

2023 at CAFT

Our impact, thanks to our amazing supporters

Thanks to those who have supported our charity in 2023, we have provided day visits and residential breaks for 19,822 Northwest children whose lives are impacted by illness, disability and social disadvantage. A HUGE achievement which we should all be incredibly proud of - so many lives we have touched, so many smiles, so many memories.



1,355 children enjoyed a residential break

I just wanted to give my warmest thanks for our residential last week. Every child had experiences they would never have otherwise and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Staff had a blast also! What you and your team do is nothing short of spectacular and we didn't want for anything the whole week.



Themed Day visits, including...

Easter 2,060 children

CAFTfest 2,034 children

Halloween 1,817 children



We loved doing the Easter Egg hunt, and they were so pleased with their treat at the end. Thank you so much for making these events possible, it really is a bright light of fun on our calendar.



I would just like to thank you and all the volunteers for a very special day on Sunday at CAFTfest. Everybody went above and beyond to make sure our girls were safe and happy. To be around entertainers who signed and who completely understood the sensory needs of our children, they just knew when to approach and when not to!! It was just fabulous. Can't thank you enough.



Forest school for 772 children

Fun days for 8,137 children

The kids loved attending ALL OUT Adventure @ CAFT. We love being able to take the kids somewhere safe but still be able to have them outdoors. They're safe. No one judges or questions, just supports.



My eldest daughter has Autism and ADHD and very rarely shows emotion (even when she's enjoying herself) — it's close to impossible to get a photo of her smiling...well I got about 15 of her beaming ear to ear yesterday! She indulged me with more smiles for the camera at CAFT yesterday than she has in the past 6 months.

Christmas visits for 3,647 children



My son wouldn't leave the house last year, due to autistic burnout & trauma. This year he had the most magical experience with CAFT. He enjoyed making all the crafts, visiting Santa & of course all the animals. All the volunteers we're lovely & it was great for us to meet other parents & children. Seeing our son smile again is the best Christmas gift we could ask for & thanks to everyone at CAFT that's exactly what we got. Thank you again for such a brilliant experience.

“ — A few words from those who have visited

The rooms were beautifully decorated. Clean and perfect. All the activities on offer were just fantastic and we were kept busy and entertained every moment. The families we met whilst there were lovely and we all made friends. The children all got on really well too. My son E who has additional needs commented he loves CAFT because he can just be him there. Which as his mum makes me so happy. CAFT has always had a special place in our heart and this just made it even more special.

Coming to CAFT on Friday was a huge deal for our children and their families, it was the first school trip they have ever been on and to have such a positive first experience meant a huge amount to all of us.

To feel equal and included was everything to them the past couple of days, and to get to see them smiling and feeling safe and comfortable was out of this world. It was way above anything we could have imagined.

Myself, O and T had the best time and life long memories were made. O sometimes has trouble fitting in but to see him so happy and included made me feel emotional. The boys have kept their CAFT tradition and have been having smoothies before school, and O's sleeping has improved dramatically. What you have there is magical, we met other families and I spoke to them and it was lovely to not feel as alone. It's tricky to find the right words to explain what this experience meant to us as none of them seem to do it enough justice.

To not have to worry about accessibility, having all activities on your doorstep, plus all set up and ready to go was just amazing and then to get all your food on top of that...well we definitely weren't expecting all of that and I don't really know how else to say it other than it really was the break we needed.

We had a wonderful day lots of fun for us all. Especially our little boy who had lots of freedom and safe spaces to be himself. It was so relaxing knowing our little boy is safe and enjoying himself. It was our first time out as a family where we felt at ease not having to explain about R's condition it was just wonderful to meet people who share the same experiences as us.

I would like to say a massive thank you. My son said without being prompted "I love this place Mum. I can be myself without having to keep it in all the time." This meant so much to me. I don't know how to thank you.

We all had such an amazing time, and to see the children confident to run about and play and engage with the activities without being anxious, upset or overwhelmed was incredible. We have three little ones, two are Autistic and the eldest (5) also has joint/connective tissue issues, bladder problems and is awaiting his 5th surgery at the moment. He's also a registered young carer (as I'm disabled) so he has a huge amount on his plate bless him. So days like this are just priceless.

On behalf of each child, thank you — ”