



thames valley adventure playground

supporting **children & adults**
with **special needs** and their families

Guardianship Pack

Are you passionate about supporting children
and adults with disabilities and special needs
and their families?

Help us to make a difference to the lives of the
thousands that request our help.



**Become a guardian, join us and sustain
a lifeline for those with special needs!**

Registered Charity Number 278336

About us

What do we do ?



- fun
- respite
- opportunities
- support
- community

As children, most of us would take for granted the chance to get out and about, exploring, climbing trees, visiting the park and hanging out with friends, but for many children and adults with a special need, this just isn't possible. If you have a physical disability, the difficulties are more obvious, but, if you have a learning disability or sensory problems, you may find it hard to relate to other people and to join in their games.

Since 1982 the **Thames Valley Adventure Playground** has provided a chance for children & adults with all types of special need to enjoy the fun, freedom and friendship afforded by the opportunity to play and share experiences in a safe adapted and stimulating environment. The **'Thames Valley Adventure Playground experience'** is unique and offers a real life line to many families of children with special needs. Our OFSTED-registered charity enables play and socialising in total safety, offers Respite Breaks, and organises events, workshops and weekly clubs, in addition to the large range of outdoor and indoor activities. We are frequently described as a lifeline for families of children and adults with special needs. Last year 30,000 visits were made to the Playground by children and adults with all types of special need from more than 30 different counties. We strive to support, advise and be a haven for the special needs community. It can be so isolating to have disability in the family and so providing a space where families can have fun ALL together, get information, support each other, feel part of a community that can empathise is vital.

Providing respite is also a very important part of what we do and last year we provided over 500 respite breaks for local families although demand always outstrips what we are able to accommodate. Respite gives families a chance to be together without caring responsibilities, a chance for siblings to be the centre of attention and makes those tasks that are usually impossible possible.

We are a centre of excellence; the value of our work was recently recognised for our Outstanding Service to the Community during the Lions Club centennial celebrations. Additionally, at the Maidenhead and Windsor Business Awards we were chosen as finalists for the Best charity out of 32 other local charities.

There is so much more going on at the playground - we extend an invitation for you to visit us and learn more.

Please contact us on 01628 628 599 or theplayground@tvap.co.uk to arrange this.



Why we need your support

As a business, we know that you understand how crucial 'running costs' are to any organisation, which is why we are approaching you: we urgently need your help to safeguard this important facility, which is pivotal to so many people with special needs and their families and carers as well as schools, care homes and nurseries that use our facilities to support their services.

The cost of running the Adventure Playground is now approaching £350,000 a year. Despite supporting 30,000 visits from children and adults with special needs from over 30 different counties, last year only 5% of this money came from Local Authority funding and this was in the form of grants, not statutory funding. Users make a small contribution where possible and for the remainder we rely heavily on the support of our fundraisers and charitable donations from the local community. Sadly, these alone are not enough!

How can my organisation sustain a lifeline for those with special needs?

tvap is asking companies to contribute annually to help pay for the cost of running of the Playground. Upon committing to an annual financial contribution you will become Guardian of the Playground. Guardianship at the playground has multiple benefits for your company, depending on the level of contribution.

We are very appreciative of any guardianship, however, the more money donated will result in more benefits for your organisation, notably more weeks on our billboard along the A4. For companies donating significantly over £3,500 as part of the guardianship scheme can be recognised in a bespoke manner.

You can also support us by helping to organise and host mutual events and by encouraging employee volunteering. Volunteering at **tvap**, in addition to having a real impact on the local community, can also boost your employees morale, skills, engagement and retention.

Our parents and carers say it best



"I cannot tell you how much we have valued coming to use the facility at **tvap** over the years - you've changed lives and forever friendships have been forged in your magical venue. Thank you so, so much for all your support"

"It is a fantastic place to go for children with special needs and everyone is extremely friendly and are made to feel comfortable without getting stared at. It allows children to express their emotions through sensory, music and specialist outdoor equipment. Our son absolutely loved the soft play area with lights and music I have never seen him so happy calm and safe [we will] definitely go back again"

"It is so nice to have places where families don't judge. Amazing thank you"

"5* - I go with my special needs play scheme, this place had beautiful views, ample space and activities and lovely friendly staff. This centre can not be faulted :-)"

"My 8 year old is high functioning autistic. (**tvap** is) the only place I can really feel relaxed to let him play without me having a watchful eye on him. I get quality on him. I get quality one to one with both the kids!"

"Amazing place for families with somebody who has Special needs of any sort. My son has learning difficulties, ASD and ADHD and **tvap** provides us with a safe space for him to let off steam without the risks involved in a mainstream environment as he runs off and is non verbal. It also gives his siblings the freedom to have so much fun without stress or judgement. I'd highly recommend it to SEN families and wish my local area had something similar"

"Every local authority should invest in a facility like this as the difference it makes to the lives of it's users is priceless"

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"It really is the most amazing place. Nearly 30 years ago I took my 2 year old son, who has Cerebral Palsy, to the Playground for the first time. He still visits on the rare occasions that he is back in the area because it is an important part of his life and our family's too. What a joy it was to return again with our grandson last month and rediscover the wonderful play opportunities and be welcomed again by the great staff team! Thank you so much Playground for all you mean to families like ours"

"It...
(Thames Valley Adventure Playground)
... is a lifesaver"

Guardianship benefits



2k or over

3.5k +

making impact in the community		
warm glow of giving back		
a week on our billboard on the A4	1 week min	2 week min
company name and logo on plaque in our prominent supporters asre inside our main building		
positive brand association: certificate for your office and use of our logo		
annual supporoters lunch at TVAP		
Networking opportunities when appooriate		
featured on our website/s homepage Guardian Banner		
ctively mentioned on social media through the year inaddition to the initial and annual donation post		
press mentions where possible in addition to any initial and annual coverage		



Next steps

- **contact us so we can help you on your tvap supporter journey**
- **consider us for your charity of the year**
- **spread the word about us to your colleagues**
- **download and print one of our posters to hang in your offices**
- **download our fundraising and csr packs from our website**

We'd like to say:

Thank you

Thank you so much for having an interest in supporting the thousands of local children and adults with special needs and their families and carers that request our help. We are truly grateful for corporates such as yourself for realising the importance of our work and being eager to contribute in order to enhance the lives of disadvantaged children and adults. Your company can make a direct difference in the local community by becoming a **tvap** corporate champion.

However you decide to get involved with our organisation we welcome you with open arms. As a small charity with annual costs of £350,000 and only 5% of what we need coming from local authority funding you can be absolutely certain that your support is greatly appreciated by us and really does make a difference to our playground users.

We hope that this CSR pack has informed you of all the different ways you can support all that our charity offers and will enable you to support us in a way that aligns with your skills and interests.

Children as young as toddlers up to adults of 60+ are able to access help due to volunteers, donors and staff that all work hard to make a difference to the lives of individuals affected by disability, Thank you for wanting to be a part of this. We look forward to hearing from you.

