



Childrens Sitting Service

If you feel you could spare a little time each month to help look after a disabled child in your community, contact 01635 569875 to find out more about the Children's Sitting Service.

Sitting Service Manager
The Mencap Centre
Enborne Gate, Enborne Road
Newbury, Berkshire
RG14 6AT

Tel: 01635 569875
Fax: 01635 580549

Email:

childrenservice@westberkshiremencap.org

Website:

www.westberkshiremencap.org

Registered Charity Number: 1076658

This leaflet outlines West Berkshire Mencap Children's Sitting Service for families who have children with disabilities.



What is the Children's Sitting Service

Many families who have a child with a disability need an occasional break from caring for their child.

An experienced sitter from the Children's Sitting Service can offer you this opportunity by coming to look after your child for a few hours, to give you the chance to have a break, spend time with your other children, or even go out and do some shopping.

The sitter will come to your home to look after and play with your child for a few hours. They can be left on their own to look after your child, or be an extra pair of hands to help with child care. If you wish they could take your child out, to an activity or swimming for example, or provide support for you on a family outing.

We work with you as a family and even work alongside your family social worker to provide the best support for you.



How can my child receive the service?

If your child has a disability and you think he or she would benefit from the service, please contact the Child Sitting Service on 01635 69875 and ask for an assessment.

How does it work?

First of all the Service Manager visit you in your house to meet yourselves and your child for an introduction, we will assess what kind of support you need, whether it is regular work or just every now and again. Then together we will complete a registration form that will give our sitters more information about your child.

Your child's needs will then be carefully matched with the skills and abilities of a qualified sitter. The matching and introductions are undertaken carefully and at the pace of your child, ensuring that the placements flourish successfully.

We will provide you with a family pack that you will need to keep at your house and have available for the sitter to read. This will contain important information about your child i.e. like's, dislikes, medication that may need to be given etc. It will also have forms that you will need to complete, and general information about the home sitting service.

For any external activities you will need to provide your child with some money for the activity and lunch, or provide a packed lunch.

If your child has any additional special equipment i.e. a buggy or a PEC book to make communication easier, then please make this available to your sitter.

Costs are currently £10 and hour for our home sitting service but for the first 10 hours you will be charged at the reduced rate of £5 an hour. The service covers children between 0-18 years of age.