

Early Years Vision Impairment Spring Event- Kent Life 2025

On Monday 13th May 2025, our Spring Event for vision impaired pre-schoolers took place at Kent Life in Maidstone. This event was offered to all our VI and MSI families with pre-school aged children.

The weather was perfect with lots of sunshine which definitely made a difference as we had 11 families joining us. We had 11 vision impaired children with an additional 5 siblings. It was so lovely to see two older siblings not only playing with and supporting their own sister, but they offered to help the adults organise the activities and played with some of the other vision impaired children. It was also lovely to see most of our families bringing other family members with them to make a day of it.

We offered a selection of activities based in the Village Hall. These offered sensory experiences as well as an opportunity for children to play together. We had a farm play activity set up in a paddling pool, a baby sensory area for under 2s and a doodle table.



We also made a Spring flower picture with each child (including siblings) using paint and hand and foot prints.



In addition to the activities that we provided, we had a visit from some animals. Ed, from Kent Life brought 2 rabbits, a ferret and a guinea pig for all the children to stroke and say hello to. Then at the end he brought in a very large fluffy sheep. Some of the children weren't too sure as it was bigger than most of them but lots of them enjoyed giving her a stroke. This activity, which we did at our event last year, went down really well again with all the children sitting patiently waiting their turn.



Throughout the day, there were opportunities for the families to get to know each other or have a catch up as some already knew each other from other events they have attended. They were also able to catch up with our team and the mobility officers from KAB (Jent Bent and Nicola Tallon).

We finished with the ever popular parachute and then families were able to go and explore the rest of Kent Life.

Feedback from families

In what way was your child engaged with the activities?

- Hands on with the animals
- He liked the sensory and messily activities that were set up
- S loved feeling and touching the animals.
- Enjoyed painting hands and feet to make a picture, loved the sensory toys and books
- Played with toys and touched the animals

Did you get the opportunity to chat with the other families and VI team? If so was this helpful?

- Was nice to be in a social situation with families who understand each others circumstances. We have met some life long friends thanks to the VI team
- Yes lovely to meet old and new friends
- Yes, spoke to a few members of the team and found them very reassuring and helpful

Is there anything else you would like to say about the day?

- Pleasant experience for all
- It was very good, a thoroughly enjoyable day, thank you!
- The day was lovely, thank you for having us.
- Weather turned out lovely