



# All about us!



**What is  
Happy Days**

**The Arts**

**Days Out**

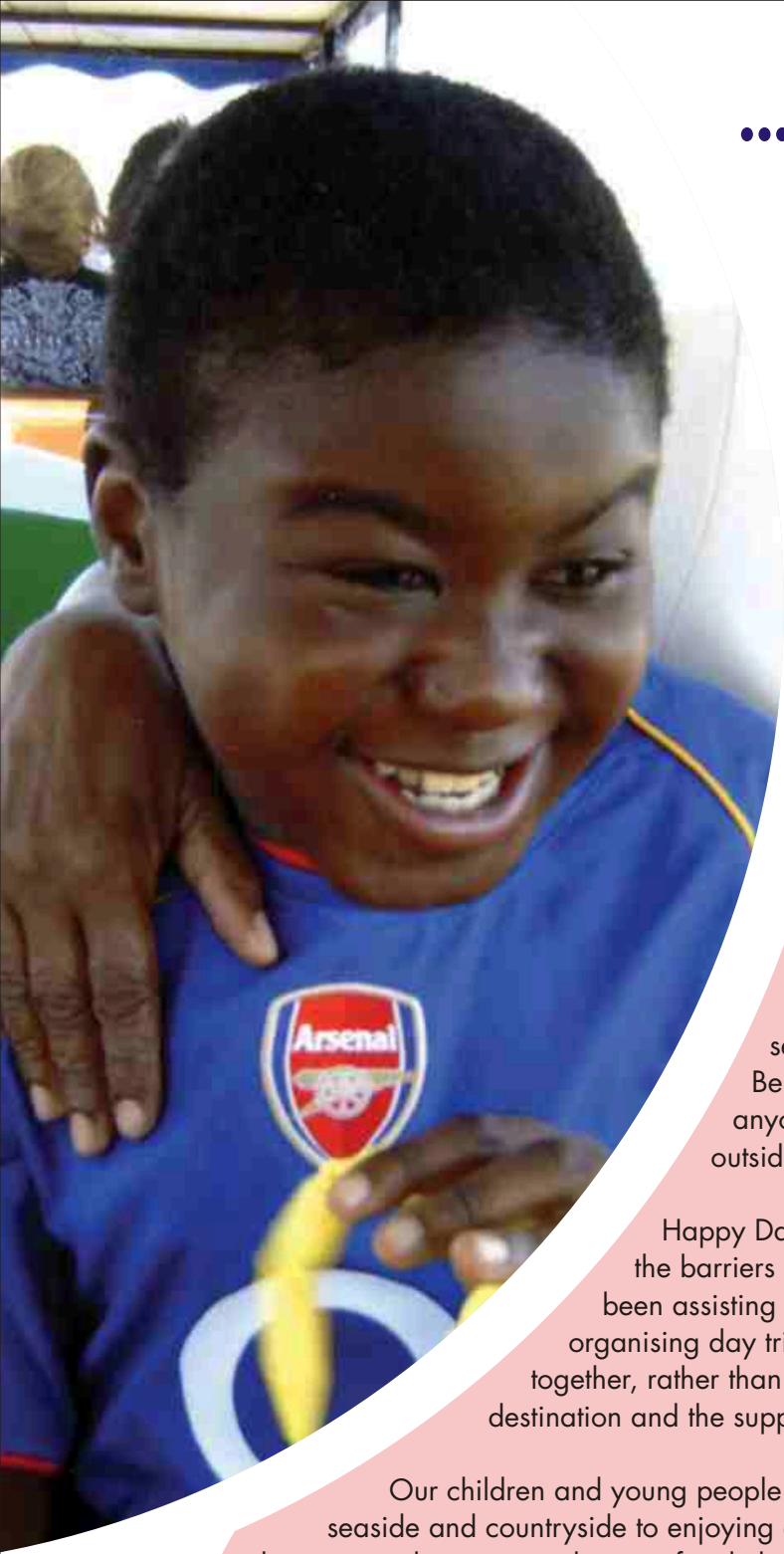
**Holidays**

**Residential  
Trips**

**Our Aims • Our Mission • Our Dreams**

**What does Happy Days do?**

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## ...but when you have a child with special needs in the family, life isn't so simple.

Most of us are able to find the time we need to spend with family, at home, on day trips and holidays, to re-group, bond, sort out problems, and, of course, have fun! But when you have a child with special needs such simple pleasures cannot be taken for granted.

At Happy Days we believe that finding the space to spend time on relationships can ease many difficult situations. However, families with children with special needs face many barriers to finding such space and time – even taking a trip to the local park can be challenging, with day trips and holidays nigh on impossible without support. Transport and venue facilities are often poorly designed to accommodate children with special needs, and the fact that many venue staff are untrained in the relevant issues can turn a seemingly unambitious trip into a truly demoralising event. Being stuck indoors for long periods of time is not good for anyone, but for many of our families the notion of family time outside the home is unimaginable.

Happy Days Children's Charity is here to help families overcome the barriers to taking time out. Over the past fourteen years we have been assisting families by providing support and advice as well as organising day trips and holidays to enable families to enjoy themselves together, rather than having to worry about how they are going to get to their destination and the support they will receive when they arrive.

Our children and young people benefit from a range of activities, from day trips to the seaside and countryside to enjoying exciting theme parks. Arts activities and trips to the theatre are also organised as are family holidays.

When organising the trips and holidays we are able to draw from the wealth of information and experience we have gathered over the years to ensure complete peace of mind for the families so all they have to do is enjoy themselves. But this is about more than just a holiday, it is a way for the children to build their confidence and experience new things, and for the parents, many of them under immense strain, to spend quality time together.

The children we support have one or more of a range of conditions, diseases or traumas, including: cerebral palsy, autism, asperger's syndrome, down's syndrome, brain damage, burns injuries, muscular dystrophy, limb amputation and cancer.

Sadly, there are children we help who are facing life limiting illness. These children are always a priority for us and if the family is on low income we provide funds to help make a once-in-a-lifetime holiday experience happen. Parents of children who have a short life expectancy understandably feel pressure to give their children a lifetime of happiness in a few short years. In situations like these every memorable experience is invaluable. With the support of trusts, companies and individuals like you, we are able to make a difference to lives of these children and their families.

# The Cost... of trips and holidays



**1 Child • £10**

With special needs has a wonderful day being visited by a theatre workshop. This is a lovely day for children too ill to travel.



**10 Children • £200**

With special needs have a wonderful trip to the seaside. Most of these children have never seen the sea or felt sand under their feet.



**1 Child • £20**

That is deprived will have a wonderful trip to a theme park to enjoy some fun and happiness. The trips are a great morale booster and the children come home with a more positive attitude.



**5 Children • £100**

With profound and multiple disabilities have a wonderful trip to the theatre. Children with so many difficulties respond so positively and with joy.



Photo: Assunta Del Buono

**1 Child • £1,250**

Who has been cruelly abused and neglected has a one week holiday in the mediterranean. The holidays lift the cares of the day to day world and allow a breath of freedom.



**1 Child • £2,000**

Who is terminally ill has a holiday of a lifetime to Disney World Florida with nursing care. A holiday such as this gives these children Happy Days, Happy Times & Happy Memories whilst time is short.



**1 Child • £700**

With a incurable condition, has a one week holiday at a UK seaside resort with support care. The holidays give the children the gifts of happiness and hope.



# Our work Continues..

**Our waiting list consists of 1,000's of children with special needs including disabilities, life limiting conditions, or a history of abuse. Just some of the children on our waiting list are:**

Take has Leighs Syndrome    Manusha has Liver failure  
Msauud has Hunters disease    S has been abused  
Imani has Sickle Cell Anaemia    Kieran has a Brain Tumour  
Miah has T-Cell Deficiency    Kieran has Cerebral Palsy

## Some Recent Theatre Trips

30 Children - Stomp    55 Children - Buddy  
12 Children - Blood Brothers    4 Children - Half a Sixpence  
220 Children - Wicked    192 Children - Terrible Tudors  
262 Children - The Lion King    50 Children - High School Musical  
118 Children - A Christmas Carol    8 Children - Much Ado About Nothing  
30 Children - Angelina Ballerina

## Some Recent Holidays

Safa - Skegness    Seth - Pembrokeshire  
Ryan - Center Parcs    Thomas - Isle of Wight  
Benjamin - Somerset    Hafza - Disneyland, Paris  
Jack - Norfolk    Amber- Disney World, Florida  
Mohamed - Devon    Carl - Blackpool  
Sophie - Northumberland    Scott - Alton Towers Hotel  
Marc - Wales    Aymen - Holland

