

# Families

North London



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## IN THIS ISSUE

Festivals for families

Giveaways

SIX pages  
of What's On!

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# Top family-friendly festivals for 2024

By Andrew Campbell

Time to plan ahead! The UK has loads of family-friendly festivals happening this year and, from music and comedy to food and drink, there's really something for all ages. Some offer plenty of activities for little ones to enjoy, as well as great music line-ups, while others are dedicated solely to family entertainment and activities.

## Camp Bestival

Lulworth Castle, Dorset  
Jul 25-28  
& Weston Park, Shropshire  
Aug 15-18



This award-winning festival is known for its diverse line-up of musical acts and its wide range of family-friendly activities and entertainment. In addition to music, the festival offers a variety of attractions, such as comedy, theatre, circus, workshops and interactive art installations. Some areas are specifically geared towards children's activities.  
[www.campbestival.net](http://www.campbestival.net)

## Just So

Rode Hall, Cheshire Aug 16-18

This weekend-long camping festival aims to help families make memories together in the great outdoors while enjoying the very best music, theatre, circus, storytelling and much more. Child-friendly loos, baby change facilities, a breastfeeding tent and even a bathtime tent, offer families practical assistance, while attractions include an exhaustive range of activities and workshops for the kids.  
[www.justsofestival.org.uk](http://www.justsofestival.org.uk)



## Gone Wild Festival

Powderham Castle, Exeter Aug 22-24  
& Holkham Hall, Norfolk Aug 8-11

Celebrate the great outdoors with fab music alongside family-friendly, outdoor activities for all ages. Where else can you push your mum down a 50m mud slide, learn new survival skills then dance the night away? Activities include kayaking, nerf battles, circus workshops, high ropes, tree-climbing, adventure art and more.  
[www.gonewildfestival.com](http://www.gonewildfestival.com)



## Deer Shed



Baldersby Park, North  
Yorkshire Jul 26-29

Three-day wonderland of arts, music, science and sport, in beautiful parkland. Choose forest bathing, a circus masterclass, soft play, robotics, forensics, baby massage or cinema – there's plenty to keep the whole family entertained.  
[www.deershedfestival.com](http://www.deershedfestival.com)

## Standon Calling



Standon Lordship, Herts  
Jul 25-28

Boutique music and arts festival with big acts and emerging talent with an area dedicated to babies, kids and teens during the day, on-site babysitting for evenings, swimming pool and dedicated family campsites ten minutes from the car park.  
[www.standon-calling.com](http://www.standon-calling.com)

## Gloworm Festival

Holme Pierpoint Country Park,  
Notts Aug 16-18

Aimed at children age 0 to 13, expect music, activities and arts all geared towards different age-groups. From well-known children's artists and headline acts, through to a funfair, farm-yard, facilities for families, meet-and-greets with their heroes and places to play, every corner of this festival is an incredible adventure for all ages.  
[www.glowormfestival.co.uk](http://www.glowormfestival.co.uk)



**WIN!**

Family ticket to Camp Bestival

## Family action adventure

This four-day safe, fun, magical and adventurous festival for kids of all ages, takes place during the summer holidays in both Dorset and Shropshire.

Multi award-winning and designed specifically for families, enjoy hundreds of activities from bush-craft, circus schools, sports and immersive theatre to incredible live acts and DJs, family raves, circus spectaculars, wellness, award-winning street food and cabaret. **Apply at [familiesmag.co.uk/go](http://familiesmag.co.uk/go)** T&Cs: [www.bit.ly/cmpbest](http://www.bit.ly/cmpbest)  
More info at [www.campbestival.net](http://www.campbestival.net)



## Festival of Sport

Venue and dates tbc

The ultimate family sports festival, with entertainment, camping, competitions and coaching from world-class sporting legends for kids age 5 to 17 – and nobody left on the bench. Sports on offer range from hockey, rugby, netball, cricket and football to kayaking, golf, trampolining, lacrosse, boxing, skateboarding and climbing.  
[www.festivalofsportuk.com](http://www.festivalofsportuk.com)



## Victorious Festival



Southsea, Portsmouth  
Aug 23-25

Set on Southsea seafront, this festival features some of the biggest names in the UK music scene during its three-day run, and a great comedy line-up with some big names. A newly expanded Kids' Arena offers face painting, zip wires, skate sessions and family activities, all of which are free.  
[www.victoriousfestival.co.uk](http://www.victoriousfestival.co.uk)

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JanuaryFebruary 2024 Issue 164

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## Families North London Magazine

Editor: **Amanda Greenley**

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## Welcome



On grey winter days summer seems like an impossible dream. Yet our pick of family-friendly festivals offers an exciting promise of sunshine-drenched family fun.

Learn how The Outdoor Guide is helping more kids access the outdoors in our feature on p6. And check out our fab What's On guide for great trips out for the family. (Follow us on social media for up-to-date sharing of events). There are more offers, as well as crafts & recipes to make with your children, in the interactive digital version of our magazine. Sign up at [familiesmag.co.uk/go](http://familiesmag.co.uk/go) to receive every issue to your inbox.

*Amanda*

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 **BabyLab & ToddlerLab**

## Junior scientists help research

Just how important is music to babies' development?

Researchers at Middlesex University's Baby Lab need junior scientists to help them find out.

"We want to test an idea that when a carer and a child interact, the sounds they produce reflect affective cues – that is, they prompt an emotional response that makes babies want to interact," said PhD research student Tatiana Sobolewska.

"We think that music may encourage the same response in the brain. This suggests that music may be implicated in early non-verbal communication, which is yet another reason why music is such a cherished and integral part of child development and human evolution."

If you are a parent or caregiver with a 4-9 month old, you can take part in this exciting research, conducted under the supervision of MCCLab Director Dr Fabia Franco.

"Caregivers can come to Middlesex University for one 30-45-minute session at our babyLab," said Tatiana. **All participants are awarded a £10 Amazon voucher.** There is free parking at the site in Hendon, NW4, and baby changing facilities are available. Scan this code to see a visit to BabyLab.

For details and bookings, go to [www.mcclabmdx.com/visit](http://www.mcclabmdx.com/visit) or contact Tatiana at [t.g.sobolewska@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:t.g.sobolewska@mdx.ac.uk)



### '£50K Parent Penalty' is real

One in five parents in households earning less than £50,000 leaves the workforce due to childcare costs, new research from a women's charity has found.

Pregnant Then Screwed surveyed 11,811 parents with children under age 5, and over half said childcare costs and availability were now "more of a concern than the cost of living" with those at the lower end of the income scale more likely to be affected.

For those households with an income of less than £50,000 in total, where parents do stay in employment, over three-quarters reduce their hours to make childcare feasible, the research found. Some 42 per cent of parents surveyed also said that the cost and availability of childcare has prevented them from having any more children. More info: [www.pregnantthenscrewed.com](http://www.pregnantthenscrewed.com)



## Charity appeals for schools to apply to fund theatre trips

A charity is asking schools in Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow and Kensington to apply for funding to take pupils to the theatre after a survey revealed that one in five 16 to 24-year-olds said a school trip had been their only opportunity to go to the theatre.

In response to school budgets being squeezed, John Lyon's Charity is asking schools to apply to its Cultural Capital Fund. [www.jlc.london](http://www.jlc.london)

# Thriving not surviving

By Heidi Skudder

While the baby months pass by in a flurry of naps, back-to-back feeds and trying to work out when you will ever sleep again, the toddler years are definitely something to look forward to.

Multiple naps a day are over, eating is on its way to being well established and you actually have time to get out and about between meal times. That said, the toddler stage has its own unique challenges which can be overwhelming. But don't worry, it is possible to actually thrive during these years, not just survive. Here are my top tips and observations.

Toddlers start to become more vocal and know their own minds, often **refusing** to engage in even the most basic daily chores: getting dressed, nappy changes – the list goes on. **Prep in advance** by talking them through everything you'll be doing that day step by step, so nothing takes them by surprise.

The toddler years often bring phases of **fussy eating** and food refusal. Keep on top of mealtimes by exposing little ones to a wide range of foods, not giving second choices and recognising that appetites vary day to day. You decide what is on their plate and they decide how much they want to eat.

The **"division of responsibility"** is a well-researched model, proven to successfully encourage healthy eating habits. The model is that while it is a parent or carer's job to decide what each meal consists of, it is a toddler's job to decide how much of it they want to eat. Knowing that this model exists and is successful can save you from too much mealtime angst.

By forcing a toddler to take one more bite or holding off on pudding until they eat more broccoli, you are simply making them eat when they don't want to. Apart from unwelcome tantrums, this can also have long-term knock-on effects; primarily not being able to listen to what their body is telling them. By allowing your child to say when they have had enough and trusting in them, you are setting them up to not only have positive meal-time associations but also an ability to trust in their body and the feelings associated with it. A win-win both for parents and child.

**Sleep** is essential for a calmer journey throughout the toddler

### Dealing with tantrums

Poor behaviour is always about communication. This could be something as simple as hunger, needing a little more sleep or even a tummy ache that they can't explain to you. Toddlers simply aren't "naughty" just for the sake of it.

During a tantrum, try listening to how your toddler feels rather than telling them to stop crying. Often by identifying with the emotion and feeling, it can really help stop them in their tracks and deal with their feelings more easily. For example, using the words: "Oh, you really wanted that ice cream didn't you, because you love ice cream SO much. I totally understand," rather than: "stop crying" is going to elicit a calmer response and help you both move through those big feelings more easily and in less time.



# g: the toddler years



years. It's often assumed that the sacred "lunch time nap" can be dropped at two years of age but the reality is that most toddlers need this nap well into their third year, with some needing it until they go to school.

It may sometimes feel like you're in an **uphill battle** with your toddler to get out of the house each day. Remember that with time and by **rationalising** with them, things do get easier. Soon you'll look back and miss the fight about not wearing their wellies to the supermarket and those muddy footprints will be a distant memory.

● Heidi is a parenting coach. For online toddler courses including toddler behaviour, fussy eating and sleep, see her website.

[www.positivelyparenthood.com](http://www.positivelyparenthood.com)

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## Sarum Hall pupil writes book to help other dyslexic children

An eight-year-old girl has published a book about being dyslexic – and dedicated it to the teacher who inspired her to write stories.

Sukie Dell, a pupil at Sarum Hall School, wants to inspire other children with dyslexia.



Sukie, who was just seven when she wrote and illustrated the short story which documents her experiences, said: "I was diagnosed with dyslexia when I was six years old. It had a big impact on my life and school, but I know that I was surrounded by special people."

Sukie's Year 1 teacher, Ms Paul, said: "I was overwhelmed when Sukie dedicated her book to me. Sukie is an excellent storyteller with a wonderful imagination. It was important to me that her dyslexia should not be a barrier to her learning."

Karen Coles, headmistress at Sarum Hall School which offers individualised support to pupils with dyslexia and uses a variety of teaching strategies to ensure children have the confidence and skills to succeed, said: "We strive to encourage pupils to help each other. This book is a wonderful demonstration of Sukie's kindness in wishing to help other children."

**Being Dyslexic: An inspiring storybook to help dyslexic children realise that they really are very smart in their own way**, is available from Amazon, with profits going to the British Dyslexia Association.

*Sarum Hall School is an independent girl's prep school in a purpose-built modern building in Belsize Park. Children benefit from spacious and light classrooms and have a variety of lessons with specialist teachers alongside core subjects which allow the children to excel in a variety of fields.*

[www.sarumhallschool.co.uk](http://www.sarumhallschool.co.uk)

## Learning opportu

By Ana Fábrega

It's a fact that the traditional school system doesn't suit everyone, yet many parents aren't in a position to take their children out of school.

The good news is that there are options that offer fabulous learning opportunities for children outside of school which can be embraced without leaving the school system.

**Self-directed learning communities.** Programmes like Kubrio ([www://kubrio.com](http://www://kubrio.com)) bring kids together to share interests and design their own curriculums. Over 100 classes cover coding, game design, art, writing and entrepreneurship.

**Forest Schools.** Forest School programmes ([www.forestschoollassociation.org](http://www.forestschoollassociation.org)) put kids at the centre of learning, connect them with each other and nature and challenge them to take responsibility and make meaning for themselves.



**Team problem-solving.** Synthesis School ([www.synthesis.com](http://www.synthesis.com)) empowers kids to solve the world's hardest problems. They compete in teams, debating ideas, testing tactics,



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# Activities beyond the school system

communicating decisions, taking ownership and drawing out the best in each other.

**Project-based learning.** Programmes like Arduino ([www.arduino.cc](http://www.arduino.cc)) cover chemistry, physics, electronics, coding and more. They ship all the components to your door, with online training and support to allow kids to learn by doing.

**Online STEAM classes.** Many schools struggle to provide enough opportunity to explore science, tech, engineering, art and maths (STEAM subjects). Platforms like Brilliant ([www.brilliant.org](http://www.brilliant.org)), Skillshare ([www.skillshare.com](http://www.skillshare.com)) and Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)) offer amazing courses.

**Foster a love of reading.** Let kids read freely and widely. Choice is the key to fostering a love of reading. Once they develop this, they will be able to teach themselves anything.

**Alternative schools.** If you are thinking of a different school, consider alternatives such as Montessori, Waldorf and Reggio Emilia. For specific alternative schools, research Sora Schools ([www.soraschools.com](http://www.soraschools.com)), Higher Ground ([www.higherground.com](http://www.higherground.com)) and Acton Academy ([www.actonacademy.org](http://www.actonacademy.org)).

**Microschools.** Microschools are wonderful options, like those available through Prenda ([www.prenda.com](http://www.prenda.com)) and other

networks. Look for mixed age groups, a child-centred curriculum and project-based learning, and programmes focused on free play, where kids explore and create on their own. Avoid ones that talk about "play" but mean adult-led activities.



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# Helping children to embrace the great outdoors

Gemma Hunt, presenter of Cbeebies show Swashbuckle, tells Families about being an ambassador for The Waterproof and Wellies Project for The Outdoor Guide Foundation and why she's passionate about getting kids and families outside.



## Tell us about The Waterproof and Wellies Project?

We're looking to raise £6million to provide 10 sets of waterproof jackets, trousers and wellies to the 20,000 state primary schools in the UK. Unfortunately around 30 per cent of children do not own their own wellies. So having these sets in schools enables them to play outside in all weathers without ruining their shoes!

## Why do you feel passionate about this project?

I long for children to enjoy the physical, mental and spiritual value of getting outdoors more. It's so good for their appreciation of our great British countryside, wildlife and nature. I love to see my daughter play outside, climbing trees, investigating flowers and spotting insects, coming back with flushed cheeks and grubby knees! On occasion, we've ruined clothing or footwear as we haven't had the right gear with us BUT we've been able to replace them. This isn't possible for all families so to have the right outerwear to enjoy time outside together is essential.

## How do you think children's experience of outdoor time today compares to yours as a child?

I don't think we get outside as much as we used to – there are so many inside distractions. It used to be a treat to run around

outside, play games and let off steam. Of course, we had more freedom to roam and I understand why we may not be so willing for our children to go out alone now but that is all the more reason to do so as a family.

## How much time do you spend outside with your family?

Honestly, not as much as we should. We do walk to school or play in the garden every day and we like to take our daughter out on her bike. To motivate our daughter, we turn outside time into an adventure or give ourselves a purpose, like going out to collect leaves or feathers for an art project or going on a litter pick. If we take her bike or scooter, that usually stops the moans about her legs aching if we've walked too far!

## What advice would you give to families whose access to green spaces is limited?

Make the most of the outdoor spaces you do have access to. Take outdoor games if there is no play area. If it's rainy, put your waterproofs on and take a flask of hot chocolate and a big umbrella!

## What has The Waterproof and Wellies project achieved so far?

Since Covid, we have donated more than 3,000 sets of waterproofs and wellies to UK schools. We need more support from businesses and individuals as we're still a way off our target and there are more than 300 schools on the waiting list, desperate for the gear. You can see how you can support us at [www.theoutdoorguidefoundation.org](http://www.theoutdoorguidefoundation.org)

## You're also a writer. Tell us about your new book

It's about helping children express and deal with big feelings like anger, jealousy and frustration. I understand the power of imitative behaviour and wanted to write something that children could read – or have read to them – that would inspire them to better manage their behaviour. My favourite role model has been Jesus so I wanted to take some stories told by or about him and re-tell them from the perspective of



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## Speak out for mental health

Families are being urged to encourage their children to share what matters to them, as part of Children's Mental Health Week, Feb 5-11, themed My Voice Matters, organised by charity Place2Be.

Evidence shows that children and young people who feel their voices are heard, and that what they say makes a difference, have higher levels of self-efficacy and self-esteem. FREE resources at [www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](http://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

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a mixed race family like mine. My husband and daughter and my parents and I all appear in the stories.

### What motivated you to write it?

I struggled to find good books for my daughter that depicted our family dynamic – so I wrote them! The first book is about encouraging children to be **A Good Friend**. The newest one has five short stories which explore emotions. It's called **See Let's Be ME!** and is available from [www.bookshop.org](http://www.bookshop.org)

Learn more about The Outdoor Guide Foundation at [www.theoutdoorguidefoundation.org](http://www.theoutdoorguidefoundation.org)

**STAGE ACADEMY**

ACTING  
SING  
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AGE 4-18

WEEKLY  
CLASSES IN  
N1, N3, N6,  
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"Our experience with Stage Academy has exceeded all of our expectations so far. The professionalism is exceptional and consistent. The themes are brilliant. Our daughter has achieved so much already and we are only just getting started!"  
Ayse - Stage Academy Parent

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# WHAT'S ON!

To have your event listed on these pages email the details to editor@familiesnorthlondon.co.uk

Disclaimer: We aim to be as accurate as possible, but these listings are compiled several weeks beforehand and may be subject to change. Please check before setting out.

## Family Theatre Ongoing

### Saturdays & dates in half-term Tales from the Shed

Jan 20-Feb 24, Mar 16 & 23. (Plus Feb 14-16) Vibrant, inclusive, informal and educational show. 10am & 11.30am. Chickenshed, N14 4PE. **0-6**. Adults & children £7. Under 6m free, must book. [www.chickenshed.org.uk](http://www.chickenshed.org.uk)

### Tues Interactive Storytelling

Various times. The Woodman N6 5UA, **0-5**. From £7.50 parent & child. [www.littlesupernovas.com](http://www.littlesupernovas.com)

### Wed, Fri & Sat Les Aventures de Martin Avril

Join Martin and his suitcase full of magic. Puppet show with musicians from around the world. French and English shows. Weds pm and Fri am at Poppets Stores, N1 1LX. Friday pm at Dreami Play Café, E2 7SY. **6m-6**. From £13 adult and child. [www.lesaventuresdemartinavril.com](http://www.lesaventuresdemartinavril.com)

### Fridays Planet Play

Jan 19-Mar 22. Interactive, sensory show. 10am. Some dates 11.30am too. **0-3**. Chickenshed, N14 4P. Adults £10, children/babies free, must have ticket. [www.chickenshed.org.uk](http://www.chickenshed.org.uk)

## Until...

### Until Jan 14 You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

Musical based on the Peanuts comic strip. Various times. **All ages**. Upstairs At The Gatehouse, N6 4BD. Concs £23, adult £25. [www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com](http://www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com)

### Until Jan 27 WOW! It's Night-time

Adaptation of Tim Hopgood's sequel to Wow! Said the Owl. Various times. **2-5**. Little Angel Theatre, Dagmar Passage N1 2DN. Adult £16, child £14, Fri 4.45pm £8. [www.littleangeltheatre.com](http://www.littleangeltheatre.com)

### Until Jan 31 The Nutcracker

2hrs 20 with interval. Various dates/times. **All ages**. Royal Opera House, WC2E 9DD. £8-£160. [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

### Until Feb 4 Charlie Cook's Favourite Book

Charlie's sister hates books, but perhaps if she reads a book about a pirate, who is reading a book about Goldilocks, who is reading a book about a knight... Inspired by Julie Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's book. Various times. **3-8**. Little Angel Studios, Sebbon St, N1 2EH. Adult £16, child £14, Thurs/Fri 4.45pm £8. [www.littleangeltheatre.com](http://www.littleangeltheatre.com)

### Until Mar 23 My Neighbour Totoro

Be beguiled and amazed by this intricately constructed staging of the 1988 Studio Ghibli animated feature film, with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the film's composer Joe Hisaishi. 6+. U4s welcome at relaxed performances on Feb 1 & 17. Barbican Theatre, EC2Y 8DS. Various prices. [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

## Day by Day

### Jan 10-13 The Toymaker's Child

The Toymaker worries that his only child is lonely, so he magically 3D prints an AI child, serial number PIN:0Cch10, who proves to be a bit too mischievous to handle. Cue a fabulously dynamic and lively show. 2hrs, inc interval. **5+**. Chickenshed, N14 4PE. From £10. [www.chickenshed.org.uk](http://www.chickenshed.org.uk)

### Jan 11-14 The Little Mermaid

Fantasy, music, dancing and laughter for the **whole family**.

as SMP Theatre am-dram tell the magical story of a mermaid obsessed with life on land above. Various times. Millfield Theatre, N18 1PJ. £18, concs £15. [www.millfieldtheatre.co.uk](http://www.millfieldtheatre.co.uk)

### Jan 11-Feb 11 Cirque du Soleil – Alegria: In a New Light

Various times. Royal Albert Hall, SW7 2AP. Various prices. [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)

### Jan 13 The Best Worst Day Ever

Show, based on the book by Sophie Henn. **2-6**. 25mins. 10am, 11am. Pickled Pepper Books, Crouch End, N8 8PL. Adult & child £20.50. [www.pickledpepperbooks.co.uk](http://www.pickledpepperbooks.co.uk)

### Jan 14 The Littlest Yak

Gertie wants to be grown up – but what if there are some things that only a little yak can do? **3+**. 11am, 2pm. artsdepot, N12 0GA. From £12. [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

### Scottish Ensemble: In Sync

Energetic and interactive afternoon of string music for young people – and the young at heart. 2pm. **8+**. 1hr. Kings Place, N1 9GE. £15-£20. [www.kingsplace.co.uk](http://www.kingsplace.co.uk)

### Jan 17-18 Ready, Steady, Lift Off!

Sing, colour and play your way through seven stages of astronaut training. Craft-based theatre. **3-8**. Not suitable for u3. Unicorn Theatre, SE1 2HZ. From £12.50. Child from £10.50. [www.unicorntheatre.com](http://www.unicorntheatre.com) Jan 18-21

# Incredible parties from Stage Academy

Stage Academy is well known for its weekly classes and holiday courses that inspire children to express themselves and build confidence through performing arts. However, did you know that they provide incredible birthday parties through sister company, Stage Parties?

At Stage Parties, the goal is to create a bespoke and unforgettable experience for each child. The team works diligently to tailor every party to the birthday child's interests and personality. Does your child dream of being a rock star or a West End performer? Or perhaps they have a specific creative theme in mind, like **Pirates, Superheroes or Fairytales?** Maybe they'd like a **UV Disco Dance party** that will be the talk of the playground! Stage Parties can make it happen.

If you think Stage Parties are just for young children, think again! Stage Parties has a team of professional performers ready to bring exciting, immersive concepts to life for any age. How about being part of a **real-life game show**, taking on **super spy challenges** or a **thrilling murder mystery?**

Stage Parties are designed to be stress-free for parents. The team at Stage Parties can handle every detail, from the

initial planning stages to the cleanup afterwards. They can bring the decorations, provide the snacks and they even have special relationships with many fantastic party venues across North London to help you secure the perfect space for your child's big day. Parents can relax and enjoy the festivities, knowing that their child's special day is in capable hands.



Stage Parties are provided by Stage Academy, trusted by hundreds of parents across London for their professionalism, enthusiasm and reliability. Stage Academy parent Maya said "Beyond my expectations! My daughter loves it and has told her friends how much she loves it too. Definitely recommend!" And Stage Academy parent Diana said "Andrew and his staff are so fantastic and we love to be part of the Stage Academy family!"

In an era where experiences are increasingly valued over material goods, Stage Parties offers a unique and meaningful way to celebrate a child's birthday. It's not just a party, but an experience that can positively impact a child's life beyond their special day.

Stage Parties are popular and availability is strictly limited. To find out more and secure your 2024 party date today, visit [stageparties.co.uk](http://stageparties.co.uk)

**Frankenstein The Pantomime**

It's a hard life for poor Heidi in Pumpernickel's Tavern. The greedy Innkeeper and his bossy wife treat her like a slave. And up in his castle, gormless Count Dracula and his gummy grandmother are planning a dinner party, with Heidi as the main course! Family pantomime full of huge laughs and jolly pranks – and not a bite in sight. By Am Dram group The Warren. From £13. Wyllyotts Centre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ [www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk](http://www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk)

Jan 20-21  
**Circus Enchante**

Thrilling family adventure. Sat 11am, 2.30pm, Sun 11am. Hoxton Hall, N1 6SH. £19, child £15. [www.hoxtonhall.co.uk](http://www.hoxtonhall.co.uk)

Jan 20-Feb 18  
**The Three Billy Goats Gruff**

Joyful hit musical. **3-7**. Unicorn Theatre, SE1 2HZ. From £16.50. Child from £11. [www.unicorntheatre.com](http://www.unicorntheatre.com)

Jan 21  
**The Museum of Marvellous Things**

Discover stars in jars. Catch moons like balloons and dance with Doo-Dahs. This museum is made from your imagination. 11am, 2pm. **3-8**. Jacksons Lane, N6 5AA. £12. [www.jacksonslane.org.uk](http://www.jacksonslane.org.uk)

**Can Bears Ski?**

Little Bear can't hear, but he and Dad Bear learn there are many ways to communicate love, and find your place in the world. 11am, 2pm. **3+**. artsdepot, N12 OGA. From £12. [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

Jan 23-27  
**Beauty and The Beast**

Presented by PwC staff, in support of charity Red Balloon, Various times. 2hrs inc interval. From £25. Peacock Theatre, WC2A 2HT [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com)

Jan 28  
**Comedy Club 4 Kids**

Stand-up comedy but without the rude bits. 12pm, 2.30pm, **6+**. artsdepot, N12 OGA. From £12. [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

Jan 29-27  
**Tortoise and the Hare**

The race is on, with Northern Ballet's playful cast of characters. Royal Opera House, WC2E 9DD. £15. [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

Feb 3-April 14  
**The Everywhere Bear**

One day Class One's bear falls from a backpack and has his own adventure. **3-8**. Little Angel Theatre, Dagmar Passage N1 2DN. Adult £14, child £12, Fri 4.45pm £8. [www.littleangeltheatre.com](http://www.littleangeltheatre.com)

Feb 4  
**Festival of Spoken Ivrit**

Mamushi the Rabbit, in Hebrew, 1pm, **3-7**. £5  
Uzo and Muzo from the Village Kukaruzo, in Hebrew, 3pm, **6-12**. £5  
Theador: The Boy Who Dared To Dream, in Hebrew, 5pm, **11+ and families**. £5  
JW3 community centre, NW3 6ET [www.jw3.org.uk](http://www.jw3.org.uk)

**The Great Big Dinosaur Show**

Poetry, music, songs and facts. 11am, 2pm. **4-11**. artsdepot, N12

OGA. From £12 [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

**The Littlest Yak**

See description on Jan 14. **3+**. 11am, 2pm. Jacksons Lane, N6 5AA. £12 [www.jacksonslane.org.uk](http://www.jacksonslane.org.uk)

Feb 9-11  
**Charlie Cook's Favourite Book**

See description, Feb 4. Various times. **3-8**. artsdepot, N12 OGA. From £12 [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

Feb 10-17  
**Family Storytelling**

(See related **Family Workshops in Events** Feb 10-17)

**The Winter's Tale**, Feb 10.

12.30pm, 3pm. £15.

**Macbeth**, Feb 11, 16, 17. 12.30pm,

3pm. £15.

**The Tempest**, Feb 12, 13. 12.30pm,

3pm. £15.

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**, Feb

14, 15, 12.30pm, 3pm. £15.

1hr, All aimed at **5-12**. Shake-

speare's Globe, SE1 9DT.

[www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com)

Feb 10-April 21  
**Medusa's First Kiss**

A story about fitting in and finding friends. Various times. **10+**. Little Angel Studios, Sebbon St, N1 2EH. Adult £14, child £12, Fri 4.45pm £8. [www.littleangeltheatre.com](http://www.littleangeltheatre.com)

Feb 13-17  
**The Three Bears**

An adventure that you thought you knew. 11am, 2pm. U6. Jacksons Lane, N6 5AA. £15. [www.jacksonslane.org.uk](http://www.jacksonslane.org.uk)

Feb 14-18

**Dear Zoo**

Rob Campbell's book, lovingly adapted for stage. 11am, 2pm. **2+**. artsdepot, N12 OGA. From £12 [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

Feb 17-18

**Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live: Glow Party**

See Mega Wrex, Bone Shaker and more plus frost-breathing, trans-forming dragon Arcticgon. 11.30am, 6.30pm. Backstage tours and pre-show access available as extras. The O2, SE10 0DX. From £36. [www.theo2.co.uk](http://www.theo2.co.uk)

Feb 18  
**Exciting Science**

11.30am, 2pm. **4+ and up**. Wyllyotts Centre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ. £15 [www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk](http://www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk)

Feb 25

**Shenanigans**

Take a circus journey filled with planes, juggling, an inflatable pool and a train ride. 11am, 2pm. **3+**. Jacksons Lane, N6 5AA. £12. [www.jacksonslane.org.uk](http://www.jacksonslane.org.uk)

**Claytime**

A play with clay, where the audience can participate. 11am, 2pm. **3-6**. artsdepot, N12 OGA. From £12 [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

Feb 28

**Kaleidoscope**

Sensory colour experience. **6-18m**. 25mins plus stay and play. 10.30am, 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm. artsdepot, N12 OGA. Adult and child, from £15 [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

**ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH**

# Explore Cutty Sark

Enjoy family activities this half term on board this world-famous ship.

Search 'Cutty Sark'  
Members go free

Royal Museums Greenwich  
Cutty Sark | National Maritime Museum | Royal Observatory | The Queen's House  
Greenwich Pier | Cutty Sark | Greenwich (only 8 mins from London Bridge)

**Don't miss**  
Character actors  
Fri – Mon  
across half term

Mar 1-20

## Persephone – A Tale of the Seasons

Separate performances for **6-18m**, and toddlers **18m-3**. Various dates/times. Little Angel Studios, Sebbon St, N1 2EH. Adult £14, child £12, Fri 4.45pm £8. [www.littleangeltheatre.com](http://www.littleangeltheatre.com)

Mar 3

## Kickmouse Mysterium

A comedy fable about perseverance and achievement. 11am, 2pm, **3-11**. Jacksons Lane, N6 5AA. £12. [www.jacksonslane.org.uk](http://www.jacksonslane.org.uk)

Mar 10

## In the Dead of the Night

Lily must face her fears and save the day, based on Arthur McBain's picture book. **3+**. 11am, 2pm. Jacksons Lane, N6 5AA. £12. [www.jacksonslane.org.uk](http://www.jacksonslane.org.uk)

## Kid Carpet and the Noisy Garden Centre

Kid Carpet wants to win the Garden contest. The Noisy Animals really want to run a garden centre. Nothing could possibly go wrong. With catchy songs and puppetry. 11am, 2pm, **3-8**. artsdepot, N12 OGA. From £12 [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)



**My Neighbour Totoro,**  
The Barbican, see Until Mar 23

## Bow Street Police Museum

Family trail **5-7** & **7-11**. Often has bookable holiday activities. Bow Street Police Museum WC2E 7AW. Open Fri-Sun. Adult £6, u12 free. [bowstreetpolcemuseum.org.uk](http://bowstreetpolcemuseum.org.uk)

## Kenwood House

Mac's indoor and outdoor discovery trails. NW3 7JR. Free. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenwood](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenwood)

## Whitewebbs Museum of Transport

Open Tuesdays and the last Sunday in the month. Check website for closures. Whitewebbs, EN2 9HP [www.whitewebbsmuseum.co.uk](http://www.whitewebbsmuseum.co.uk)

## The Box Rocket

Play exhibit, **0-8**, running alongside permanent play spaces, **0-11**, designed to fire up children's imaginations. Must book. Discover Children's Story Centre, E5 4QZ. [www.discover.org.uk](http://www.discover.org.uk)

## Ted's Space Adventures

Planetarium show, **u7s**. 11.30am, weekends and school hols. Check website for The Sky Tonight, **7+**, We Are Guardians **7+**, and other shows. Plus see Earth From Space through a satellite lens, inc with ticket. (See Feb 15 for Holiday to Space for **3-6**.)

Booking advised. Adult £12, child £6. Royal Observatory, SE10 8XJ. [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)

## Bring Your Baby Pub Quiz & Walks

Various dates. Venues throughout North London. [www.bringyourbaby.org](http://www.bringyourbaby.org)

## Bruce Castle Museum

Explorer gallery with interactives and dress-up, **3-8**. Free. Plus there is a Mystery Manor Trail with sticker booklet for £1, and a Tree Trail. Weds-Sun 1pm-5pm. N17 8NU [www.brucecastle.org/families](http://www.brucecastle.org/families)

## Secret Garden Pop-Up Café

Check website for dates and events. Activity sessions for **little ones**, and cafe. Salisbury House, Bush Hill Park, N9 9LA. [www.thesecretgardenpopup.com](http://www.thesecretgardenpopup.com)

## Storytelling and Music for 0-4s

Various Weds and Thurs, Various times. £6. Royal Albert Hall, SW7 2AP [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com)

## First Saturday of the month Coder Dojo

10.30am-12pm. Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre, SE3 9QS. **7-17**. Free, £1 booking fee. [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)

## Third Saturday of the month Make, Do and Maintain

Facilitated session. Various themes. 10.30am-12pm. Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre, SE3 9QS. **All ages/abilities**. Free, £1 booking fee. [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)

## Saturdays until Jun 24 Transformative Futures

Weekly collective for young people to think, discuss and create together. **15-25**. 2.30-4.30pm. Free. Book. Camden Art Centre, NW3 6DG [www.camdenartcentre.org](http://www.camdenartcentre.org)

## Saturdays Lego Club

Sat term-time, 3-4pm. Colindale Library, NW9. **5+**. Free. Mon term-time 3.30-4.30pm.

Burnt Oak Library, **4-8s**, first-served. Free.

Sat fortnightly from Jan 6, 3-4pm. North Finchley Library, **Under 12**, first-served. Free. [www.barnet.gov.uk/events](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/events)

First weekend of the month and half-term  
**Cutty Sark Family Fun**



Climb aboard for a Cutty Sark adventure this half term! Enjoy an action-packed day out on this world-famous historic ship. Meet the cast of colourful characters from the ship's past, including the fearless Captain Woodget, Explore the main deck and take in the breathtaking views of London. Find your sea legs and peep through the port holes, visit the cabins to see where the ship's crew lived, and play interactive games to chart Cutty Sark's journey at sea. Touch the ship's hull and see part of the world's largest collection of ship figureheads. Follow a free family trail and discover what life was like on board as a 19th century sailor and join in musical storytelling sessions inspired by Cutty Sark's crew. Cutty Sark, SE10 9HT. [www.rmg.co.uk/cutty-sark](http://www.rmg.co.uk/cutty-sark)

# Whats On Events

## SEN sessions

Some venues run sessions for children with special needs. See our page at [www.bit.ly/FNLsend](http://www.bit.ly/FNLsend)

## Ongoing

### Starting Jan Coding Club

New. Tottenham Community Sports Centre, N17 8AD. Look out for taster session and full details online. **8-15**. Free [www.breadlinelondon.co.uk](http://www.breadlinelondon.co.uk)

## Boost your child's confidence in 2024 with a FREE Perform class

The new year is a great time to start something new and Perform is offering every child a free trial class to help them shine.

With two brilliant new themes incorporating confidence-building fun, 4 to 7-year-olds will join a high-energy adventure to the Wild West while 7 to 12-year-olds enjoy a dancefloor-filling adaptation of Snow White, in Killa Queen.

Classes are packed with confidence-boosting games which focus on developing the 4 Cs – confidence, communication, coordination and concentration – using drama, dance and singing. At

the end of term, children take part in a show-stopping final performance for family and friends so you can see their progress.

Classes are for all abilities with no previous experience required and children are welcome to join at any point in the term.

**Book a no-obligation FREE trial at [www.perform.org.uk/try](http://www.perform.org.uk/try)**

## Join Perform and The Ice Queen this half-term

Three days of Frozen-themed fun awaits this half-term in a glittering drama, dance and singing adventure with Elsa, Ana and friends. Ending with a dazzling performance, this is the coolest half-term treat. For children aged 4-10 years.

**Dates:** February 12 to 14.

**Venues:** Barbican, Primrose Hill, Muswell Hill, St John's Wood, Highbury  
020 7255 9120

✉enquiries@perform.org.uk  
[www.perform.org.uk/icequeen](http://www.perform.org.uk/icequeen)

**Venues:** N1, N2, N4, N5, N6, N7, N8, N10, N11, N12, N13, N14, N16, N19, N20, N21, N22, EN5, EC1, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW5, NW6, **New classes in NW7**, NW8, NW11, EC1R, EC1Y.

020 7255 9120

✉enquiries@perform.org.uk  
[www.perform.org.uk/try](http://www.perform.org.uk/try)





**The Moonwalkers: A Journey with Tom Hanks**, Lightroom. See Events, Until April 21

Sundays  
**Junior Park Run 2km**  
 Fun family runs. Enfield Town Park, EN2 6TJ, Lordship Rec Ground, N17 6BQ, Priory Park N8 8LN, Caledonian Park N7, Highbury Fields N5, Friary Park N12 9PQ, London Fields, E8 3EU, Leyton Jubilee Park, E10 7BL, 9am. **4-14**. Free, register. [www.parkrun.org.uk](http://www.parkrun.org.uk)

Sundays  
**Crafternoons**  
 2pm-4pm. JW3, Finchley Road, NW3. **3-8s** and their families. Free, drop-in. Check dates online. [www.jw3.org.uk](http://www.jw3.org.uk)

Sundays  
**Wonderful Wildlife Weekends**  
 1pm-3.30pm. Woodberry Wetlands, N16 5HQ. **All ages**. Free, drop-in. [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

Every other Sunday  
**Wonderful Wildlife Weekends**  
 Jan 14, 28, Feb 11, 25. 1pm-3pm. Camley Street Natural Park, N1C 4PW. **All ages**. Free, drop-in. [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

Sats & Suns  
**Character Encounters** – Sats. Join an exciting performance and see maritime history brought to life. Various times.  
**Discover Sundays** – term-time. Creative activities. Drop-in. Plus hands-on galleries and trails. National Maritime Museum, SE10 9NF. **All ages**. Free. [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)

Mon & Weds  
**Piano Academia**  
 Workshops with piano tuition, drawing, stories, reading, creative writing and more. 3.30-6.30pm. **6+**. Coombes Croft Library, N17 8AG. Free. [www.haringey.gov.uk/events/202203/piano-academia](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/events/202203/piano-academia)

Tuesdays term-time  
**Play Tuesdays**  
 Facilitated play, songs and stories. National Maritime Museum, SE10 9NF. **u5**. £4. [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)

Fridays term-time  
**Singing, Stories and Crafts**  
 Various times. **u5**. London Transport Museum, WC2. Free with entry. Child free. [ltmuseum.co.uk](http://ltmuseum.co.uk)

Tuesdays in term time  
**Library Club**  
 With reading corner and diverse book-pairing service. **0-11**. 3.30-5.30pm. Hackney Showroom, N4

2BN. Free, drop-in. [www.hackneystudio.com](http://www.hackneystudio.com)

Wednesdays  
**Easy Rollerz**  
 Hang-out for babies, toddlers and their adults, with soft play and music. 10-10.45am for **pre-walkers**. 11am-noon **1-2s** on the move. £3 donation. Hackney Showroom, N4 2BN [www.hackneystudio.com/easy-rollerz](http://www.hackneystudio.com/easy-rollerz)

Weekends, Fridays and holidays  
**Play Studio**  
 A place for families to play, make and create together. Plus Tate Draw, every day. Tate Britain, Millbank, SW1P 4RG. **All ages**. Free. [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

## Until...

Until Jan 14  
**Titanosaur: Life as the Biggest Dinosaur**  
 Exhibition: Step into the colossal world of Patagotitan mayorum. Advance booking advised. Natural History Museum, SW7 5HD. Aimed at 5+. **All ages**. From adult £16, child £9. Various concs. Book free museum entry. [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

Until Jan 21  
**Disney 100: The Exhibition**  
 Celebrates the iconic characters and stories from Disney's history and present day. Promises unique interactive installations. Booking until Jan 21. Excel Centre, E16 1XL. Adult £28, child £20. [www.excel.london](http://www.excel.london)

Until Feb  
**Slavery & The Bank**  
 How wealth created through transatlantic slavery shaped Britain's development. Bank of England, museum entrance on Bartholomew Lane, EC2R 8AH. Free. [www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum)

Until Feb 18  
**EmotionAir**  
 Art meets balloons at the new Balloon Museum, EC3R 6DX. From £32, child from £18, u4 free. [www.balloonmuseum.world/lp-london](http://www.balloonmuseum.world/lp-london)

Until Feb 28  
**Caribbean Collection Family Activity**  
 Self-guided trail with activities to discover creative artists, designers and makers. **5+**. V&A, SW7 2RL. Free [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

Until Mar 28  
**Fantastic Camden**  
 Exhibition exploring the many links between Camden and fantasy, magic, mythological creatures, science fiction and fantastical buildings. May suit some **older children**. Camden Local Studies & Archives Centre, WC1X 8PA. [www.camden.gov.uk/local-history-exhibitions-and-events#pxiv](http://www.camden.gov.uk/local-history-exhibitions-and-events#pxiv)

Until Apr 14  
**Spies, Lies and Deception**  
 Exhibition: Discover 100 years of intrigue, deceit and real-life secret agents. Plus Story Seekers trail every weekend. Imperial War Museum, SE1 6HZ. Free [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

Until Apr 16  
**Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers turns 30!**  
 Showcasing behind-the-scenes shots, set piece, models seen for the first time in London and original artwork. See website for half-term children's workshops. Closed Mondays. The Cartoon Museum, W1A 3AE. Adult £9.50, u18 free. [www.cartoonmuseum.org](http://www.cartoonmuseum.org)

Until Apr 21  
**The Moonwalkers: A Journey with Tom Hanks**  
 Family-friendly immersive telling of the story of the Apollo missions to the moon, and the Artemis missions due this year. Will please families and space buffs too. There is one very loud noise as Apollo 11 takes off. **All ages**. From £25, child from £15. U3 free. Dynamic pricing. Book early. Lightroom, N1C 4DY [www.lightroom.uk](http://www.lightroom.uk)

Until Apr 28  
**A Journey Through Painting and Photography**  
 How the arrival of photography changed painting forever, with works by Picasso and Warhol. (Plus find free event **Uniqlo Tate Studio: Rhythm**, until Feb 7, then with sound-related activities through half-term hols). Tate Modern, Bankside, SE1 9TG. Adult £20, child £5, U12 free. [www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern](http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern)

Until April 28  
**Infinity Mirror Rooms**  
 Experience two of Yayoi Kusama's Infinity Mirror Rooms. Be immersed in endless reflections. Tate Modern, Bankside, SE1 9TG. £10. [www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern](http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern)

Until May 6  
**Turn It Up: The Power of Music**  
 Explore the hold that music has over us in this fun, family-friendly experience. Try the musical playground and dance with interactive screens. Science Museum, SW7 2DD. Adult £10, child £8, u5 free. [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk)

Booking until May 31  
**Power Up**  
 Consoles and games from the past 5 decades. **5+**. Must book. Science Museum, SW7 2DD. £10. Annual pass £15. [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk)

Until Jun 2  
**Skateboard**  
 Chronicling the history of the skateboard. (Plus Feb 12-15, **Design Camps**, inc **Skateboard Deck Making 11-14**.) Design Museum, W8 6AG. Adult from £16, 11-15 from

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Families



**Legion: Life in the Roman Army**, Horrible Histories trail with Rattus British Museum. See Feb 1. See Mar 9 for Roman-themed sleepover.

£8, u11 free.  
[www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)

### Until Jun 30 **Wildlife Photographer of the Year**

Various prices. Natural History Museum, SW7 5HD  
[www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

Until Sep 8

### **Japan: Myths to Manga**

Exhibition. Explore how landscape and folklore have influenced Japan's culture, technology and design. Young V&A, E2 9PA. £10.  
[www.vam.ac.uk/young](http://www.vam.ac.uk/young)

## Day by Day

Jan 13, 20, 27

### **Great Fire of London Family Walk**

Run by the Museum of London.  
**5+**. 10.30am. £8. Child £6.  
[www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

Jan 13, Feb 3

### **Making Masks**

Inspired by the collections. 10am-4pm. British Museum, WC1E 7JW. Drop-in, free. Book timed entry.  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

Jan 14, Mar 10  
**Create! Studio**

All family members are invited to create together. 11am-4pm. Must book. **4+**. Young V&A, E2 9PA. £3.  
[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

Jan 17, Feb 21

### **Early Years Studio**

Jan 17, **Texture**. Feb 21, **Buildings**. 10-11.30am and 12.30-2pm. **0-4**. Royal Academy of Arts, W1J 0BD. Drop-in, free.  
[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

Jan 20

### **Marching Orders: Rations**

Family tour on how the Army has kept its soldiers fed. About 30mins. 11am, 12pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm. **5+**. National Army Museum, SW3 4HT. Drop-in, first served, free.  
[www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk)

Jan 20, Feb 14, Mar 16

### **Depot Family Tours**

See special vehicles in the bus and train shed, aimed at families with children **5-9**. London Transport Museum. Acton Depot, W3 9BQ. £6, child free.  
[www.ltmuseum.co.uk/visit/museum-depot](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/visit/museum-depot)

Jan 20, Feb 10

### **Masterpieces In Minecraft**

Construct a creation from Egypt, Rome, ancient Greece or Japan. 10am-4pm. British Museum, WC1E 7JW. Drop-in, free. Book timed entry.  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

### **Impossible Images: Roman Army**

Choose a topic to create a photo from ancient Egypt or Greece, Japan, Persia. 10am-4pm. British Museum, WC1E 7JW. Drop-in. Free. Book timed entry.  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

Jan 28, Feb 25

### **Family Studio:**

Jan 28, **Drawing From Life**. Feb 25, **Print**. 11am-1pm, 2-4pm. For families with **children of all ages**. Royal Academy of Arts, W1J 0BD. Drop-in, free.  
[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

From Feb 1

### **Legion: Life in the Roman Army**

What did life in the Roman Army look like from the soldier's perspective? Follow Rattus, AKA Claudius Terrattus, on the Horrible Histories trail of interactive stations for **all ages**. (See "Feb 12, 25, 24" and "Feb 16, 27, Mar 2" for related free activities.) British Museum, WC1E 7JW. Various prices. U16 free.  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

Feb 3

### **Marching Orders: Terrific Transport**

Family tour. Saddle up for a fascinating ride through the history of Army transportation. About 30mins. 11am, 12pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm. **5+**. National Army Museum, W3 4HT. Drop-in, first-served, free.  
[www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk)

Feb 10-17

### **Family Workshops**

(See related **Family Storytelling** in Family Theatre Feb 10-17)  
**Macbeth 5-8 & Macbeth 9-12**. Feb 11, 16, 17. £10.  
**Macbeth On Stage**. Feb 10, 12. **9+** and their adult/s 11.30pm. £16  
**The Tempest 5-8 & The Tempest 9-12**. Feb 12, 13. 11am, 1.30pm. £10  
**A Midsummer Night's Dream 5-8 & A Midsummer Night's Dream 9-12**. Feb 14, 15. 11am, 1.30pm. £10

Shakespeare's Globe, SE1 9DT.  
[www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com)

Feb 11

### **Chinese New Year Festival**

Chinatown and Trafalgar Square. See online for details.  
[www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/chinese-new-year](http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/chinese-new-year)

Feb 12

### **Family Tea Dance**

Cha Cha Cha to the Royal Opera House Dance Band. 12.30pm. **All ages**. Paul Hamlyn Hall, Royal Opera House, WC2E 9DD. £10.  
[www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

### **Family Nature Discovery**

Learn about habitats and wildlife. Aimed at **parents and children** together. 1pm-3pm. Camley Street Natural Park, N1C 4PW. Free, drop-in, donation welcome.  
[www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

Feb 12, 26

### **Nature Storytime**

Interactive nature-themed story session and craft or habitat exploration. **U6** but **all** welcome. 10.30am-11.30am. Camley Street Natural Park, N1C 4PW. Free, drop-in, donation welcome.  
[www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

Feb 12-15

### **Design Camps**

Feb 12: 3D Character Design, **8-11**. Skateboard Deck Making, **11-14**.  
Feb 13: Digital Illustration, **8-11**. Car Making Challenge, **11-14**.  
Feb 14: Architectural Model-making, **8-11**. Wooden Toy Making, **8-11**.  
Feb 15: Design Pirates, **8-11**. Robot Olympics, **11-14**.  
Design Museum, W8 6AG. Camps approx 6hrs. £72, Early bird £66 before Jan 21.  
[www.designmuseum.org](http://www.designmuseum.org)

Feb 12, 15, 24

### **Impossible Images: Roman Army**

Dress for battle and create an ancient Roman-themed family photo. Complements exhibition **Legion: Life in the Roman Army** see Feb 1. 10am-4pm. British Museum, WC1E 7JW. Drop-in. Free. Book timed entry.  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

Feb 13

### **Time Travel Club: Fantastical Fairytales**

Embark on a magical adventure. 11am. **5-7**. The National Archives, TW9 4DU. £5.  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

Feb 13-15

### **Decoding Pictures**

Choose paintings and create the direction of your journey with gallery educators. 45mins. 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm. Aimed at **5-13**, but all welcome. The National Gallery, WC2N 5DN. Free.  
[www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)

Feb 13-15

### **Imagined Stories**

Become part of an imagined story inspired by Liotard's The Lavergne Family Breakfast. 45mins. 11.30am & 1.30pm. **All ages**. The National Gallery, WC2N 5DN. Free.  
[www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)

Feb 13-16

### **Half-term Activities**

Feb 13, **Royal Guard Crafts**. 10.30-12.30pm and 1.45pm-

## After School Education

### Kumon Islington

Delivering proven academic success in maths and English, through work that is set at just the right level for your child, keeping them engaged and making progress to develop their confidence and help them thrive at school. In-person or online. We offer Kumon Connect. Our students are currently 3-18. **07888 594144**.  
[www.kumon.co.uk/islington](http://www.kumon.co.uk/islington)

### Ant Learning

Highly sought after and recommended professional tutoring, experienced in developing and preparing children to learn, lead and succeed all around. Reading, English, Maths, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, ages 3½-13. Book a trial and free assessment today 0208 050 5798.  
[www.antlearning.co.uk](http://www.antlearning.co.uk)

### Vincent & Frida

Unlock your child's creativity in our fun and exciting art appreciation lessons! Give your child the gift of art and help them develop their creative skills with our specially designed classes. Our experienced teachers will engage your child with interactive and enjoyable activities that will ignite their passion for art. We provide a safe and friendly environment that encourages learning and growth. Enrol your child today and watch them blossom into a confident and creative individual that loves art. Private lessons available.  
[vincentandfrida.com](http://vincentandfrida.com)



*"I saw you in Families magazine and..."*

### Hillgate Tutors

We offer support from age 5 to university, understanding your child's needs and matching them with one of our highly-qualified passionate educators who will create a tailored learning plan. Hillgate Tutors listen, guide, encourage and monitor your child to help them achieve their absolute best. Tutoring at your home or online. **07748 956581** to discuss.  
[www.hillgatetutors.co.uk](http://www.hillgatetutors.co.uk)



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[www.jegamaths.co.uk](http://www.jegamaths.co.uk)

## 11+ Mocktestmasters

Specialist providers of information and resources for the 11+ entrance exam, to demystify and ease preparation for parents and children. 11+ events in Finchley, Barnet and Edmonton. Plus Holiday Learning Clubs, Mock Test Review Sessions, Pass Club – Saturday tuition and Weekly Practice Tests.  
[www.mocktestmasters.com](http://www.mocktestmasters.com)



## Performing Arts

### Perform Classes

Confidence building weekly drama, dance and singing classes for 4-7s and 7-12s. Classes are designed to boost confidence, communication, concentration and coordination. Visit [www.perform.org.uk/try](http://www.perform.org.uk/try) to book a **FREE** class.  
**Venues:** N1, N2, N4, N5, N6, N7, N8, N10, N11, N12, N13, N14, N16, N19, N20, N21, N22, EN5, EC1, NW1, NW2, NW3, NW5, NW6, **New classes NW7, NW8, NW11, EC1R, EC1Y**  
**Half-term holiday club:** February 12-14, Frozen-themed.  
**Venues:** Barbican, Primrose Hill, Muswell Hill, St John's Wood, Highbury  
[www.perform.org.uk/icequeen](http://www.perform.org.uk/icequeen)  
020 7255 9120  
enquiries@perform.org.uk  
[www.perform.org.uk](http://www.perform.org.uk)



### Stage Academy

Building self-confidence, teamwork, ambition and responsibility, we unlock the potential inside every young person, giving them the chance to be the stars of tomorrow - on stage or off. Book a free trial to discover the Stage Academy difference. Classes in N1, N3, N6, N8 and N12. Act, sing, dance and succeed!  
Plus we can bring our Stage Academic magic to your party with Stage Parties for all ages. Let us take care of everything, leaving you to enjoy the party.  
<https://stageacademy.co.uk>



### Live 4 Dancing Ballroom

We are London's premier dance school for Ballroom. Parents see the difference in their child's dancing in just 4 weeks! Our Ballroom dance classes promote improved coordination, correct posture, strength, flexibility, improved self-confidence and body image, teamwork, and discipline. Our dance school offers excellence in Ballroom dance training and students can take exams assessed by the world's leading body, the International Dance Teachers' Association, and sparkle on stage in performances.  
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[www.live4dancing.co.uk](http://www.live4dancing.co.uk)



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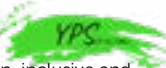
## Stagecoach - Highgate

We aim to bring out the best in your child and we're not just talking about their new-found skills in dancing, singing and acting. Our students develop excellent communication skills, grow in self-esteem and enjoy the benefits of improved confidence! We welcome children of all abilities from 4 to 16 and offer 2-week class trials. No previous singing or acting needed, just a willingness to give it a go. 0795643602.  
[www.stagecoach.co.uk/highgate](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk/highgate)



### YPS of Acting

Students learn acting from the best in the business in a fun, inclusive and exhilarating space. High-quality weekly classes for 10-18s taught by professional actors. Act for screen, accents, fight combat and more. Up to 3 industry workshops every term. Audition entry only. All experience levels welcome. Week 1 acts as a trial. info@theyoung-actingpro.com 07342 189 886  
Fb & Instagram: @ypsosofacting  
[www.TheYoungProSchoolOfActing.com](http://www.TheYoungProSchoolOfActing.com)



## Schools & Nurseries

### St Andrew's Montessori

St Andrew's Montessori is a thriving gem in the heart of Islington, surrounded by trees, its own bug hotel, herb gardens, vegetable planters. Inspirational indoor and outdoor learning are key. Sustainability and eco-awareness are embedded in our ethos. Happiness, confidence, and independence are the foundations of our school. Ofsted Outstanding in all areas over the past 12 years, we provide an exceptional and unique start to early-years education.  
[www.standrewsmontessori.com](http://www.standrewsmontessori.com)  
Take a virtual tour at  
[www.standrewsmontessori.com/virtual-tour](http://www.standrewsmontessori.com/virtual-tour)



### Hyland House School

A Christian, independent school, we empower our 2 to 11-year-olds to aim high and dream big. Our children are achieving excellence. Our Early Years is Ofsted-graded Outstanding. 1-6 are graded Good. Contact us to arrange a visit. Please contact us for more information or to arrange a visit. Hyland House School is at 97 Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London, N17 9AB. 020 8520 4186  
info@hylandhouseschool.org  
[www.hylandhouseschool.org](http://www.hylandhouseschool.org)



### St Joseph's Primary & Nursery

Based in Highgate, an Ofsted & Diocesan rated "Outstanding" primary school, offering the very best start for children 2-11 with high levels of progress and attainment. We provide an education rich in unique opportunities and experiences which influences a lifelong love of learning. Provision 7.30am-6pm. Arrange a tour by calling 0207 272 1270 or emailing office@st-josephs.islington.sch.uk  
[www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs.islington.sch.uk)



## King Alfred School

We know that each child is unique and has their own set of strengths and areas to develop. Our child-centred approach allows us to foster joy and understanding of the learning process. We have instituted child-friendly, rigorous and informal testing. We celebrate commitment, curiosity, courage and compassion to create the foundations for happy, successful and fulfilling lives. We are rated excellent in all areas.  
[www.kingalfred.org.uk](http://www.kingalfred.org.uk)



### Les Petites Etoiles

For over a decade, Les Petites Etoiles, our five multilingual nurseries in Angel (formerly Mars Montessori), Crouch Hill, Paddington (formerly Les Trois Ours), Tufnell Park and West Hampstead, have provided exceptional childcare in a nurturing environment. In addition to our focus on French and English, our Mandarin programme introduces children to the beauty and richness of Mandarin Chinese. Our children enjoy a perfectly-balanced 4-course menu, organic wherever possible.  
[www.lpe.uk](http://www.lpe.uk)



### Sarum Hall School

Sarum Hall School is an independent girl's prep school in London's Belsize Park. The modern building was purpose built in 1995 and children benefit from large, spacious and light classrooms which promote creativity and curiosity in learning. The girls have a variety of lessons with specialist teachers alongside the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, including Sports, Music, Art, Drama, Computing and Chess, which allow the children to excel in a variety of fields.  
[www.sarumhallschool.co.uk](http://www.sarumhallschool.co.uk)



### Woodlands Nursery

Our nursery provides outstanding care and education for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years, with days packed full of activities designed in line with EYFSP principles and implemented by our highly-trained and knowledgeable staff. Children have daily access to our large recently-renovated outdoor space packed full of features designed to nurture and inspire children's imaginations every day. Open 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Fully inclusive service.  
<https://childbasepartnership.com/nursery/woodlands-day-nursery-barnet>



## Holiday Camps

### Rising Stars Activities

We're re-shaping children's activities. Rising Stars activities camps give a unique experience where your child chooses their activities. **Holiday camps** in N2, N3, NW3, NW11. We also offer **football clubs**, school teaching & clubs, **parties**, personal training and **basketball clubs**. 0208 150 6655.  
info@risingstarsactivities.com  
[www.risingstarsactivities.com](http://www.risingstarsactivities.com)



## Baby, Toddler, Preschooler

### Middx Uni Baby Lab

We are seeking parents/caregivers with 4-9-month-old infants to take part in exciting research on infants' understanding of music and its role in early communication! Take part in **ONE** 30-45min session at our babyLab, Middx Uni, Hendon, NW4, and be awarded a **£10 Amazon voucher**. Free parking. Scan code to see a visit to babyLab!  
Tatiana Sobolewska (PhD researcher) t.g.sobolewska@mdx.ac.uk



**Tiny Talk** – Learn to communicate with your baby before they can speak, at an award-winning TinyTalk baby signing class. Interactive music class and sensory activities, plus time for a cuppa.  
[www.TinyTalk.co.uk/zahrah](http://www.TinyTalk.co.uk/zahrah)

**Cavendish Tots** Creative movement classes 18m to 3. Tues 9.30-10.15am. Camden. [www.happyty.co.uk/cavendish-tots](http://www.happyty.co.uk/cavendish-tots)

### Colourstrings

Kindergartens for a brilliant start and long-term success in music! Develop your child's musical talent in Kodaly-based music kindergartens and instrumental programmes 6ms to 6yrs, and avoid waits for our NL Conservatoire instrumental programme for 5-19s. Muswell Hill, Highgate, Islington, Bounds Green, Hendon. Call 020 8444 9435 for a trial of 3 discounted lessons or email admin@nlcolourstrings.co.uk  
[www.nicolourstrings.co.uk](http://www.nicolourstrings.co.uk)



“Poetry is not the most important thing in life... I'd much rather lie in a hot bath reading Agatha Christie and sucking sweets” – Dylan Thomas

3.30pm. Drop-in.  
Feb 14-15, **Drumming Orders**, learn how to command an army with a drum. Workshop, 30mins. 11am, 12pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm - collect ticket on arrival.  
Feb 16, **Blitz Storytelling Trail**. Tour, 30mins. 11am, 12pm, 1.45pm, 2.45pm. Drop-in.  
National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HT. All **5+**, free [www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk)

Feb 14  
**The Big Maths Gameshow**  
Award-winning maths communicator Kyle Evans introduces some advanced mathematical ideas in an accessible madcap manner. **7+**. 2pm. The Royal Institution, W1S 4BS. £16, child £10. [www.rigb.org](http://www.rigb.org)

Feb 14  
**Jurassic Encounters**  
Meet modern-day relatives of animals that lived alongside the dinosaurs. Animal-handling show. 11am, 12pm and 1pm. Natural History Museum, SW7 5HD. £8. [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

Feb 15  
**Holiday to Space**  
Show and workshop for **3-6**. 10.30am-12pm. See information on other Planetarium shows above under Ongoing. Royal Observatory, SE10 8XJ. £5

**Nature Storytime**  
Interactive nature-themed story session and craft or habitat exploration. **U6** but **all** welcome. 10.30am-11.30am. Woodberry Wetlands, N16 5HQ. Free, drop-in, donation welcome. [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

**Time Travel Club: Fun in the Files**  
Explore original files to find out what entertained medieval peasants, sailors on 18<sup>th</sup> Century ships or families during the Blitz. 11am. **8-11**. The National Archives, TW9 4DU. £5. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**Family Nature Discovery**  
Learn about habitats and wildlife. Aimed at parents and children together. 1pm-4pm. **All ages**. Woodberry Wetlands, N16 5HQ. Free, drop-in, donation welcome. [www.wildlondon.org.uk](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk)

Feb 15-16  
**T Rex Show with Teach Rex**  
Interactive, prehistoric show. 10.45am, 1.15pm & 3.45pm. **3+**. Dino meet and greet after. Natural History Museum, SW7 5HD. £12. [www.nhm.ac.uk](http://www.nhm.ac.uk)

Feb 16  
**We Were There: Family Day**  
Personal stories and powerful memories of conflict from those who were there. 11am-3pm. HMS Belfast, The Queen's Walk, SE1 2JH. **7+**. Free with admission. [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

Feb 16, 27, Mar 2  
**Making Mosaics**  
Explore colourful Roman mosaics and design a magnificent one. Complements exhibition **Legion: Life in the Roman Army** see Feb 1. 10am-4pm. Drop-in. Free. British Museum, WC1E 7JW. Drop-in. Free. Book timed entry. [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

Feb 17  
**Family Fun Day: AI and Problem Solving**  
Fun day of interactive science for the whole family. 11am-4pm. Best for **7-12s**. Older and younger siblings welcome. The Royal Institution, W1S 4BS. £16, child £10. [www.rigb.org](http://www.rigb.org)

Mar 1-3  
**The Baby Show with Lidl GB**  
Excel Centre, E16 1XL. Prices vary. [www.thebabyshow.co.uk/excel/tickets](http://www.thebabyshow.co.uk/excel/tickets)

Mar 9  
**Marching Orders: Marvellous Medicine**  
Family tour. Delve into the world of Army medicine. About 30mins. 11am, 12pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm. **5+**. National Army Museum, SW3 4HT. Drop-in, first-served, free. [www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk)

**British Museum Sleepover: Rome**  
Action-packed evening filled with great activities to learn what life was like in ancient Rome, then sleep amid ancient artefacts. **8-15**. Sign up free to the Young Friends newsletter for pre-sale access to sleepovers. British Museum, WC1E 7JW. £65. [www.britishmuseum.org/member-ship/sleepovers](http://www.britishmuseum.org/member-ship/sleepovers)

## Looking ahead...

Mar 16  
**Dr Emily's World Whizzing Facts Show**  
Be amazed by biology. 2pm. **U12** and their families. The Royal Institution, W1S 4BS. £16, child £10. [www.rigb.org](http://www.rigb.org)

Mar 16-17  
**The London Festival of Railway Modelling**  
Expect over 40 of the UK's biggest model railways, with layouts from the UK and beyond. Plus shopping. Alexandra Palace, N22 7AY. Adult advance £15, child £8, u5 free. [www.alexandrapalace.com](http://www.alexandrapalace.com)

Apr 4-13  
**My First Ballet: Swan Lake**  
Specially adapted for **3+**. 1hr 30m inc interval. Peacock Theatre, WC2A 2HT. From £12. [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com)

Apr 10  
**Not Today**  
First work-in-progress sharing of a circus theatre show about unlikely friendship. **4-8**. Feedback welcome. 5pm. Jacksons Lane, N6 5AA. Free. [www.jacksonslane.org.uk](http://www.jacksonslane.org.uk)

## and Further Afield

Weekends until March 2024  
**Tudor Cookery And Roasting**  
Join the historic cooks to discover kitchen life and dishes in Henry VI-II's 16<sup>th</sup> C kitchen. Hampton Court Palace, KT8 9AU. Included in admission. Adult £26.50, 5-15 £13.10. [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)

Apr 14  
**The Amazing Bubbleman**  
Edinburgh-fringe favourite Louis Pearl combines comedy and artistry with audience participation. 2pm. **All ages**. Wylyotts Centre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ. £16, child £14. [www.wylyottstheatre.co.uk](http://www.wylyottstheatre.co.uk)

**These venues often have holiday family events**  
No details as we went to press  
Dugdale Arts Centre, EN2 6DS [www.dugdaleartscentre.co.uk](http://www.dugdaleartscentre.co.uk)  
Little Angel Theatre [www.littleangeltheatre.com](http://www.littleangeltheatre.com)  
The Cartoon Museum [www.cartoonmuseum.org](http://www.cartoonmuseum.org)  
Bank of England Museum [www.bankofengland.co.uk](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk)  
Museum of London (check out family walks). EC2Y 5HN. [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)  
National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 4HT. Character meets [www.nam.ac.uk](http://www.nam.ac.uk)  
RSPB Rye Meads, SG12 8JS [events.rspb.org.uk/ryemeads](http://events.rspb.org.uk/ryemeads)  
Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey KT8 9AU. Character meets and talks [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)

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**What's On in the Library**  
Many boroughs run a programme of community events and most are free. Find out more online.  
**Barnet:** Rhyme Time, Baby Bounce and Play, Lego Clubs, Teen Book Club plus special events. [www.barnet.gov.uk/events/all](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/events/all)  
**Islington:** Baby Bounce and **u5** Rhyme Time sessions [www.bit.ly/islibfam](http://www.bit.ly/islibfam)  
**Camden:** Rhyme Time [www.camden.gov.uk/library-news-and-activities](http://www.camden.gov.uk/library-news-and-activities)  
**Haringey:** Rhyme Time, Spanish Rhyme Time, storytime, stay and play, arts and crafts, and messy play **u5**. Film showings, After-school Craft **3-10**. Free. Plus other events. [www.libraries.haringey.gov.uk/events](http://www.libraries.haringey.gov.uk/events)  
**Enfield:** Baby Songs and Play **0-12m**, Bounce & Rhyme **0-18m**, Toddler Time **0-4**, Stay and Play **0-4**, Stories & Craft **0-4**, Friday Club **5-11**, Homework Club **4-14**, Lego Club **5-11**, Scribeasy Workshop **8-14**, Sensory Space for children with SEN, plus seasonal events. [www.enfield.gov.uk/services/libraries/events-in-enfield-libraries](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/libraries/events-in-enfield-libraries)

**WHERE TO GO! WHERE TO GO?!  
IF ONLY THEIR SCHOOL  
SENT HOME  
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