



Working in partnership to create inclusive opportunities where SEND children and their families feel welcomed, valued and included.

## ★ Turning Family Voices into Family Adventures ★

**“When SEND families tell us what is needed for holiday activities to be truly inclusive, amazing things can happen”.**

*Saj Golby (Founder of Solihull SEND Support Group & Parent to three SEND children)*

Earlier this year, we invited 50 (HAF eligible) SEND families, to share what would help them participate in the Solihull HAF programme. They told us about the barriers they face, the worries they carry and the holiday experiences they need for their children to be truly included.

So that's exactly where we started, and together, we turned their ideas into an experience with adventure, learning, laughter, activity and memories that will last a lifetime.



## “Every Great Adventure Starts with Listening”

Over 50 SEND families shaped every part of this holiday provision. Their personal past experiences helped us understand what makes joining in difficult, but more importantly, what can be done to make holiday activities enjoyable, inclusive and accessible.

### Here's what they told us ...

98%

Told us that they needed more opportunities to enjoy activities together

95%

Told us that the cost of family days out often prevents SEND families from taking part

100% said that having organised, supported travel to get to and from activities was essential

96% of one parent families needed additional support during activities

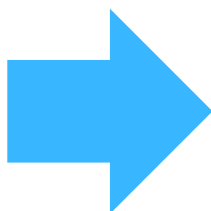
100% told us they have felt judged and anxious in universal holiday settings

100% of families told us they wanted to connect with other SEND families during the holiday period

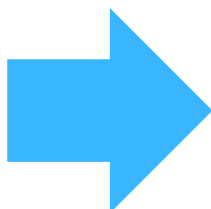
100% told us that they needed holiday clubs to have flexibility around food choices to accommodate sensory needs, ARFID and allergies

100% agreed that being included in the planning and having choices in activities was very important

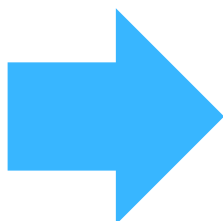
## And here is how we responded .....



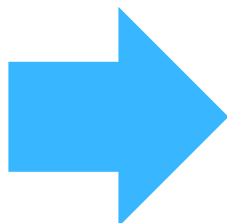
We called every family who expressed interest and included them in the planning



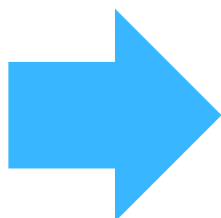
We explained the financial support from Meals and More & HAF which removed the financial barriers



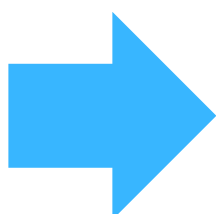
We organised a coach with a trained SEND driver to take them to and from the activities



We recruited two lived experience SEND staff to support families through the day



We provided food vouchers so they could choose where they ate



We gathered post activity feedback to help shape future SEND holiday provision

So, on 19th July 2026, families from across Solihull came together for a SEND family adventure designed entirely around their feedback. Thanks to funding from Meals and More & Solihull Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF), families were able to enjoy a day filled with learning, laughter, new friendships and lasting memories.



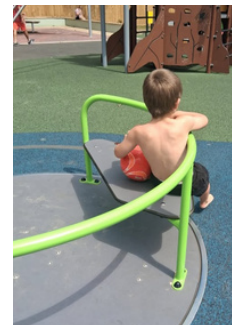
An actual one landed on my lips, I couldn't believe it!



I loved the teaching bit about what they eat and a plant in my garden feeds them



On the boat I was thinking about the swans and went in a brick tunnel



We played for ages in the park and pool outside



I went on a big bus for the first time ever!



We had clues to find things & went in the writing man's house. His bed was tiny

# The Best Bits



**15 children and 8 parents and carers  
enjoyed the day with 100% positive feedback**



**Hundreds of butterflies were discovered  
at The Butterfly Farm learning centre**



**The William Shakespeare Scavenger  
Hunt took families on a history adventure  
around Stratford-Upon-Avon**



**The outdoor pool and adventure  
playground was perfect to let off energy  
whilst parents made new friends**



**Lots of children did something  
they had never done before and felt very  
proud of trying something new**



**Being able to have flexible lunch options  
meant every child could enjoy a meal, chosen  
by them**

## And Finally...

**A case study which demonstrates why SEND HAF is SO vital for children.**

***Laura is mum to three children with different needs. Like many SEND families, taking part in holiday activities together had never been possible. The cost, transport challenges and each child's individual needs often meant that someone had to miss out.***

**Our SEND Family Adventure changed that.**

For the first time, Laura and all three of her children were able to enjoy a full day out together as a family. With accessible coach transport provided and the trip fully funded through Meals and More & HAF, barriers that had previously made family outings impossible were removed.

Food was another important consideration. Two of Laura's children have ARFID (Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder), making traditional packed lunches or fixed meal options difficult. By offering flexible food choices, the family could choose meals that met their children's individual needs, helping everyone feel more relaxed and able to enjoy the day.

Laura also spoke about the difference our team made. Many of our staff have lived experience of supporting children with SEND, enabling them to understand the small things that can make such a big difference. They took time to introduce families to one another, helping everyone feel welcome from the moment they arrived.

The flexible nature of the day meant there was no pressure to participate in every activity. Children could engage at their own pace while still enjoying the educational opportunities the Butterfly Farm, river cruise and surrounding attractions had to offer.

"My children often miss out on school trips, so having the chance to enjoy an educational day out together as a family meant so much to us. Everything had been thought about—from transport and food to making everyone feel welcome. It was one of the best family days we've ever had."