RNIB NI Children and Families service
Events September - December 2015
Working in partnership with Angel Eyes NI

Supporting people with sight loss
Events for parents/guardians

Parent’s evening:
Using iPad’s and tablets to help our kids
Dates: Tuesday 29 September, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Venue: Ranfurly Arts and Visitor centre, 26 Market Square, Dungannon, County Tyrone BT70 1AB

Joanne from RNIB’s Online Today technology project will be giving ideas and tips for using ipads/tablets to help children with sight loss do their school work. This event is in partnership with the Southern Trust Sensory Support Team.

For more information or to book contact Roisin.

Parent information session - Benefits of Music Therapy
Date: Thursday 8 October 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Venue: Ballybot House, 28 Cornmarket, Newry, BT35 8BG

Music therapist Shane Harvey will share his experiences of working with children with sight loss and additional needs. Come along and have a cuppa and a chat with other parents. This event is in partnership with the Southern Trust Sensory Support Team.

For more information or to book contact Roisin.

Parent event - Supporting your child in school
Dates: Saturday 10 October 2015, 1.00pm - 4.30pm
Venue: Campbell College, Belmont Road, Belfast, BT4 2ND

Join Angel Eyes in this event designed to give parents an insight as to the support provided for visually impaired children in mainstream schools. This event will be facilitated by Charlie Simpson, father of a child with a visual impairment and teacher/SENCO in secondary education. Charlie is also Chair of the Angel Eyes NI Education Committee.

Talks will be given by: Stephen Porter - Support Teacher for Visually Impaired and Manager of the Regional Vision Resource Base; Kirsten Robson - A Students Perspective - Kirsten is a Guide Dog user and past student of mainstream school and university; Orla O’Sullivan - A Parents Perspective - Orla is mum to three children one of whom has a visual impairment and attends mainstream grammar school; and Laura McArthur - a classroom assistant supporting a child in a mainstream P1 setting with sight loss. Relaxed lunch from 1pm - 2pm, followed by the talks.

Booking essential. Contact Frances Floyd Angel Eyes NI on info@angeleyesni.org or call 028 9094 1632.
Parent information evening – Education and benefits
Date: Tuesday 20 October, 6.30pm-8.00pm
Venue: TBC in Carrickfergus

Has your child just started school or just moved into secondary education? Maybe your child will be starting school next year. Whatever your concerns or worries maybe this is an opportunity to gain knowledge about support available.

We know that understanding the benefits system can be difficult.

Laura Irwin our Benefits officers will provide information on the benefits available to support your child and your family.

Contact Laura for more information.

Parent event – Understanding your child’s sight loss
Date: Wednesday 4 November, 4.30pm-6.00pm
Venue: Coleraine RNIB Office, 37 Abbey St, Coleraine BT52 1EX

Professor of Optometry and Vision Science, Kathryn Saunders will give a talk on a number of conditions eye condition. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and gain a better understanding. You can also enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chance to meet and talk to other parents.

Contact Laura for more information.

Events September

Jordanstown Saturday Youth Club (ages 4-18, split sessions)
Date: Saturdays, monthly, from 26 September through June, 2.00pm-4.30pm
Venue: Jordanstown School, 85 Jordanstown Road, Newtownabbey BT37 0QE

There are fantastic facilities at Jordanstown School. Club activities include: a mix of sports (tag rugby, athletics and tennis), art and crafts, music workshop, and life skills including cooking and baking. The club is run by Angel Eyes NI with BCUK, RNIB NI, DSNI and Jordanstown School staff.

Places are limited. To book, contact Angel Eyes at info@angeleyesni.org or ring 028 90941632.

Cookstown Sunday sports club (ages 4-18, split sessions)
Date: Sundays, monthly, starting 27 September through June, 2.30pm - 3.30pm
Venue: Cookstown Leisure Centre, 78 Fountain Road, Cookstown BT80 8QF

Try out new sports with expert coaches trained in lots of different sporting activities. Angel Eyes NI volunteers will be on hand to ensure parents get a chance to sit and have a chat over a cuppa while the children enjoy the centre’s terrific facilities. The club is run by Angel Eyes NI with DSNI.

Places are limited. To book, contact Angel Eyes at info@angeleyesni.org or ring 028 90941632.
Events October

Pizza and a Movie
**Date:** Friday 2 October, 5.30pm  
**Venue:** Ballymena IMC, Larne Road Link, Ballymena

Have a blast watching a movie in a cinema and eating pizza! Connect with old friends and meet new ones. Film TBC closer to the date.

**Contact Laura to book.**

Playstation Fun Day
**Date:** Saturday 10 October, 12.00pm-2.00pm  
**Venue:** Playstation, 1 Bradley Way, Strabane BT82 9PU

Come along to our fun day at Playstation soft play area. Let the little ones run wild and make new friends while you sit down and enjoy a cuppa. Ages 0-12.

**Contact Donna to book.**

Skiing without seeing
**Dates:** Sundays from 11 Oct - 15 Nov (6 sessions), 1.30pm-4.00pm  
**Venue:** Craigavon Golf & Ski Centre – Turmoyara Lane, Lurgan, Craigavon BT66 6NG

Angel Eyes NI kindly supported by Sport NI's Active Awards for Sport programme is delighted to offer its first ever skiing sessions for children who are blind or partially sighted. There will be exclusive use of the slope and sessions will be led by skilled, trained instructors. Ages 8-16.

**Places limited to max of 24. To book, contact Angel Eyes at info@angeleyesni.org or ring 028 90941632.**

Castle Island Fun Day Enniskillen
**Date:** Saturday 17 October, 12.00pm-2.00pm  
**Venue:** Castle Island Indoor Adventure Centre Carron House, Quay Pass, Enniskillen, BT74 6AG

Come along and jump around at Castle Island indoor soft play area, ball pit and slide. Enjoy a cuppa while the little ones run around with their friends.

**Contact Laura to book.**

Girls Pamper evening
**Date:** Thursday 22 October, 7.00pm-9.30pm  
**Venue:** Carrick suite, Canal court hotel, Merchants Quay, Newry

Calling mums, daughters, grannies and sisters! We think you deserve a treat. Fancy coming along to a fun girly evening and getting your nails done, getting a mini facial or hand and foot rub, as well as glitter tattoos and hair braids? Drinks, mini pizzas and tray bakes will be provided. In partnership with the Body Shop.

**Places are limited, contact Roisin to book.**
Technology Taster Session with the Realise Project

Date: Saturday 24 October, time TBC
Venue: RNIB Belfast, Victoria House, 15-17 Gloucester Street

You are invited to an iPad session facilitated by RNIB NI Technology Officer Tracey Mimna. 8 to 16 year olds can learn about accessibility features, eBooks, notetaking apps and fun apps including iMotion and iMovie.

To book, contact Donna.

Halloween Spooktacular!

Date: Saturday 31 October, 10.30am
Venue: Armagh Planetarium, College Hill, Armagh BT61 9DB

Come along to the Armagh planetarium and explore the universe. We'll watch a family show at 11.00am, then check out the exhibits, as well as make and launch our own rockets (weather permitting). Dress up if you dare and receive a ghoulish goodie bag! Lunch will be provided.

Contact Roisin or Laura to book.

Events November

‘In My Shoes’ Art Project

Dates: Saturday 7 and Saturday 14 November, time TBC
Venue: The Burnavon Arts Centre, Burn Road, Cookstown BT80 8DN

‘In My Shoes’ is an art project run in partnership with Cookstown Disability Forum and Mid Ulster District Council. This is an opportunity to be creative and messy. Join other young people in creating an art piece about who you are. The project will be unveiled to the public at an evening ceremony and event on 20 November.

Contact Laura to book.

Funky Monkeys Family Fun Day

Date: Saturday 21 November, 11.30am-1.00pm
Venue: Funky Monkeys, Unit 4 Port of Larne, Redlands Road, Larne BT40 1AX

Let the little ones run wild and make new friends while you sit down and enjoy a cuppa. Ages 0-12.

Contact Laura to book.

Family fun day in Portadown

Date: Saturday 28 November, 11.00am – 1.00pm
Venue: Peter pan’s Neverland, Unit 4, Meadows retail Park, Portadown, BT62 3NJ.

Families are invited to come along for a spot of lunch and kids can go wild in the indoor play area.

To book contact Roisin.
Events December

The “Santa Special” Steam Train Ride
 Dates: Saturday 5 December OR Sunday 6 December
 Venue: Belfast to Whitehead Rail (Exact details TBC)
 All aboard for a fantastic trip into the past. Ride an authentic vintage steam locomotive with Santa Claus! Children will each receive a Christmas present.

Space is limited, contact Laura or Roisin to book.

Meet Santa and travel on the Winterland express at W5
 Date: Saturday 12 December, 11.00am
 Venue: Odyssey Pavilion, 2 Queens Quay, Belfast BT3 9QQ
 It’s the most wonderful time of year and something mystical and magical is happening at W5… From a miniature train ride to seasonal crafts and a magical Santa experience, unwrap a festive adventure for all this Christmas at W5. Please bring packed lunch.

This is sure to be a popular event so book early to avoid disappointment. For more information please contact Roisin or Laura.
Parents and toddler groups

Please come and join us at a group nearest you. Have a cuppa and a scone and let the little ones have fun with lots of sensory toys. Open to children aged 0-4 and their parents/carers.

Parents and Tots Antrim

**Dates:** Wednesday 7 October & 11 Wednesday November, 10.30am-12.00pm

**Venue:** Funky Monkeys, Junction One, 111 Ballymena Road, Antrim, BT41 4LL

All aboard for a fantastic trip into the past. Ride an authentic vintage steam locomotive with Santa Claus! Children will each receive a Christmas present.

**Contact Laura to book.**

Parents and Tots Coleraine

**Dates:** Tuesday 27 October & 24 Tuesday November, 3.00pm-4.30pm

**Venue:** Cheeky Chimps, 24 Newmills Rd, Coleraine BT52 2JB

**Contact Laura to book.**

Parents and Tots Jordanstown

**Dates:** Thursday 22 October & Thursday 26 November, 10.30am-12.00pm

**Venue:** Jordanstown School, 85 Jordanstown Road, Newtownabbey, BT37 0QE

**Contact Laura to book.**

Parents and Tots Lurgan

**Dates:** Thursday 1 October & 5 Thursday November, 10.30am-12.00pm

**Venue:** The links, 23A Castle Lane, Lurgan, Craigavon BT67 9BD

This event in partnership with Surestart and NDCS. We have great sensory equipment and toys and have resources for parents too.

**For more information contact Roisin.**
Parent and Tots Dungannon—Magical moments
Date: Wednesday 30 September & Wednesday 28 October, 10.30am-12.00pm
Venue: Dungannon Surestart, Ballysaggart Business Complex, 8 Beechvalley Way, Dungannon, BT70 1BS
This parent and tots group is in partnership with Dungannon Surestart and is held in their multisensory room, perfect to encourage sensory play.
Contact Roisin for more information.

Parents and Tots Newry Funhouse—Music therapy taster session
Date: Saturday 3 October, 11.00am-1.00pm
Venue: Greenbank Industrial Estate, Rampart Rd, Newry BT34 2QU
To kick off our first parent and toddler group in Newry following the summer we have a fantastic workshop planned with Music therapist Shane Harvey. It’s a great opportunity to try music therapy if your child has not yet had the chance. It’s also a good chance to meet and chat to other parents over a cuppa. Why not bring your other kids along and they can play in the funhouse while you and your little one take part in the session.
To book or for more information contact Roisin.

Parents and Tots Derry/Londonderry
Date: Monday 12 October & Monday 9 November, 10.30am-12.00pm
Venue: Derry RNIB Office, 3 Strand Rd, Derry BT48 6BH
For groups in Derry/Londonderry contact Donna.
For the group in Omagh contact the children and families team on 028 9032 9373.

Realise Project
The Realise Project has spaces available for one to one taster sessions in extracurricular activities such as swimming or music, and one to one training on accessibility technology such as Ipads for 8 - 16 year olds. One to one subject and career support is available for 14 - 20 yr olds and ITQ qualification for 17 to 20 year olds.
For more information contact Donna on 028 7136 6060.

New employee for Belfast and South Eastern Area
We are delighted to say that we have recruited Catherine Hughes to help with our events in the Belfast and South Eastern Area. Catherine will be based in the Belfast office and you’ll hear more from her in the coming months. Watch this space!
Contact us

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