

AN INTRODUCTION TO

# Windchimes Resource Centre "The Beach Hut"



A Guide for Children and Young People

2008



## WHAT IS Windchimes?

Windchimes is a resource centre based in Herne Bay, which offers several services i.e.:- Respite "The Beach Hut", Day Activities organised by "The Children's Society" and "SNAAP" Special Needs Advisory and Activities Project.

## WHY WILL I BE GOING TO "The Beach Hut"?

Your parents/carers have heard about The Beach Hut and think that you will enjoy coming there. The Beach Hut 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 The Beach Hut 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 "The Beach Hut"?

Yes.

When you come to The Beach Hut 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 The Beach Hut you are invited to have a look around with your family/carers and then you may like to come for tea, so you can meet some of the staff and other children. Then you may like to 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 The Beach Hut. They keep a list of all the children and what foods they do and do not like and are allergic to or you may have a religious dietary need to follow. You can see the menu when you come in and if there is something you do not like we can arrange something different.



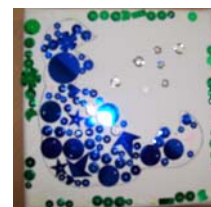
## WHERE WILL I SLEEP and WHERE DO I GET WASHED?



Dolphin



Seal



Crab



Starfish



Coral



Fish

We have 6 individually named rooms that the children sleep in and all are named above.



The bedrooms are situated around the night lounge, the lounge is an area you can relax and spend time with your friends at "The Beach Hut" when you get up in the morning and when getting ready for bed.



The night lounge is also the first area we all meet up in before we explore the rest of the unit.



There are 3 bathrooms and toilets close to the bedrooms, where staff are able to assist you with personal care if necessary. You have a choice of a bath, wash or a shower.





At night a member of staff is on duty to watch over you and give you any help you may need.



CAN I BRING SOME OF MY OWN THINGS?

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

## WHAT WILL I DO AT "THE BEACH HUT"?

During your stay we have different activities that you can choose to take part in, such as art, cooking, spa, sensory room, soft play, sensory garden, adventure playground, computer room, lounge to relax in, games and books to read.

We go out in the minibus to Ten Pin Bowling, swimming, cinema and the local seaside, wildlife parks and organised activities around Herne Bay.



You can be encouraged to do as much as you can for yourself such as washing, dressing learning concepts of money whilst out etc. 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.

The computer room has 4 computers, 3 with internet access and printer and 1 with touch screen and other specialised equipment. The youngsters kitchen has height adjustable units, sink, cooker hob and you will be supervised at all times whilst having fun ensuring you are safe.



The Spa pool is fully equipped with ceiling hoist and changing rooms, so we can relax and have some fun. The walls are tiled and have a sensory feature on each individual tile. The room also has 2 amazing sea murals of sea life.





## WILL I GO TO SCHOOL WHILE AT "The Beach Hut"?

If your youngster attends school then they will travel to and from school via an organised taxi.



## WILL I HAVE POCKET MONEY?

We ask your parents to give you some pocket money for when you stay here. This is usually put in a pocket money tin for you. This is then used for things you might like to do or buy.

## CAN I BRING SOME OF MY OWN TOYS?

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



## WHAT HAPPENS IF I FEEL UNWELL?

You can tell or communicate to a member of staff straight away and we will help you. We can contact your doctor or take you to a doctor near to the unit if you need to see one.

We will also let your parents/cares know and talk to them about what they would like us to do.

Whilst we take every care to make The Beach Hut 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, staff can help you with it.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE HURTS ME?

If another child or a member of staff does something that you do not like, communicate with an adult who you feel safe with.

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.

Staff are always available to support you with your communicational need.

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 parents/carers to see what can be done.



## Useful Phone Numbers

Disabled Children's Team, Ashford & Shepway  
(Social Workers)  
0845 330 2967

Disabled Children's Service, Maidstone  
(Social Workers)  
01622 746505

Disabled Children's Service, Canterbury and Coastal  
(Social Workers)  
01227 598500

Ofsted (Inspectors)  
08456 40 40 45

Childline 0800 1111

The Beach Hut 01227 741748



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