

Felixstowe Opportunity Group

SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Registered Charity No. 1004101

Felixstowe Opportunity Group is a local charity which was founded in Trimley in 1990 by a dedicated group of mums with children with special educational needs.

Our main aim is to advance the education and development of babies and children with special need and to support their siblings and their families.

The charity provides play sessions throughout the year, (we are open for 48 weeks). During term time these sessions are for children under school age and their siblings. In the School holidays we continue to run these sessions and also have sessions open to our school age children. The sessions offer safe and supportive group play, provided by qualified staff and committed voluntary helpers. Our aim is to have a high ratio of adults to children in order for all the needs of the children to be met and to enable them to access a full range of activities.

Parents and carers are also supported during each of the sessions, they can enjoy some respite in our parents lounge/kitchen or the front garden. It is a chance to have a tea or coffee and chat to other parents and carers and gain mutual support. The Opportunity Group can listen, support and signpost to other agencies, we also organise speakers and advisors to attend the group to provide information and guidance as needed. We can offer help in transitioning to other provisions and will continue to support them as needed.

The charity is organised and run by a voluntary management committee, still mainly made up of parents and family members of children with special educational needs.

We own our premises in the grounds of Felixstowe Academy. We have a large playroom, a very popular soft play area, a specialised Sensory Room, and an outside play area with Garden room. All the areas are accessible and equipped for the children who attend the Group

This charity is financed by local fundraising events, local charitable organisations, grants, donations, Felixstowe Town Council and our Local Councillors.

Felixstowe Town Council has recently granted us £1,500 towards our project to make safety improvements to the outside play area. We have successfully been able to refurbish our wheelchair accessible ramp by replacing the posts to the handrail and fence where necessary, repairing, and weather protecting the whole structure. We will be replacing insecure, unstable and unsuitable flagstones with safety surface matting, when it arrives. We aim to make repairs to our climbing frame and bridge soon. The children that attend the Opportunity Group really enjoy and gain lots of new challenges and experiences from the outside play area, and we needed to make these improvements to ensure their continued safety. We currently have children with considerable sight impairments and mobility issues so the improvements to the garden area will ensure that they will be able to make full use of it.

The Felixstowe Opportunity Group has been a part of the local community for nearly 30 years, and have supported many children with special needs in that time. Many of the families have called the Opportunity group a lifeline, and have benefitted from ongoing support from birth, through diagnosis and into education. We continue to support the parent and carers, the children and their siblings into their teenage years.

We aim to continue to provide a service to the local community, but we rely on local support and help to do this.

If you would like further information about our group, would like to visit, or to offer practical support by volunteering at the group, please contact us on

oppgroup@btinternet.co.uk or call us on 01394286399.

We would be delighted to hear from you

Check out our facebook page : Felixstowe Opportunity Group - F.O.G.

