

**AN INTRODUCTION TO**

# **BLUEBELLS**



**A Guide for Children and Young People**

## **What is Bluebells?**

Bluebells is a large house in Detling where children and young people can go for short breaks

## **Why will I be going to Bluebells?**

Your parents have heard about Bluebells and think that you will enjoy going there. Bluebells is a safe place where you will be able to try lots of new activities that you may not have been able to do before. Going to Bluebells will also give you a chance to meet new people and make new friends.



## **Who will look after me?**

There are many caring and friendly adults who are experienced in looking after children and young people like you

## **Do you have any rules at Bluebells?**

Yes. When you come to Bluebells please do not:

- (1) Swear
- (2) Damage Property
- (3) Hurt other children or staff

## **How long will I stay for?**

When you first come to Bluebells you may like to just come for tea, so you can meet some of the staff and other children.

Then you could come for the day, and perhaps stay over night and later on you might like to stay for a few days.

## **What will I be given to eat?**

We have cooks who prepare all the meals at Bluebells. They keep a list of all the children and what foods they do and do not like.

You can see the menu when you come in and if there is something you do not like we can arrange something different.



## **Where will I sleep?**

All children will have their own bedroom. There are bathrooms and toilets close to all the bedrooms. At night a member of staff is on duty to watch over you and give you help if you need it.



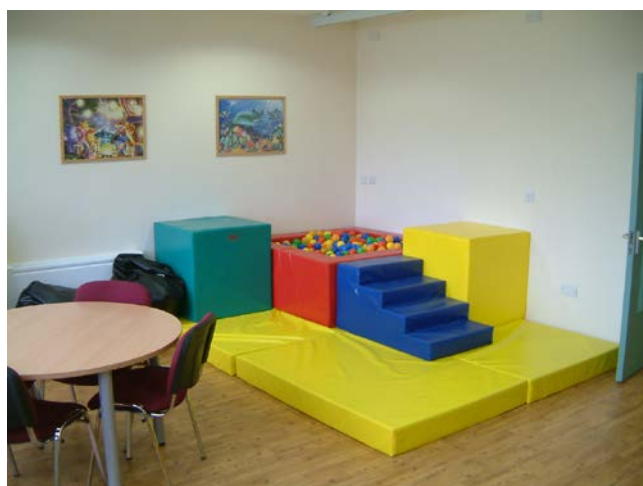
## **Can I bring some of my own things?**

Yes, but you will be asked to look after them.



## **What will I do at Bluebells?**

We will have different activities, such as art, cooking, sensory play, soft play, garden activities and arts and crafts. We go out in the minibus to Ten Pin Bowling, swimming, cinema and the local countryside. You can be encouraged to do as much as you can for yourself such as washing and dressing. If there is something special that you would like to do when you are here, please let us know and we will do our best to arrange it.



### **Will I go to school while at Bluebells?**

Yes, if your school is within travelling distance.

### **Will I have pocket money?**

We ask your parents to give you some pocket money for when you stay at Bluebells. This is usually put in a pocket money tin for you. This is then used for things you might like to do or buy. Sometimes you can have money to spend for yourself.

### **Can I bring some of my own toys?**

Yes, but you will be asked to look after them.

### **What happens if I feel unwell?**

Tell a member of staff straight away and we will help you. We can contact your doctor or take you to a doctor near Bluebells if you need to see one. We will also let your parents know and talk to them about what to do. Whilst we take every care to make Bluebells a safe place for you, we all know some First Aid in case you have an accident.

## **Can I telephone home when I'm there?**

Yes you can, there is a pay-phone at Bluebells and staff can help you with it. Friends and family will be able to visit you too if you are here for a long time.

## **What should I do if someone hurts me?**

If another child or a member of staff does something that you do not like, tell an adult who you feel you can talk to. Please do not be afraid, we will not get cross with you.

## **Who do I talk to if I have a problem?**

You can speak to any member of staff that you feel able to or we can contact your Social Worker for you and arrange for them to come and see you. You can ask to speak to an Inspector – a person who makes sure we are looking after you properly.

**The phone number for Childline is 0800 1111**

## **What do I do if I don't like it?**

If you are worried about something, we will see what we can do to help. If you are homesick we can talk to Mum and Dad to see what can be done.

## **Useful Phone Numbers**

### **Disabled Children's Service (Social Workers)**

Maidstone	01622 605160
Ashford, Dover & Shepway	01233 898900
Canterbury City & Swale	01795 514400
Canterbury Coastal & Thanet	01233 898950
Gravesend	01322 611000
Swanley, Sevenoaks & Dartford	01322 611000
Tonbridge	01732 362442

### **Ofsted (Inspectors)** 0300 123 1231

### **Childline** 0800 1111

