



Essex County Council

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND

During the summer of 2025, Essex County Council provided funding to support activities for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. Active Essex collaborated with locally trusted organisations to enable a wide range of clubs and groups to offer thousands of opportunities for children with SEND to take part in enriching and inclusive experiences.

What we offered:



£81,710.46

funded by Essex County Council to support SEND young people



2,499

Spaces funded for children with special education needs and/or disabilities



36

total clubs funded for children with SEND

Organisations partnered with across Greater Essex:

- Anti Loo Roll Brigade
- Blackwater Gymnastic Club
- BOUNCE
- BOSP
- Butterflies Clubs
- Colchester United Community Foundation
- Disability 4 Sport
- Essex Youth Service
- Get with the kids vibe
- Go Bananas
- Golf in the Community
- Harlow Amateur Boxing Club
- Interact
- JTD Arts
- KidzActive
- Mistley Kids Club
- POP Essex
- Roots to Wellbeing
- Silverbirch Farm
- Splat club
- The Independence Project
- Time For Change Kids
- Tiny Rugby Harwich Holiday Club
- West Essex Inclusion Project



Key Outcomes Delivered:



1,362

Young people with SEND supported



3,061

Attendances across the summer holidays



4,328

Total summer attendances including parents and siblings

66

My son has loved this class and enjoyed being welcomed into a community with no judgement. Staff have been fantastic, as well as gaining fitness and coordination. We feel that the class has given a sense of belonging.

— PARENT, HARLOW

99



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The funding offered a diverse range of activities, such as themed days, forest school, animal workshops, inflatable days, fitness and cooking classes, sports, music, day trips, and SEND festivals, that supported children's physical health, creativity, social and emotional development, and inclusive participation, helping them build confidence, learn new skills, and create lasting memories in safe, nurturing environments.

“ A huge thank you. I can't say how good it felt to be surrounded by people who just "get it". Utterly accessible and we've never experienced anything like it. Feel quite emotional still today. Thank you all!

— PARENT, CHELMSFORD ”

“ I was in tears reading your email. thank you so much. Things have been really tough with T lately, and I was dreading the summer holidays. I truly feel like BOSP has saved us!

— PARENT, BASILDON ”

Essex
ACTIVate #HAF2025

Additional Summer Projects Funded for Children with SEND

Through funding from the Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food programme, Essex ActivAte were able to provide an additional **5,841** SEND club places for children from low-income families or those receiving income-related Free School Meals, ensuring inclusive access to enriching activities throughout the summer.

Essex ActivAte also partnered with the Essex Library Team to deliver an additional nine sessions across libraries across Essex, featuring the Travelling Librarian and the enchanting experience titled "Honey, I Shrank the Librarian!" These sensory storytelling adventures invited children to immerse themselves in magical tales, brought to life through interactive story cases filled with props, songs, and imaginative play, creating a joyful and inclusive environment that sparked curiosity and a love for reading.



“ He lit up as soon as he saw the animals and settled right in, it was such a relief to see him happy. I even felt more relaxed waiting in the car, knowing he was in his element. He hasn't stopped talking about the donkeys since!

— PARENT, WEST ESSEX ”

This summer, with support from Essex County Council and the Department for Education, Essex ActivAte provided over **9,000** funded activity spaces for young people with additional needs, ensuring inclusive access to enriching experiences across Greater Essex.

