lunches beforehand and refreshments afterwards in the British Legion Hut, organised by the WI.
- Procession of the Cross** Good Friday in the High Street, Leighton Buzzard.
- Wilkes Walk** Historical event peculiar to Leighton Buzzard, culminates in a choirboy being stood on their head outside the Alms Houses in North Street whilst Wilkes' will is read!  
 Takes place in May.  
 Contact All Saints Church on 01525 381418.
- May Fayre** May Day Bank Holiday Monday in the High Street.  
 Fairground amusements and stalls.  
 See local press for details.
- Band Concerts** Held in Parsons Close Recreation Ground from 3.00 – 5.00pm most Sunday from early June to early September (except August Bank Holiday weekend).
- Picnic in the Park** Parsons Close Recreation Ground on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 10am – 2pm (or 22<sup>nd</sup> June if postponed due to rain).  
 Fun day in the park for pre-schoolers. Lots of activities organised. Hosted by the Pre-School Learning Alliance.  
 Phone 07850 392020 for details.
- Leighton-Linslade Carnival** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Parsons Close Recreational Ground with a parade through the town beforehand.  
 The theme is "Circus".  
 See local press for details.
- Flower Festival** 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 at St Barnabas Church, Linslade.
- Canal Festival** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park, Linslade.  
 Phone the Town Council (01525 631920) for details.
- Week of Culture** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October in and around the town. Phone the Town Council (01525 631920) for details.
- Lions Fireworks** Held the Saturday nearest 5<sup>th</sup> November in the grounds of Brooklands Middle School.  
 See local press for details.
- Christmas Carols** Held on Christmas Eve in the High Street.  
 Salvation Army Band.

## Places to Eat (with children in tow)

### **Axe & Compass, Leighton Road, Heath and Reach**

Traditional pub food, children's menu, highchair, large children's playground.  
 Welcomes children until 8pm. Tel: 01525 237394, [www.theaxeandcompass.co.uk](http://www.theaxeandcompass.co.uk)

### **Barista Bay, 14 Market Square, Leighton Buzzard**

Open Monday to Saturday 8.30am – 4.30pm. Fair Trade café, offering high chairs, room for pushchairs and child friendly atmosphere.

### **Latteheaven, 25 Waterborne Walk, Leighton Buzzard**

Open Monday to Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm. Welcoming family friendly spacious coffee bar. High chair and children's menu. Wheelchair accessible. Changing facilities at nearby carpark.

### **Litten Tree, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard**

Food served from 12 noon – 9.00pm Monday to Saturday (in line with licensing laws, children must leave by 7.00pm) and 12 noon – 6.00pm Sunday. High chairs, children's menu, nappy changing facilities, disabled toilets. Telephone 01525 385710

### **Open Door, Hockliffe Street Baptist Church, Leighton Buzzard**

10.00am – 1.30pm on Tuesdays. Cakes and cheese toasties in exchange for a donation to the charities they support. High chairs/trainer cups available and toilets and nappy changing facilities. After 12pm food can be eaten in the hall providing more room for active children!

### **Morrison's Café, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard**

Open 7 days a week. Children's menu and high chairs, baby food and a bottle warming service. Toilets and baby change facilities (with free nappies and wipes) and a breast feeding area in store.

### **McDonalds, Billington Road, Leighton Buzzard & Watling Street, Hockliffe**

"Happy Meals" and burgers in a child friendly environment.

### **The Globe, Globe Lane, Linslade**

Traditional pub with pub food and daily specials, range of wines and speciality coffees. Large garden with outdoor children's play area, children welcome when dining. Telephone 01525 373338

### **The Library Coffee Shop, Leighton Buzzard Library, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard**

Situated on the first floor of the library, it can be accessed by the lift.  
 Open Monday to Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm and Saturday 10.00am – 3.30pm.  
 Hot and cold snacks. Toilets and nappy changing facilities.

### **The Spire Coffee Shop, All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard**

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 10.00am – 3.30pm. Snacks and homemade cakes. A high chair, trainer cups and a toilet are on hand. A potty and a nappy changing area in upstairs toilet. The eating area beyond the serving hatch (the north transept) is a more roomy and relaxing environment for children and has a direct entrance in with no steps (entry around the corner to the right of the coffee shop entrance)

## Health Services

This section deals with your family's health, providing details of doctors, dentists and other health practitioners.

### Accident and Emergency

#### Local hospitals with accident and emergency departments:

#### Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Mandeville Road  
 Aylesbury  
 Bucks  
 HP21 8AL

Tel: **01296 315000**

#### Milton Keynes General Hospital

Standing Way  
 Eaglestone  
 Milton Keynes  
 Bucks, MK6 5LD

Tel: **01908 660033**

#### Luton and Dunstable Hospital

Lewsey Road  
 Luton  
 Beds  
 LU4 0DZ

Tel: **0845 127 0127**

#### Out of hours services:

Call **0845 634 0166**

6.30pm – 8.00am weekdays  
 and 24hr at weekends and  
 Bank Holidays

A trained local professional will advise you on the best course of action and the services available nearby. They will make arrangements, for example, an appointment to see a doctor, depending on your medical needs. You will also get this line by calling your GP surgery when it is closed.

#### Luton NHS Walk-in Centre

14-16 Chapel Street  
 Luton  
 Bedfordshire, LU1 2SE.  
 Tel: **01582 556400**

Walk-in centres offer fast and convenient access to health care, advice and treatment for minor injuries and illness. Luton NHS Walk-in centre is situated in the town centre. It is nurse led and you don't need to make an appointment. Open Monday to Friday 7am - 10pm, and at weekends from 9.00am – 10.00pm

#### Milton Keynes Walk-in Centre

Hospital Campus  
 Standing Way, Eagleston  
 Milton Keynes, MK6 5NG  
 Tel: **01908 303030**

Open every day 7am – 10pm. No appointment needed.

### NHS Direct

Telephone: **0845 46 47**

Website: [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)



24 hour confidential helpline offering advice, information and useful referrals, if you or your family are feeling ill or have health concerns.

## Family Planning Clinics

**Brookside Clinic**  
 Station Way  
 Aylesbury  
 Bucks  
 HP20 2SQ  
 Tel: **01296 421722**

**Practice Sexual Health**  
 1 Walton Court Centre  
 Hannon Road  
 Aylesbury  
 Bucks, HP21 8TJ  
 Tel: **01494 533154**

**Family Planning Clinic**  
 The Lodge  
 4 George St West  
 Luton  
 Beds, LU1 2BJ  
 Tel: **1582 511000**

---

## Bassett Road Health Clinic

**25 Bassett Road**  
**Leighton Buzzard**  
**LU7 1AR**

**Tel: 01525 751100**



**Bedfordshire Community Health Services**

Health care assistants, community nursery nurses, community staff nurses, health visitors and school nurses are centred at the clinic as part of the '0-19 Service'. They work closely with and share relevant information with GPs, education, social care, children's centre and other health care professionals.

A health visitor will make contact with expectant mothers and will make arrangements for anti-natal visits. Parent classes, run by a midwife, are held at the clinic for expectant mothers.

A health visitor will visit all families with new babies, to answer questions and offer advice if wanted, once the midwife has completed her visits. Parents will be invited to come for developmental checks with their child at the appropriate ages.

**Child Health Clinic** – Tuesday 1.00 – 4.00pm, Bassett Road Clinic – drop in session

**New Parents Group (0 - mobile)** – Friday, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Bassett Road Clinic  
 Nursery Nurse present (see page 28 for details)

---

## Bedfordshire & Luton Community NHS Trust

**Crombie House**  
**36 Hockliffe Street**  
**Leighton Buzzard**  
**LU7 1HJ, Tel: 01525 751133**



Help for depression, anxiety and other mental health problems including post natal depression is available at Crombie House. A referral is normally required. Ask your GP or Health Visitor, or contact Crombie House for advice.

## Doctors Surgeries

### Dr Butteriss & Partners

1 Leighton Rd,  
 Linslade, LU7 1LB  
 Tel: 01525 372571  
[www.leightonroadsurgery.co.uk](http://www.leightonroadsurgery.co.uk)

### Dr Chapman & Partners

29 Bassett Rd  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1AR  
 Tel: 01525 373111  
[www.bassettroadsurgery.co.uk](http://www.bassettroadsurgery.co.uk)

### Dr Marshall & Partners

Salisbury House, Lake St  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1RS  
 Tel: 01525 243890  
[www.salisburyhousesurgery.co.uk](http://www.salisburyhousesurgery.co.uk)

### Dr Shafi

Lake House Surgery,  
 20-22 Lake St  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1RT  
 Tel: 01525 851995

### Dr Sivakumar & Partners

Europa House, West St  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1DD  
 Tel: 01525 851888  
[www.europahouse.org.uk](http://www.europahouse.org.uk)

### The Surgery

46, Stewkley Rd, Wing  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 0NE  
 Tel: 01296 688949  
[www.wingsurgery.co.uk](http://www.wingsurgery.co.uk)

---

## Dental Surgeries

### Mr A & N Badiani\*

17a Bridge St  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1AH  
 Tel: 01525 376675

### Mr E.F Byrne

14 West St  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1DD  
 Tel: 01525 373205

### Cherrytrees Dntl Practice\*

56 Soulbury Rd, Linslade  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1RN  
 Tel: 01525 384894

### L. Buzzard Health Centre

25 Bassett Road  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1AR  
 Tel: 01525 751104

### L. Buzzard NHS Dental Cntr\*

8a North St, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1EN  
 Tel: 01525 850058  
[www.lbdentalcare.co.uk](http://www.lbdentalcare.co.uk)

### Whole Tooth Dental Practice\*

1 Enterprise Ct, Grovebury Rd, LU7 4SW  
 Tel: 01525 374100  
[www.wholetooth.co.uk](http://www.wholetooth.co.uk)

### Old Bank Hse Dental Srgry

16-18 Lake St  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1RT  
 Tel: 01525 381391

### Peartree Dental Practice\*

28 Hockliffe St  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1HJ  
 Tel: 01525 372732

### Premier Dental Care

10 Vandyke Road  
 Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3HH  
 Tel: 01525 371000

### Premier Smile Studio\*

34 Hockliffe St, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1HJ  
 Tel: 01525 372089  
[www.premiersmilestudio.co.uk](http://www.premiersmilestudio.co.uk)

### Smile Creations

1a Bell Alley, Market Square, LU7 1DG  
 Tel: 01525 383065  
[www.smilecreations.co.uk](http://www.smilecreations.co.uk)

*NB. Most dental surgeries are now private.  
 Those marked \* will still accept some NHS  
 patients at time of going to press (April 2011)*

## Local Churches

### Church of England

**All Saints Parish Church**, Church Square, Leighton Buzzard. Tel: 01525 381418

**St Barnabas' Church**, Vicarage Road, Linslade. Tel: 01525 371802

**St Leonard's, Heath & Reach**, 2 Reach Lane, Heath & Reach, Leighton Buzzard.  
Tel: 01525 237633

**St John The Baptist Church**, Mill Road, Stanbridge, Leighton Buzzard.  
Tel: 01525 210253

**St Michael's**, Eggington. Tel: 01525 210706 / 01525 384634

**St Michaels & All Angels**, Billington. Tel: 01525 373644 / 01525 372232

**St Nicholas Church**, White Horse Close, Hockliffe, Leighton Buzzard.  
Tel: 01525 210210 / 01525 210565

### Methodist

**Trinity Methodist Church**, North Street, Leighton Buzzard. Tel: 01525 372289

**Linslade Methodist Chapel**, Mentmore Road, Linslade. Tel: 01525 379447

### Catholic

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**, Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard. Tel: 01525 372321

### Baptist

**Hockliffe Street Baptist Church**, Hockcliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard.  
Tel: 01525 371312

### Other

**Jehovah's Witnesses**, 48 High Street, Leighton Buzzard

**Leighton Christian Fellowship**, Vandyke Upper School, Vandyke Road, Leighton Buzzard. Tel: 01525 237030

**Living Water Sanctuary**, c/o Linslade Methodist Chapel, Mentmore Road, Linslade.  
Tel: 01908 263811

**New Life Community Church**, Leighton Middle School Hall, Leighton Buzzard.  
Tel: 01525 372392  
email: [newlifeleighton@aol.com](mailto:newlifeleighton@aol.com), website: [www.newlifeleightonbuzzard.org](http://www.newlifeleightonbuzzard.org)

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**, Friends Meeting House, North Street, Leighton Buzzard. Tel: 01525 237700

**The Salvation Army Citadel**, Lammas Walk, Leighton Buzzard. Tel: 01525 373780

## Days Out

This section gives some ideas of places of interest to visit with your children in the Leighton Buzzard area. Prices and admission times are correct at time of going to press and are subject to change.

### 360 Playdays

[www.360play.uk.com](http://www.360play.uk.com)

Roebuck Way, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8HL, Tel: 01908 308 360

*Children's indoor entertainment – play and learn. Carousels, dodgems, 360 Imagination Street, messy play and classes.*

#### Opening Times:

Sun – Thurs 9.30am – 5.30pm  
 Fri & Sat 9.30am – 6.00pm

#### Admission:

£5.00 membership fee per family (one off payment)  
 Under 1 year FREE Playpass  
 1 – 3 yrs £5.99 12 months £110.00  
 4 – 12yrs £7.99 3 months £55.00  
 Adult £2.99

### Activity Land

[www.wherekidsplay.co.uk](http://www.wherekidsplay.co.uk)

Roebuck Way, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8HL, Tel. 01908 209219

*Indoor play area and outdoor adventure park. For more information on opening times and admission costs, visit our website.*

### Adventure World

Dunstable Leisure Centre, Court Drive Dunstable, Tel. 01582 608107

*Large soft play and climbing area, especially suitable for pre-schoolers (max height restriction of 1.2 metres).*

#### Opening Times:

Daily 9.30am – 4.45pm

#### Admission:

Child £3.10

### Arriva Buses Tel. 0870 120 1088

[www.arrivabus.co.uk](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk)

*Local Bus Company. £7.00 explorer ticket gives a day's unlimited bus travel for 2 adults and 2 children, or 1 adult and 3 children on its routes throughout Herts, Beds, Bucks, Essex and Oxon. Bus timetables available in the library. Explorer ticket can be bought on the bus.*

### Ashridge Estate

Visitor Centre, Moneybury Hill, Ringshall, Berkhamsted, HP4 1LT, Tel 01442 851227

*Bridgewater Monument and vast area of open downland and woods on National Trust Land, great for picnics and walking. Visitor centre with shop and tea room.*

#### Opening Times:

Estate open all year round  
 Visitor centre 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 11  
 Monument 9<sup>th</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 11

#### Admission:

Estate FREE – donations welcome  
 Monument Adult £1.80  
 Child 90p

**Bedford Museum** [www.bedfordmuseum.org](http://www.bedfordmuseum.org)

**Castle Lane, Bedford, MK40 3XD, Tel. 01234 353323, Fax. 01234 273401**

*Embark on a fascinating journey through the human and natural history of North Bedfordshire, pausing briefly to glimpse at wonders from more distant lands. Families visiting at any time will find activities for children in the galleries including drawing and colouring, quizzes, toys and games. Children's activities are organised every half term and holiday.*

**Opening Times:**

Tuesday – Saturday 11.00am – 5.00pm  
 Sunday 2.00pm – 5.00pm

**Admission:**  
 FREE

---

**Bekonscot Model Village** [www.bekonscot.co.uk](http://www.bekonscot.co.uk)

**Warwick Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 2PL, Tel. 01494 672919**

*A miniature wonderland, depicting rural England in the 1930s. Miniature and model railway, remote controlled boats, play area, refreshments and souvenirs.*

**Opening Times:**

19<sup>th</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011  
 Daily 10.00am – 5.00pm

**Admission**

Adults	£9.00	Family (2+2)	£26.00
Children	£5.50	Under 2s	FREE
Concession	£6.25	See our website for more options	

---

**Berkhamsted Castle** [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

**Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1LJ, Tel. 01442 871737**

*Early Norman Castle remains - William the Conqueror camped here. Accessible by train. Specially tailored talks for groups of pre-school children can be given.*

**Opening Times:**

Winter 10.00am – 4.00pm Summer 10.00am – 6.00pm  
 Open every day except Christmas and New Years Day.

**Admission:**  
 FREE

---

**Bucks Goat Centre** [www.bucksgoatcentre.co.uk](http://www.bucksgoatcentre.co.uk)

**Layby Farm, Old Risborough Rd, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, HP22 5XJ, Tel 01296 612983**

*A small open farm, featuring every breed of domestic goat found in Britain, plus other farm animals. Café, outdoor and indoor play area and shop.*

**Opening Times:**

Open Daily Summer 10.00am – 5.00pm  
 Winter 10.00am – 4.00pm

**Admission:**

Adult - £4.50 OAP - £4.00  
 Child - £3.50 Under 2s FREE

---

**Bucks County Museum & Roald Dahl Children's Gallery** [www.bucksc.gov.uk/museum](http://www.bucksc.gov.uk/museum)

**Church Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2QP, Tel. 01296 331441, [museum@bucksc.gov.uk](mailto:museum@bucksc.gov.uk)**

*A great place for all the family with lively exhibitions, events and activities, together with the fabulous Roald Dahl Children's Gallery for hands-on fun and Roald Dahl magic. Café, shop, and garden.*

**Opening Times:**

Phone or check website for details

**Admission:**

Phone or check website for details

---

**Buckinghamshire Railway Centre**

[www.bucksrailcentre.org](http://www.bucksrailcentre.org)

**Quainton Road Station, Quainton, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 4BY, Tel. 01296 655720**

*Fun for all the family at this historic railway station. One of the largest private railway collections in the country. Steam train rides each Sunday (also Wednesdays in school holidays), miniature railway and special events. Thomas the Tank Engine a regular visitor! (Special rates apply – phone for details).*

**Opening Times (April – October):**

Monday - Saturday 10.30am – 4.30pm  
 Sundays & B. Hols 10.30am – 5.30pm  
 Prices vary for static viewing days and special events

**Admission:**

Gift Aid inclusive	Family (2+4)	£27.00
Adults	Senior	£9.00
Children	Under 5s	FREE

**Caldecote Lake, Off A5, Milton Keynes**

*Cycle path around two lakes. Geese and sailing boats often around to add interest. Toilets and refreshments available at the Caldecote Arms. Children's playground*

**Dunstable Downs**

**Whipsnade Rd, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 2TA Tel. 01582 500920,**

[dunstabledowns@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:dunstabledowns@nationaltrust.org.uk)

*The highest point in the county. Beautiful views, visitor centre, shop, café, toilets. Good for kite flying and watching the gliders.*

**Forest Centre & Marston Vale Millennium Country Park [www.marstonvale.org](http://www.marstonvale.org)**

**Station Road, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire, MK43 0PR, Tel. 01234 767037**

*Over 250 hectares. Walk or cycle safely, enjoying the wildlife and scenery – bikes, trailer bikes and child seats available for hire. Shop, café and play area. Special event days held.*

**Frosts Garden Centre**

**Newport Road, Woburn Sands, Bucks, MK17 8UE, Tel. 01908 583511**

*Very large Garden Centre – indoor and outdoor displays. Fish aquarium. Restaurant.*

**Grove Farm PYO**

[www.grovecfarmpyo.co.uk](http://www.grovecfarmpyo.co.uk)

**Great Gap, Ivinghoe, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 9DZ, Tel. 01296 668175**

*Large farm with all types of fruit and vegetables to pick. Picnic tables and small play area for children. Light refreshments. Open daily May – October.*

**Gulliver's Dinosaur and Farm Park**

[www.gulliverseco-park.org](http://www.gulliverseco-park.org)

**Newlands, Milton Keynes, MK15 0DT, Tel. 01908 444888**

*Gulliver's Dinosaur and Farm Park gives you the chance to get up close and personal with different animals, and learn about the world in which dinosaurs roamed.*

**Opening Times:**

Vary. Check the web site or phone for details

**Admission:**

Adult/Child	£8.95	Under 90cm	FREE
OAP	£7.95		

**Gullivers Land**

[www.gulliversfun.co.uk](http://www.gulliversfun.co.uk)

**Livingstone Drive, Newlands, Milton Keynes, MK15 0DT, Tel. 01908 609001/01925 444888**

*A theme park for 2 – 13 year olds. Plenty to do, with special events at holiday time.*

**Opening Times:**

Check the web site or phone for opening dates and times

**Admission:**

Adults/Child	£14.75	Under 90cm	FREE
--------------	--------	------------	------

**Leighton Buzzard Garden Centre**

**Hockliffe Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 9NX, Tel. 01525 850100**

*Garden centre with café, pet shop and aquatics shop on the same site.*

**Leighton Buzzard Railway**

**www.buzzrail.co.uk**

**Page's Park Station, Billington Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 4TN, Tel 01525 373888**

*Narrow gauge railway offering regular special events days. Built for the sand industry, it now provides steam powered train rides into the countryside.*

**Opening Times:**

Check website for dates and times

**Admission** (different rates apply at Christmas):

Adults	£8.00	OAP	£6.00
Children	£4.00	Under 2s	FREE

**Luton Museum**

**www.luton.gov.uk**

**Wardown Park, Old Bedford Road, Luton, LU2 7HA, 01582 546722**

*A popular museum, housed in a Victorian mansion in the centre of Wardown Park. There are interactive exhibits, quizzes for children and events throughout the year. (Telephone 01582 546722 to join the free events mailing list.)*

**Opening Times:**

Tuesday – Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm Sunday 1.00pm – 5.00pm

**Admission:**

FREE

**Mead Open Farm**

**www.meadopenfarm.co.uk**

**Stanbridge Road, Billington Nr Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9JH, Tel: 01525 852954**

*Traditional farm animals and pets' corner. Huge indoor play area with slides and soft play area, outdoor play areas, tea room, gift shop. Daily activities and weekend events.*

**Opening Times:**

Daily 10.00am – 6.30pm  
 Closed 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Dec and 1<sup>st</sup> Jan

**Admission:**

		Annual Pass
Adults	£7.95/£8.95	£45.00
Child (24m+)	£6.95/£7.95	£42.00
OAP	£7.50/£8.50	£43.00

**Milton Keynes Museum**

**www.mkmuseum.org.uk**

**McConnell Drive, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5EL, Tel. 01908 316222**

*Housed in a Victorian farmstead, a large and constantly changing museum. Lots of room settings, shops, demonstrations, farm equipment and telephone exhibition. Tea room.*

**Opening Times:**

1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> Oct Wed – Sun 11.00am – 4.30pm  
 Bank Holidays + local half terms 11.00am – 4.30pm  
 1<sup>st</sup> November – 31<sup>st</sup> March weekends only

**Admission:**

Adults £6.00 Families (2+4) £16.00  
 Concessions £5.00 Under 5s FREE

**Museum of St Albans**

**www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk**

**Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3RR, Tel. 01727 819340**

*The story of a cathedral city from after the Romans to the present day. Special exhibitions programme. Storytime sessions for under 7s every last Sunday of the month, 3.00 – 4.00pm.*

**Opening Times:**

Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm  
 Sunday 2.00pm - 5.00pm

**Admission:**

FREE

**Pitstone Green Museum**

[www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk](http://www.pitstonemuseum.co.uk)

**Pitstone Green Farm, Vicarage Rd, Pitstone, Bucks, Tel. 01582 605464 / 01582 792701**

*A rural museum housed in the buildings of an 1831 farm.*

**Opening Times:**

11.00am – 5.00pm

Bank Holiday Mondays and the second

Sundays of the 4 summer months (Jun – Sept)

**Admission:**

Adults £4.00

Children £2.00

Under 5s FREE

---

**Pitstone Windmill**

**Off the B488, ½ mile south of Ivinghoe, Tel. 01442 851227**

*One of the oldest mills still standing in England. National Trust property.*

**Opening Times:**

June – August

Sundays/Bank Holidays 2.30pm – 6.00pm

**Admission:**

Adults £2.00 Family £5.00

Children £1.00 National Trust members FREE

---

**Shuttleworth, Old Warden Park**

[www.shuttleworth.org](http://www.shuttleworth.org)

**Old Warden Park, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EA, Tel. 01767 627927**

*Collection of historic aeroplanes and vehicles. Birds of prey. Swiss Garden - 10 acres of 19<sup>th</sup> century style English gardens with romantic Swiss cottage at centre. 2 acre children's outdoor play area.*

**Opening Times:**

**Shuttleworth Collection** 9.30am – 4.00pm

**Birds of Prey** 10.00am – 4.00pm

**Swiss Garden** Summer 9.30am – 5.00pm  
 Winter 9.30am – 4.00pm

**Admission (Children must be accompanied):**

**Shuttleworth Collection**

Adults £12.00 Seniors £10.00 Children FREE

**Birds of Prey**

Adult £10.00 Seniors £9.00 Children FREE

**Swiss Garden**

Adult £5.00 Seniors £4.00 Children FREE

---

**Snakes and Ladders**

[www.snakes-and-ladders.co.uk](http://www.snakes-and-ladders.co.uk)

**Blackburn Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, LU5 5BQ, Tel 01582 660111**

*Indoor Adventure Playground with huge three tiered climbing frame, slides, ball ponds, tunnels rope climbs and electric motor bikes (£1 extra).*

**Opening Times:**

Daily 10.00am – 6.00pm

(Closed Christmas Day  
 and Boxing Day)

**Admission:**

Before 4.30pm

Under 2s - £5.30

Under 5s - £6.30

Over 5s - £7.30

After 4.30pm

Under 2s - £3.90

Under 5s - £4.90

Over 5s - £5.90

Adults and older children - £1.00

---

**Snozone, Xscape**

**602 Marlborough Gate, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3XS, Tel. 01908 230260**

*Skiing and tobogganing on real snow all year round. Young children may participate under strict adult supervision. Wear warm clothes. Call for current prices and opening times. There's a café overlooking the slope – viewing can be fun too!*

---

**Stockgrove Country Park**

[www.greensandtrust.org](http://www.greensandtrust.org)

**Brickhill Rd, Heath & Reach, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 0BA, Tel. 01525 237760**

*Run by Beds CC and the Greensand Trust. 80 acres of heath, parkland and woodland. Paths around lake suitable for buggies and wheelchairs. Friendly café caters for families. Toilets. Dog-free picnic area with play sculptures. Check website for events.*

---

**Stockwood Discovery Centre** [www.stockwooddiscoverycentre.com](http://www.stockwooddiscoverycentre.com)  
**London Road, Luton, LU1 4LX, Tel. 01582 738714**

*A large museum, recently refurbished, with displays on rural Bedfordshire crafts, the Mossman Collection of horse-drawn vehicles, period gardens, a sculpture garden and plenty of space to run around. There are quizzes for children and events throughout the year. (Telephone 01582 738714 to join the free events mailing list).*

<b>Opening Times:</b>			<b>Admission:</b>
Summer (BST)	Monday - Friday	10.00am – 5.00pm	FREE
	Weekends	11.00am – 5.00pm	
Winter (GMT)	Monday - Friday	10.00am – 4.00pm	
	Weekends	11.00am – 4.00pm	Shut on Christmas Day

---

**The Canal Museum** [www.stokebruenecanalmuseum.org.uk](http://www.stokebruenecanalmuseum.org.uk)  
**Stoke Bruerne, Towcester, Northants, NN12 7SE, Tel. 01604 862229**

*250 years of waterway history alongside the Grand Union Canal in a picturesque village.*

<b>Opening Times:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>		
Easter – 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct		Adult	£4.75	Child £3.10
Daily	10.00am – 5.00pm	Family (2+3)	£12.00	Under 5s FREE Concessions £3.80

---

**The Horse Trust** [www.horsetrust.org.uk](http://www.horsetrust.org.uk)  
**Home of Rest for Horses, Speen, Princes Risborough, Bucks, Tel. 01494 488464,**  
**[info@horsetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@horsetrust.org.uk)**

*Please come and visit Westcroft Stables and our retired horses, ponies and donkeys. Admission FREE but donations welcome. Please do not bring food for the horses.*

---

**The Kidzone Indoor Activity Playground** [www.thekidzone.co.uk](http://www.thekidzone.co.uk)  
**Northbridge Road, Berkhamstead, HP4 1EH, Tel. 01442 878441**

*Soft play fun for 0 – 11 year olds. Includes a specific under 4s area, inflatables, ball pond, football etc. Parties by arrangement.*

<b>Opening Times:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>		
Daily	9.30am – 7.00pm	Parent and Toddler	£3.50	
Parent & toddler	Monday – Friday	Under 5s	£4.75	
(Call to check	term time only	5s & over	£5.95	
holiday opening times)	9.30am – 11.00am	Under 1s	FREE	Accompanying adult FREE

---

**The Natural History Museum at Tring** [www.nhm.ac.uk/tring](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/tring)  
**Walter Rothschild Building, Akeman Street, Tring, Herts, HP23 6AP, Tel. 020 7942 6171**

*Built in 1889 for the private natural history collection of Walter Rothschild. The museum houses an extraordinary and fascinating collection of stuffed mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. Special events, workshops and seasonal craft activities for all ages. Café, picnic areas, discovery room and parties.*

<b>Opening Times:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>
Monday – Saturday	10.00am – 5.00pm	FREE
Sunday	2.00pm – 5.00pm	

---

**Tiddenfoot Waterside Park, Mentmore Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard**

*Large fishing lake with swans. Path around suitable for pushchairs. Pushchair / wheelchair accessible bridge now links it with the canal path.*

---

**Verulamium Museum** **www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk**

**St. Michael's Street, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 4SW, Tel. 01727 751810**

*The museum of life in Roman Britain, with recreated rooms and amazing mosaics.*

<b>Opening Times:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>	
Monday – Saturday	10.00am – 5.30pm	Adults	£3.80
Sunday	2.00pm – 5.30pm	Family Ticket (2+2)	£10.20
Closed over Christmas and New Year		Under 5s	FREE
		Children/Concessions	£2.00

---

**Waddesdon Manor** **www.waddesdon.org.uk**

**Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP18 0JH, Tel. 01296 653226**

*This National Trust Property houses the Rothschild collection of art treasures and is surrounded by spectacular grounds. There are a wide range of events and activities for children of all ages, including special tours of the House, a woodland playground and Explorer Trail. Children are welcomed under parental supervision in the house.*

<b>Opening Times:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>	
Phone or check website for details		Phone or check website for details	

---

**Watergate Farm** **www.watergatefarm.co.uk**

**Hockliffe, Nr Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9LN, Tel. 01525 210708 / 211241**

*Open five weekends mid March to mid April during lambing season – 2000 sheep due to give birth. Sheep shearing, tractor rides, pony rides, BBQ food on sale or bring a picnic.*

<b>Opening Times:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>	
Phone or see press for details		Adults	£3.50
		Children	£2.50

---

**Wicksteed Park** **www.wicksteedpark.co.uk**

**Barton Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6NJ, Tel. 01536 512475 info@wicksteedpark.co.uk**

*An adventure park for all the family!*

<b>Opening Times:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>	
Phone or check website for details		Prices vary – contact or check website for details	

---

**Wild Britain** **www.wild-britain.co.uk**

**Renhold Road, Wilden, Bedfordshire, MK44 2PX, Tel. 01234 772770**

*Tropical butterfly house, craft activities, outdoor hedgehog play trail. Gift shop, adventure playground, nature trails, pets' corner. Coffee shop with play area serves light lunches.*

<b>Opening Times</b>		<b>Admission:</b>	
Feb – 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2010		Adult/Child	£6.95
Daily 10.00am – 5.00pm		OAP	£6.50
		Under 2s	FREE

---

**Woburn Safari Park** **www.woburn.co.uk**

**Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9QN, Tel. 01525 290407**

*Combine the excitement of the Safari Drive with the fun of taking the Foot Safari round the Wild World Leisure Area. Meet the animals, demonstrations, keeper talks and feeding time. Indoor and outdoor play areas and toddler only play areas..*

<b>Opening Times:</b>		<b>Admission:</b>	
Main Season (1 <sup>st</sup> March – 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2010) Daily 10am – 5pm		Various	
Winter Season (1 <sup>st</sup> Nov – 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2011) Weekends 11am – 3pm			

---

**Wood Green Animal Shelters**

[www.woodgreen.org.uk](http://www.woodgreen.org.uk)

**King's Bush Farm, London Rd, Godmanchester, Cambs, PE29 2NH, Tel. 08701 90 40 90**

*Headquarters of one of Europe's leading animal welfare and re-homing charities. Restaurant, shop, and picnic area. Lots of different animals looking for loving homes.*

---

**Woodside Animal Farm and Leisure Park**

[www.woodsidefarm.co.uk](http://www.woodsidefarm.co.uk)

**Woodside Road, Slip End Village, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 4DG, Tel. 01582 841044**

*Hundreds of animals and birds to see and feed. Animal encounters, tractor rides, bouncy castles. Outdoor/indoor play areas, crazy golf and sandpit, farm shop, pet shop, coffee shop. Traditional funfair open Saturday and Sunday 11am – 4pm (additional charges apply).*

**Opening Times:**

Monday – Saturday 8.00am – 5.30pm  
 Sunday 9.00am – 5.30pm  
 Shuts at 5.00pm during the winter

**Admission:**

Adults £7.50  
 Child (2-16) £6.50  
 Under 2s FREE

---

**Wrest Park Gardens**

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

**Silsoe, Bedfordshire, MK45 4HR, Tel. 01525 860152**

*Over 90 acres and a century and a half of gardening styles. Discover bridges and ponds, temples and altars, fountains and statues laid out before a fabulous mansion.*

**Opening Times:**

Times vary – please phone or check website

**Admission:**

Adults £8.00	Family £20.80
Children £4.80	English Heritage
Concessions £7.20	Members FREE

---

**ZSL Whipsnade Zoo**

[www.zsl.org/whipsnade](http://www.zsl.org/whipsnade)

**Whipsnade, Nr Dunstable, Beds, LU6 2LF, Tel. 01582 872171**

*Whipsnade is set in 600 acres of parkland on top of Dunstable Downs, with a collection of over 2,500 animals, including free roaming species. Free animal demonstrations and talks, an adventure play area, children's farm, safari tour bus, Great Whipsnade Railway.*

**Opening Times:**

13 <sup>th</sup> March – 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2010	Mon – Sat 10.00am – 5.30pm
	Sun/B Hols 10.00am – 6.00pm
Oct – March	Times vary

**Admission:**

Prices vary depending on the season. Check the website or phone for details.

---

**Zoomania**

[www.zoomania.co.uk](http://www.zoomania.co.uk)

**3 Kempson Close, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, HP19 8UL, Tel. 01296 481555**

*Indoor safe play area designed to provide lots of fun, excitement and adventure for children aged 0 to 11 years or 4'11". Safe, secure and family orientated environment. Contact us for deals in "Toddle Time"*

**Opening Times:**

Term time: Tues – Sun 9.30am – 3.30pm

**Admission:**

3 years £4.75	4 – 11 years £5.50
Adults FREE	Under 2s FREE

---