

Visual Impairment Network for Children and Young People

Parent Visual Impairment (VI) Groups

This document provides a list of social groups for children with visual impairment and their parents, siblings and families. It is split in to 8 areas and 1 national, as per below:

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If you have any further information regarding the groups listed in the document or would like to add a group to a particular Local Authority or Region, please email the VINCYP inbox: [VINCYP](#)

Highland and Islands Parent VI Groups

AREA / CITY	LOCAL
Highland	Please email VINCYP with any updates
Argyll & Bute	Please email VINCYP with any updates
Orkney Islands	Please email VINCYP with any updates
Shetland Isles	Please email VINCYP with any updates
Western Isles	Please email VINCYP with any updates

Aberdeen & North East Parent VI Groups

AREA / CITY	LOCAL
Aberdeen City	<p>Group name and location: Aberdeen City Council. Various.</p> <p>Group description: Aberdeen council vision support service offers peer support activities for different age groups of children and young people with VI of different ages.</p> <p>Frequency: Weekly at various points through school year</p> <p>Contact: alprice@aberdeencity.gov.uk</p> <p>Group name and location: North East Sensory Services (NESS)' YPSS, Aberdeen</p> <p>Group description: Various including...</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth club for 12-18 year olds Meets every 3 weeks on a Monday • Sensory room for 0-5 year olds Meets on In service days and School holidays • Various Activities for children from 0-18 years. Activities offered on In service days and School holidays <p>Frequency: See under group description Contact: diana.daneels@nesensoryservices.org</p>
Aberdeenshire	<p>Group name and location: Aberdeen SensationALL, Westhill , Aberdeenshire Group description: Group for parents and children with multiple disabilities Frequency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory play group (for pre-school age, contact info@sensationall.org.uk to book this) • Early Communication Group (for pre-school age, contact info@sensationall.org.uk) • Holiday groups for summer 2019 – contact info@sensationall.org.uk <p>Contact: info@sensationALL.org.uk</p>
Moray	<p>Group name and location: North East Sensory Services (NESS)' YPSS, Elgin Group description: Various including...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth club meets every 3 weeks • Various activities for 5-18 year olds. Meets every 3 weeks, on in-service days and School holidays <p>Contact: diana.daneels@nesensoryservices.org</p>

Tayside, Central and Fife Parent VI Groups

AREA / CITY	LOCAL
Angus	<p>Group name and location: Sunshine Groups in Arbroath, Carnoustie, Forfar and Montrose</p> <p>Group description: Support group for parents / carers and children (0-5) with additional support needs including visual impairment.</p> <p>Frequency: Every two weeks during term-time</p> <p>Contact: scottA@angus.gov.uk</p> <p>Group name and location: Guide Dogs Regional Centre, Forfar</p> <p>Group description: Guide Dogs Experience Events for children with a Visual Impairment (0-18), parents/carers and siblings</p> <p>Frequency: Twice yearly</p> <p>Contact: mcquirej@angus.gov.uk</p>
Perth & Kinross	<p>Information can be obtained by contacting:</p> <p>Info@visionpk.org.uk</p> <p>Or</p> <p>jholliswatson@pkc.gov.uk</p>
Clackmannanshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates
Falkirk	<p>Group name and location: Falkirk Council, Windsor Park School</p> <p>Group description: Various including...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual outing to Kids Out in June for P1-P7s • A visit to see Santa in December for P1-P3s • A visit to the pantomime for P4 – P7s <p>Frequency: See under group description</p> <p>Contact: averil.boyne@falkirk.gov.uk (Averil Boyne is Principal Teacher, Visual Impairment Service)</p>

Fife	<p>Group name and location: Fife - LD & Complex Needs, RNIB Pathway, 13 Wilson Avenue, Kirkcaldy, Fife</p> <p>Group description: Various including...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Café -Parents/carers and families of all ages Meets on a monthly basis- last Saturday of the month • VI Inclusive Bookbug sessions for parents and preschool children on request. • Monthly Sensory Toy Library and Information drop-in sessions in different venues throughout Fife. • Toy Library - Resources and advice. Parents/carers and families, and childcare settings, Always available • Family Fun Day, Various locations often at Lochore Meadows Country Park Annually - Saturday in June or July <p>Frequency: See group description</p> <p>Contact: Janice.bain@rnib.org.uk 01592 646015 or Linda.mitchell2@rnib.org.uk 01592 646015</p>
Stirling	<p>Group name and location: Falkirk Council Group description: Various including...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MacRobert's Stirling Annual Panto for P4-P7 • Stirling Rotary Annual summer outing for P1-P7 <p>Frequency: See group description</p> <p>Contact: stewarts60s@glowmail.org.uk – Service is ASN Outreach, Raploch Community campus, Drip Road, Stirling, FK8 1SO (Tel 01786 272333)</p>

Edinburgh & Lothian's

AREA / CITY	LOCAL
East Lothian	<p>Group name: East Lothian Vision Impairment Service (ELVIS) Group description: ELVIS organises various activities and events throughout the school year Contact: Please contact elvis@royalblindschool.org.uk or jan.mcdevitt@royalblindschool.org.uk for information</p> <p>Group name: East Lothian Council Group description: for nursery and pre-nursery options which are highly individualised and highly adapted approach to access play and learning; and access to specialist resources, facilities and technology Contact: Please contact cmcgarr@eastlothian.gov.uk for information</p> <p>Group name: Scottish Disability Sport Group description: organises a wide variety of sports for children, athletes and players of all ages and abilities with a physical, sensory or learning disability. Contact: Regional Manager East: Neal Herbert E: neal.herbert@scottishdisabilitysport.com T: 07709 393 514</p> <p>Group name: RNIB Scotland Children, Young People and Families team Group description: Weekly groups, holiday activities, family events, advocacy, technology support throughout the year Contact: Please contact RNIB Scotland Children, Young People and Families team on 0303 123 9999 or Email cypfscotland@rnib.org.uk</p>



Who is it for?

The groups welcome families who have a child, aged 0-3, with complex additional support needs and associated medical interventions.

Pre-school brothers and sisters can also come along.

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

What does it offer the children?

A safe and stimulating environment suited to their individual needs, in which they are encouraged to play and learn about the world around them. They will have access to multi-sensory room experiences.

What does it offer parents and carers?

The playgroups are informal so parents can join play activities with their child and enjoy a break with other parents over a cup of tea or coffee.

Practical advice, information and support from both staff and other parents is an important function of the group.

The Bright Start Playgroups run in addition to existing ASL Service support.



Where & When?

The playgroups are held during school term times.

On Mondays at Braidburn School
107 Oxbgangs Road North
Edinburgh, EH14 1ED
from 9.35-11.30
0131 312 2320

On Mondays at Oaklands School
750 Ferry Road
Edinburgh, EH4 4PQ
From 9.35-11.30
0131 315 8100

On Tuesdays at Calareidh,
35 Bingham Drive,
Edinburgh, EH15 3LA
from 9.30-11.25
0131 469 2830

Who runs the playgroup?

The playgroups are run by qualified staff from Braidburn or Oaklands Schools or The Additional Support for Learning Service, who have wide experience in working with children with complex support needs.

There are links, where appropriate, with other professionals, including Therapists and Psychologists.

Transport?

If it is difficult for you to get to the group, it may be possible to arrange transport for you and your child.

For further information, contact:

ASL Service

Business Centre 1.03

101 Niddrie Mains Road

EH164DS

0131 469 2830

asls.admin@ea.edin.sch.uk

www.aslserviceedinburgh.com

Debbie Ward at Braidburn School

0131 312 2320

Lucy Smith at Oaklands School

0131 315 8100

Give your child a



Come to a Bright Start Playgroup

getting it right
for every child



OAKLANDS

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

All year round

- Baking at Cafe Tiki (located within RNIB Scotland, Edinburgh)
- Playing musical instruments
- Playing board games
- Arts and crafts projects

Summer Programme

- Swimming
- Going to a safari park
- Going to a science museum

Residential week

- Challenging activities

WHERE:

**RNIB Scotland
12-14
Hillside Crescent
Edinburgh
EH7 5EA**



There are 2 bus stops nearby RNIB Scotland.

Lothian Bus Numbers:
1, 4, 5, 19, 26, 34, 44, 45

There are a limited number of visitor parking spaces available.



YOUTH SERVICE





This youth group is for children and young adults who have a visual impairment, it provides the opportunity to meet new people and gain new experiences.

Parents and carers are given the opportunity to receive support and advice on many different matters including education, social skills, and main stream providers for sports.

All Year Round

Every week there is a different activity organised.

Learning to bake...



arts and crafts projects playing musical equipment.



enhance their mobility skills.



Summer Programme

For the whole length of the summer holidays we provide respite for parents and carers by taking the youngsters out for fun filled activities two days a week.

Residential Week

The young people take part in challenging activities that encourage independence and

For more information or to join, please contact:

Jane Coates

Service Development

Manager:-

on 0131 652 3140 or email jane.coates@rnib.org.uk

Edinburgh City	<p>Group name and location: ASL Service, Calareidh Playgroup, 35 Bingham Drive, Edinburgh, EH15 3LA.</p> <p>Group description: For parents and children aged 0-3 with profound and complex support needs including VI</p> <p>Frequency: On Tuesdays, weekly during term time</p> <p>Contact: asls.admin@ea.edin.sch.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0131 469 2830</p> <p>Group name and location: RNIB Edinburgh, Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh</p> <p>Group description: Various including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday Activity Club for children aged 5-18 years. Weekly • Youth group residential week Various times • Summer programme Monday/Wednesdays 10am-6pm during summer holidays <p>Frequency: see group description</p> <p>Contact: Jane Coates/Daniel Meikle Jane.coates@rnib.org.uk daniel.meikle@rnib.org.uk 0313 652 3140</p> <p>Group name and location: Royal Blind School, West Savile Road, Edinburgh</p> <p>Group description: Playgroup for parents and children 0-5 years.</p> <p>Frequency: Every Friday during term time. 9.30-11.30</p> <p>Contact: Louise Buggy 0131 4463120 louise.buggy@royalblindschool.org.uk</p>
Midlothian	<p>Group name and location: Bright Sparks Playgroup, King George V Park, Bonnyrigg EH19 2AD</p> <p>Group description: Playgroup for parents and children aged 0-5 years with complex additional support needs</p> <p>Frequency: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays mornings and afternoon sessions on a Tuesday.</p>

	<p>Contact: Bright Sparks Lead Co-ordinator 0131 663 5172, BrightSparksplaygroups@aol.co.uk</p> <p>Additional Information: This is part local authority funded and operated between Midlothian Team and Bright Sparks Playgroup Team</p>
West Lothian	<p>Group name and location: West Lothian Parent Group, Beatlie Child Development Centre. For parents and children with additional support needs. Friday mornings. Contact: Child Development Centre, 01506 777 584.</p> <p>Group name and location: Parents and children with additional support needs. Contact Signpost – 01506 431 123. Enquiries@signpost-online.co.uk www.signpost-online.co.uk</p>

Glasgow

AREA / CITY	LOCAL
East Dunbartonshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates
West Dunbartonshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates
East Renfrewshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates
Glasgow	<p>Group name and location: Sense Scotland, Glasgow Group description: Various including...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents support group, Glasgow Touchbase Once a month • Family forum, Glasgow Touchbase for parents of children with complex needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownies, Glasgow Touchbase for girls with complex needs and their siblings, ages 5-10 years. Every Thursday throughout the school year from 6.30pm to 7.45pm <p>Frequency: See group description Contact: advisory@sensescotland.org.uk</p> <p>Group name and location: Darley Primary VI Unit, Darley Primary School, Glasgow,G53 7HT Contact: Karen Boyd – 0141 638 8009</p> <p>Group name and location: Visibility Little Explorers Toddlers Group, 2 Queens Crescent, Glasgow. Group description: A structured play group for children aged 0-5. Frequency: Last Thursday of every month, 10.30-12.00 Contact: Clare Sweeney, Development Worker, Clare.Sweeney@visibility.org.uk or Nicola Pick Nicola.pick@visibility.org.uk on 0141 332 4632</p>
Inverclyde	Please email VINCYP with any updates
Renfrewshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates

Strathclyde

AREA / CITY	LOCAL
North Lanarkshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates
South Lanarkshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates

Ayrshire & Arran

AREA / CITY	LOCAL
East Ayrshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates
North Ayrshire	Please email VINCYP with any updates
South Ayrshire	<p>Group name and location: South Ayrshire SAVIC (South Ayrshire Visually Impaired Children), various locations.</p> <p>Group description: Various including...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent support network• Family activities, groups and outings <p>Regular parent meetings</p> <p>Frequency: Unknown</p> <p>Contact: Merle Smith merle@savic.org.uk</p>

Scotland South

Region	LOCAL
Scottish Borders	Please email VINCYP with any updates
Dumfries & Galloway	Please email VINCYP with any updates

National Parent VI Groups

NATIONAL
<p>Group name and location: RNIB Scotland Education and Family Services, National.</p> <p>Group description: Various including...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RNIB Activate Family Weekend - location varies Once per year• RNIB Activate -Family Fun Days - location – varies 2 days per year• RNIB Activate Complex Needs/VI Days - Glasgow/Fife and/or other locations 2 days per year• RNIB Activate Young People Summer Camps: Glasgow and Borders 2 camps per year• 'Stepping Out' 5 day Camp for 11-13 year olds 2 camps per year• 'Promoting Independence' 5 day Camp for 14-18 year olds. 2 camps per year

Frequency of meetings: See under group description

Contact: Education and Family Services, 0131 652 3194, efs@rnib.org.uk

Group name and location: Haggeye, National

Group description: Various including...

- Haggeye Meets for 12-25 year olds.
3 per year plus additional campaign meetings and Haggazine planning group meetings
- Haggeye Juniors aged 5-12 years
2 meetings per year

Frequency of meetings: See under group description

Contact: Mo Colvin, 0131 652 3146, mo.colvin@rnib.co.uk

Group name and location: Guide Dogs Scotland

Group description: Various including...

- Guide Dog Experience Event for children and families, Forfar Training Centre and possible other external venues
- Parent Guidance Events for parents, education staff etc. Various locations.
4 per year
- Independent living skills session. Various locations.
4 per year
- Sensory story pre-school group for parents and preschool children. Various locations
3 per year
- Family recreational activity day. Various locations.
Once a year

Frequency of meetings: See under group description

Contact: Lisa Petrie, Operations Manager CYP Service Delivery Manager CYP Scotland, 07990540165

Group Name: Scottish Council on Visual Impairment (SCOVI)

Contact: www.scovi.org.uk