

The Disabled Children's Information and Advice Service (DCIAS) is provided by EnhanceAble, a local Kingston Charity in partnership with The Royal Borough of Kingston, Kingston Hospital Trust and The Kingston Primary Care Trust.

The DCIAS provides guidance and leaflets about:

- ◇ Benefits
- ◇ Leisure
- ◇ Childcare
- ◇ Blue Badges
- ◇ Support Groups
- ◇ 'I-Count' Disabled Children's Register
- ◇ Parent Partnership Services

If you require help understanding this leaflet or any other further information please contact either Caroline Baxter or Patricia Farlow.

A: The DCIAS
The Maple Children's Centre
28 – 34 Wolverton Avenue
Kingston
Surrey
KT2 7QD

T: 020 8934 6378

E: children@enhanceable.org



Support Groups

Disabled Children's Information & Advice Service

020 8934 6378

children@enhanceable.org

Kingston
Children & Young People's Trust
Making a Difference Together

EnhanceAble

Support groups

There are a great many local and national organisations set up to support parents with children who have additional needs. The DCIAS has links with and can provide information on many of these groups. The DCIAS is also very happy to research specific groups or organisations on a parent or carers behalf.

Please find below some details of local organisations that may be helpful. Please contact us should you require any further support or information on this subject.

◇ Parent Panel

This group provides the opportunity for parents and carers to have a say about how to develop a better service for children and young people with a disability in Kingston.

Parents and carers meet five times a year in informal and friendly surroundings to talk about how services can be improved. Meetings are held in the evening and childcare can be arranged.

To join the group, contact the DCIAS.

◇ Parents' Support Group for children high functioning ASD or Asperger's educated within the mainstream

This group meets on the first Tuesday evening of every month between 7.30-9.30pm at Surbiton Children's Centre, Alpha Road, Surbiton.

For further information on joining this group, contact the DCIAS.

◇ MAPS (A Support Group for Parents of Children with Special Needs):

Maps Partnership meet on a regular basis and the aim of the group is to meet, socialise, network and share information.

The group meets at Warren Park at 8pm -10.30pm and have guest speakers who come and talk on a variety of subjects. Light refreshments are always available but donations of any snacks/ drinks are welcome. If for any reason speakers are unable to attend at the last minute then the group endeavours to organise a speaker who can come at short notice, if not they will still meet and use the time for socialising and information swapping.

In between meetings the group also regularly organises ladies and gentlemen's nights out and is always keen to welcome new members.

For further details please contact Angela
E: info@mapschildren.org.uk T: 020 8942 4452

◇ SWAPS (South West London Autistic Parental Support group):

SWAPS is the Kingston Branch of the National Autistic Society and welcomes parents of children who are on the autistic spectrum to monthly meetings at Warren Park Children's Centre on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm. Meetings cover a range of issues, sometimes with a guest speaker or video of particular interest. In addition families are welcome to join fortnightly sessions at Warren Park on Sunday afternoons from 3pm to 5pm where children can play in safety and parents and carers can have a cup of tea and chat.

For more details please contact Sian Palin
E: swapskingston@googlemail.com

◇ 21 & Co

Is an organisation that supports parents and carers who have a child with Downs Syndrome.

The group has social meetings as well as running speech and language groups.

For further details please contact Katerina Bowman

E: tattyloulou@hotmail.com

◇ Born Too Soon

The Born Too Soon Charity based in Kingston Hospital works with parents of premature babies in their neo-natal unit. Its aims are to offer support to parents, to promote awareness of the problems of premature birth and to raise money for equipment.

For further details please contact Pauline Woods

T: 020 8974 9157 **E:** pwoods@kingston.hospital.nhs.co.uk

Neo-Natal Unit, Kingston Hospital,
Galsworthy Road, Kingston KT2 7QB

◇ The Parents Forum

The Parents Forum is funded by the Children's Fund and is a multi agency group working with statutory, voluntary and community sector representation. It is a consultation forum for all parents and carers in the borough.

The Parents Forum holds at least two big events a year where parents are consulted on current issues surrounding provision of services for children. Once the consultation is complete, families are invited to join in great fun and free activities such as the annual trip to Chessington World of Adventures.

The views of parents and carers of disabled children are very much wanted and all activities are accessible.

To join the Parents Forum please contact the Children's Information Service:

T: 020 8547 6582 **E:** parentsforum@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

◇ Kingston Carers Network

Provides information and support for all ranges of Carers in Kingston.

Director: Valerie Weston

T: 020 8398 6565 **E:** carers1@kingstoncarers.org.uk

Young Carers support worker:

T: 020 8549 8933

Siddeley House, 50 Canbury Park Road, Kingston KT2 6LX

◇ Kingston Centre for Independent Living

W: www.kcil.org.uk

T: 020 8546 9603

F: 020 8546 7947

River Reach, 31-35 High Street, Kingston, Surrey KT1 1LF

◇ Kingston MENCAP

Kingston Mencap gives practical help to families with relatives who have learning disabilities. They endeavour to give people of all ages with such disabilities the opportunity to live their lives to the full and to campaign for services to meet their needs. Undertakes fundraising events, social meetings and parties.

Chair: Gill Wood

T: 020 8540 1399

17 Oakway, London SW20 9JE

E: gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk

◇ Kingston Toy Library

Kingston Toy Library lends toys specially designed for children with special needs and offers musical play and opportunities to meet other parents. Open to all families with special needs including lone parents, low-income families, refugee and English as second language families, child minders and multiple birth families.

Contact: Roma Lear

T: 020 8398 6565 **E:** romalear@dircon.co.uk

Friends Meeting House, 78 Eden Street, Kingston KT1 1DJ

Open every Friday (except in August)

◇ Kingston Welcare

A voluntary organisation supporting young families. WelCare House is a safe, homely and welcoming environment where families can socialise and support each other. There are qualified staff on hand to offer support around parenting/childcare issues.

T: 020 8546 3258

WelCare House, 53-55 Canbury Park Road, Kingston KT2 6LQ