



Safeguarding Children in Education



Norfolk Deaf Festival

Due to the pandemic, like many events in the UK, the annual Norfolk Deaf Festival (due to be on the 22nd and 23rd May 2020) had to be cancelled.

However, we will be back next year! We are awaiting confirmation of the date which will be released as soon as we know it. The theme is 'Magic and Comedy' so if you

are deaf/hard of hearing and have any skills in these areas, or if you're interested in volunteering, do get in touch with us via norfolksummerdeaffestival@gmail.com or you can follow us on our [Facebook page](#)

For those of you who may not have attended the Norfolk Deaf Festival before, it is a fantastic opportunity to meet other deaf children, families and deaf adults. The festival itself has many activities for the whole family including circus skills, signed song workshops, a wide variety of information on different services both locally and nationally as well as inspiring deaf role models from all over the UK. We also provide engaging talks and performances. Last year we focused on deaf poetry which involved discussions and performances from a deaf poet Raymond Antrobus and the Globe Theatre.

Whatever your connection with hearing loss is, whether you have a hearing loss yourself, someone in your family or a friend, or if you are just interested, everyone is welcome to join in.

Our guiding principles for the festival are based on the 4 Es.

1. **Equality** – of access to information, services and arts through sign language interpreters, live captioners and good quality sound systems.
 2. **Empower** – empowerment through positive deaf role models such as Chris Fonseca (deaf dancer) and Paul Whittaker (signsong performer).
 3. **Educate** – signpost deaf people and their families/friends to local and national provisions available, including deaf awareness.
 4. **Everyone** – bring deaf people and their families/friends together.
- Whatever your hearing loss you are not alone.**

We hope to see you next year!



'Toy Like Me' box

Children, supported by our Teachers of the Deaf, are enjoying lots of fun activities during Coronavirus lockdown.

This is the inside of Sophie's 'Toy Like Me' box, which was delivered to her during lockdown. It is a paper-based playset to colour, cut and build. Sophie spent a lot of time creating the scene in this box, and she also enjoyed doing all the other activities inside. In fact, she had so much fun being creative, she asked her family to find more boxes so she can make her own hospital and garden scene!

If you think your child might be interested in a 'Toy Like Me' box or if you would like more information about it, please visit the following website <https://www.toylikeme.org> or contact your child's Teacher of the Deaf. 'ToyLikeMe' is an arts and play based not-for-profit organisation, starting playful conversations about disability to boost self-esteem and grow open minds.



Family's experience and activities during Coronavirus lockdown

The recent lockdown was tough for many families but there are a lot of positive outcomes to report as well.

Harry's mum was kind enough to write about her family's experience and activities during the recent lockdown. This is what she wrote:

'It's been tough for us all getting into the swing of lockdown. For us it involves home-schooling a 5yr old, and 2yr old with severe loss and Physical and learning disabilities whilst both parents work. We have lost physical visits from portage, SaLT VSSS and our weekly visits to NANSA.

I put a lot of pressure on myself to do lots of structured activities, particularly with my 2yr old, who was often reluctant to take part. I have now realised that it's better to take the lead from them and help encourage learning in normal situations. He took interest in a basic inset puzzle and did really well to learn his colour words and signs whilst completing the puzzle. When playing with chubby paints we have been learning about on and off using the lids. He's been improving his counting from 1-10

whilst throwing balls out of his ball pit as well as learning the sign for tidy up! He has also learnt the Sign move fix/mend because his bath toy keeps breaking.

I also came to accept that tablet time is probably an essential to help all of us get through the day. He has learnt so many actions to new nursery rhymes and I also found a perfect shape sorting game which he is now proficient at playing.

Whilst losing social contact with others has been difficult, we have noticed some real benefits of being together as a family and believe this is having a really positive effect on our children's learning. And I always try to remind myself that I'm doing the very best I very can in these difficult circumstances and that's what my children need. Let's all cut ourselves some slack and continue to do our very best!'



Thanks for all your lovely feedback!

We received lots of positive feedback from parents regarding resources, which we provided, to support their children during Coronavirus lockdown.

This was one of many responses the Virtual School Sensory Support team received which we would like to share with you:

'Our Teacher of the Deaf very kindly gave us a box of resources after Easter. My son had been struggling to focus on the work set by school, but he's loved the activities the Teacher of the Deaf sent. He even asked to take picture lotto to the woods today'.

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