

The Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre, registered charity No 218063, provides Derbyshire children experiencing difficult times with a 5-day holiday in Skegness. These holidays can also give much needed respite to the children's parents, guardians and carers.

Children recommended for holidays often come from homes where the impact of financial hardship, deprivation or abuse has created a situation where stress is common and there are few comforts.

Children may also be nominated when parental care is warm and loving but that love doesn't extend to providing the benefits, such as a holiday, that the parents would wish for their children. In other cases, it could be the inability of parents to cope with the demands of their circumstances.



Nominations for children which illustrate the following areas of deprivation are evaluated by the Operations Executive for inclusion on the holiday programme:

- Financial Constraint precludes a holiday within 12 months
- Respite for parent(s), grandparents or guardians
- Respite for a child who is a carer him or herself
- Recovery from family illness or bereavement
- Recovery from family stress ( including divorce or separation)
- A break is needed from an abusive environment, the categories of which can include neglect, physical, mental or sexual abuse.

Even in the twenty first century, regrettably, none of these problems are unusual. The Centre staff are fully trained, DBS checked and well versed in the individual types of care that children on holiday require.

By experiencing quality residential holidays, the children are given a valuable start to their long-term development, self-esteem and aspirations. The holiday programme creates a positive environment for the children, which they are then able to relate to their daily lives and circumstances. The Centre Manager regularly receives messages of appreciation from parents, guardians, teachers, social workers and from the children themselves, highlighting the enjoyment the holiday gave and the improved relationships and attitudes that the children go on to enjoy with their families and peer groups.

*"Thank you for everything at DCHC, it was so great, I would love to live there but you know that wouldn't happen, but there's me saying I'd love to live there, it wouldn't be the same without the terrific help of the staff."*

Holly, a child attending a DCHC holiday

*"A letter of thanks for my daughter's holiday at the Skegness Centre. She loved it and she came home none stop talking about it. It has made a big impression on her life which I hope she will always remember."*

Janice, a mother from Derby

*"Many a happy week spent at the Skegness holiday Centre as a child in the 80's and very early 90's (think I went about 6 or 7 times in all, from Mr Stewart through to John and Ruth) loved every single minute. Well done to everyone involved. You're ALL stars."*

David, who attended the centre as a child

*"The Holiday Centre is such a busy exciting place. The staff are incredibly skilled in ensuring that everyone has a good holiday and that 'first timers' are supported and that older visitors enjoy something new. Young people make new friends, they visit new places and every pupil here has always asked the same thing on their return - "When can I go again?"*

The Head of a Derby Primary school

*"I was impressed by the wonderful environment in which the children enjoyed the care and attention they so clearly need, together with the stimulating activities designed to encourage team work, self-esteem and peer support."*

The Student Care Officer of a County Primary School

*"I am writing on behalf of the team to express our sincere thanks for providing our children with such a wonderful holiday in Skegness."*

Bruce, a Project Manager from the Young Carers' Service

*"Social Care staff accompanied 15 young children (to the Centre) who have difficulty in engaging with their peers and participating in community activities. It was a pleasure to see these young people grow in confidence throughout the week, enjoying new experiences, meeting new friends and participating in new activities. We are sure this experience will remain with them for the rest of their lives."*

A Social Worker Team

*"I just want to let you know how the staff and students are impressed with the way Ali and her teams have supported our school... Activities provided have been so amazing; students really appreciated the way they were looked after in a safe and caring way."*

Sarah, a teacher from a city Special School

Holiday nominations are received by the Operations Executive from Teachers, Social Workers, Doctors and other similar agencies. DCHC accept boys and girls from all backgrounds and origin between the ages of 7 and 13 years of age.

All parents or guardians then either have a 'Home Visit' from one of the DCHC's trained volunteers or are invited to an open session at their child's school to complete the relevant paperwork. During this visit or session, the child's cultural, religious, social, dietary and medical needs are discussed and assessed. The charity volunteer will also discuss the child's requirements whilst on holiday at the Centre together with the contents of the holiday programme and facilities that are available during the holiday week.

This contact, as well as ensuring that the child's personal needs are known to the Centre's staff, also gives reassurance to their families that their child will be well cared for and that their break will be truly enjoyable and memorable.

The Centre provides holidays to approximately 660 children a year, from across the county at a direct holiday cost of £336 per child (2018). DCHC is funded entirely by voluntary donation and you can help us fulfil this tremendous task by joining our 660 Club and sponsoring the cost of a child's break. In addition, there are many other ways of supporting DCHC.



# Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre



Résumé

If you are interested or want more information on the charity and the work we do, please contact us at:

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