

Short Breaks at Ruby's Fund

About Ruby's Fund

Ruby's Fund is a registered charity that supports children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their families and carers, both at our fully accessible and inclusive sensory centre in Congleton and at satellite sessions across Cheshire East. The centre has specialist facilities including a sensory room, gaming room, 1:1 focused work room, a fully equipped, accessible changing place, siblings room and soft play area with social café. We also have an accessible mobile sensory bus which is part of our outreach project covering the whole of Cheshire East.

Where we are?

Ruby's Fund Sensory Centre,
Meridian House, Roe Street
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1PG

Tel: 01260 277666

General enquiries: info@rubysfund.co.uk

Short break enquiries: alison@rubysfund.co.uk

Refer into any of our services here: <https://www.thriving-families.org/help>

Website: www.rubysfund.co.uk

Short Breaks with Ruby's Fund

Ruby's Fund has been commissioned by Cheshire East Council to provide targeted needs short breaks for children who require additional support to access a short break.

Our criteria is:

- The child is aged 0-8 years old. (We can accept older children if their complex needs mean there are no other providers to offer a short break but, in this scenario, would also need to verify that we are able to support their medical needs and we have capacity)
- The child has an emerging diagnosis (a professional has identified a need for the child to be referred to a specialist such as Paediatrician)
- The child has a diagnosis which means they require SEN assessment and support
- The child lives within the Cheshire East boundary

How to access a short break

1. Referral is required by a parent, carer or professional involved www.thriving-families.org
2. Contact is made by Ruby's Fund to the primary carer within 7 working days
3. First centre visit is arranged usually within 21 days (this can be with or without the child as info gathering). Where appropriate we will invite people to book a free place at a session on <https://buytickets.at/rubysfund>
4. Second centre visit with the child – start the care plan with the primary carer identifying up to 3 SMART targets for the child, identify any staff training requirements
5. Third centre visit with the child – agree the care plan and SMART targets, start the risk assessment
6. Fourth centre visit with the child – agree the risk assessment. Plan for the child to attend short breaks without the primary carers
7. We can offer up to 6 sessions where the primary carers attends with the child. However if after 6 sessions and the child is struggling to settle we will review if there is an alternative solution.

Ruby's Fund Short Breaks Team

- Short Breaks Session Lead
- Administration support
- 6 short break session workers

All staff have an enhanced DBS check and have training specific to their role (including safeguarding).

Sessions

1. 1:1 short break sessions include sensory and soft play, focused play and refreshments
2. Lego Club – small group of up to 6 children led by a Lego Therapy trained practitioner
3. Gaming Club – small group of up to 6 children playing supervised console and board games
4. Short Breaks Saturday Club – up to 10 children with various activities
5. 1:1 Saturday short breaks include sensory and soft play, focused play and refreshments
6. Short Breaks Saturday Bus sessions are focused sensory play sessions

Timetable – our Short Breaks termtime timetable follows a 4-week cycle

Week No	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1			Lego Club 4-6pm				
2			1:1 sessions 4-6pm			1:1 sessions 9:15-11:15am Saturday Club 11:30-1:30pm Bus 9am-2pm	
3			Gaming Club 4-6pm				
4			1:1 sessions 4-6pm				

*All sessions are held at Ruby's Fund Sensory Centre except the bus which is a mobile service.

Holiday example timetable

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Short breaks at the centre	Short breaks at the centre	Short breaks on the bus	Short breaks on the bus			

*This timetable is subject to change with advance notice

Why does my child need a care plan, risk assessment and SMART targets?

- **Care plan** – we write a plan of care for your child whilst they are in our care so we can identify their needs and how we meet them whilst they are with us for their short break
- **Risk assessment** – as an organisation we have to consider risk in all that we do to ensure safety to those we support and to our staff. It can help us identify if we need to put extra interventions in place such as staff training.
- **SMART targets** – although short breaks are designed to be a fun experience for the child we try where possible to work with the primary carer and professionals to support a child's development. Therefore, we agree up to 3 SMART targets (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timed) which we set with your help usually at the second centre visit. We update you on progress with session reports and as part of our annual reviews.