



Bath & North East  
Somerset Council



Joint Authority Support for Children, Families and Schools

# Sensory Support Service Newsletter

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

Supporting children and young people with hearing loss, vision or multisensory impairment to have the best opportunities to learn, develop and grow.

**November 2025**

## Welcome to the Sensory Support Service Newsletter

We hope you are all well. We have been busy finalising our service report and we will be sharing this with our stakeholders' group later this month. The aim is to improve service provision and work collaboratively with everyone involved. If any parents are interested in being part of this group, please let us know via the helpline and we can give you more information. If your child has transferred to a new setting, we would like to hear your views of how this transition has gone and will send you a request for information later this term.

You can discuss any issues or concerns with your support teacher for Vision Impairment (QTVI), Teacher of Deaf (ToD) or teacher for Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI). You can also contact us via our **Service Helpline**:

[sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk)

### 1. Acorns Support Group

We know that many parents find it useful to meet other families with children who have had a diagnosis of hearing loss. Acorns is a support group for families in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset.

We have a creche run by our lovely staff team and a group of wonderful volunteers. If children are happy to be left in the creche, we have a parent room where parents can grab a hot drink and take part in our programme of information and support.

**When:** Wednesdays during term time

**Time:** 10.30am to midday

**Where:** Elmfield House, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS10 6AY

**Who:** Babies and pre-school children with a hearing loss, their siblings, and parents and carers.



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## Little Acorns groups:

We are currently running Little Acorns groups in Bristol, Bath and North Somerset.

The Little Acorns groups are run as a Stay and Play, designed to bring families together who have young children with a hearing loss. They are smaller groups and run in venues in the community. The sessions run for an hour and a half. Parents can chat together or with a Teacher of the Deaf and snacks and toys are provided for the children. Please see our website for more details:

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

We will be having our **Acorns Christmas Party on Wednesday 10 December**, with party food, games and a performance!

A separate email has been sent to Acorns parents and carers asking for confirmation of your attendance before **Monday 1 December 2025**.

Don't forget to tell us your child's name and if you will be bringing any siblings. Let us know if you can bring along any party food items.

We hope lots of you will be able to join us!

## 2. Glue Ear talk for parents and carers

We are running a few sessions supported by Glue Ear Together, about finding out what glue ear is and why it is so common, understand signs and symptoms and learn about different interventions available. These sessions take place at Elmfield House.

### Dates:

- Tuesday 13 January 2026 10.30am to Midday
- Tuesday 17 March 2026 10.30am to Midday

**Where:** Elmfield House, Greystoke Avenue, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS10 6AY

**Book your free place:** [sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk)



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### **3. Sense: Connect and Play sessions**

[Sense](#) Connect and Play sessions explore various themes to engage all the senses and develop learning through play.

These sessions are a great way to build connections, join in immersive sensory play experiences and develop new skills in a safe and supportive environment.

**Where:** The Vassell Centre, Gill Avenue, Bristol, BS16 2QQ

**When:** Every Wednesday afternoon, between 1pm to 2.30pm

**For:** 0 to 4 year olds with complex disabilities

[Book your free place at a Connect and Play session.](#)

### **4. Bristol Deaf Children's Society: Park Meet ups for Families**

Bristol Deaf Children's Society is a parent-led group which aims to provide a support network for parents of children with all types and levels of hearing loss and deafness. They are currently organising some local park meet ups for families. Find out more by joining the [Bristol Deaf Children's Society Facebook page](#).

### **5. National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS): Helping families prepare for the new school year**

A new school year often brings changes for deaf children and young people. From starting nursery or moving up a year group, to preparing for exams or stepping into further education or work.

NDCS have put together a range of practical tips, tools and resources designed to help parents and carers support their child's learning journey.

Find out more on the [NDCS Education and learning webpage](#).

If you do not want to receive information, please let us know by emailing our generic email and telling us the name of your child

[sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk)

### **Want more information on special educational needs and disability for the under 25s?**

Find a link to the Local Offer for your area by following the link below:



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- [Bristol](#)
- [South Gloucestershire](#)
- [Bath and North East Somerset](#)
- [North Somerset](#)

### **General Data Protection Regulations as of 25/05/2018**

The Local Authority (LA) uses data to carry out specific functions for which it is responsible, such as the assessment of special educational needs and/ or disabilities, home to school transport requirements, admissions, children/ young people's welfare, children looked after, exclusions and early years support. Anonymised information is used to derive statistics, to inform decisions on (for example) the funding of education settings, to assess educational performance and track Service provision.

The Sensory Support Service keeps information about your child so that we can provide services and to keep a record of these services. This information may include information that supports your child's development, monitor progress, specialist assessments and advice/support given to settings to enable them to meet your child's needs. This information will also include contact details, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnicity, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

We will only request and share data with people already involved you're your child, people relevant to statutory duties and individual circumstances.

For information regarding data sharing, including retention periods, please visit is [www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor/about-our-website/privacy](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor/about-our-website/privacy)

If you wish to access the personal data held about you or a young person you are responsible for, please contact Bristol City Council in writing:

**Data Protection Officer**  
**Bristol City Council**  
**PO Box 3176**  
**Bristol**  
**BS3 9FS**