

What's On in Rhondda Cynon Taf

Summer Holiday Activities & Family Support Directory 2026

Important note for schools and families: This guide brings key summer activity and support links into one place. Please check the provider link before attending, as dates, venue details, capacity, booking and eligibility can change. Free/open-access sessions may be first-come, first-served.

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1. Quick links for families

Source	Best for	Link
RCT Free Play & Youth Sessions	Open access play, youth clubs, junior youth clubs and Play Adapt information.	Free Play & Youth Sessions in Rhondda Cynon Taf
Sport RCT Summer of Fun	Bookable sport sessions across Rhondda, Cynon and Taf.	Summer of Fun
RCT Family Information Service	Family activities, childcare, playgroups, playschemes and support.	Services for Children and Families in Rhondda Cynon Taf RCT Families
RCT Families - Out and About	Family-friendly ideas, playgroups, playschemes, libraries, exercise and events.	Out and About RCT Families
RCT Events	Major family events, festivals and outdoor events.	What's On in RCT Events in Rhondda Cynon Taf

RCT Libraries	Local library details, reading, crafts and family activities.	Libraries Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Free Swim	Free weekend family swimming and free weekday family swims in school holidays.	Free Swim
Connect RCT	Community groups, local activities and support services.	Connect RCT
YEPS	Youth Engagement and Participation Service for young people aged 11+.	Venues - YEPS

2. Free and free-at-point-of-access activities

Activity / provision	Who it is for	Cost	Key details	Link
Open Access Play Sessions	Children aged 5-14	Free	Supervised by qualified play workers. Activities may include free play, games, creative activities and social time. No booking/referral needed; first-come, first-served.	Free Play & Youth Sessions in Rhondda Cynon Taf
Youth Clubs	Young people aged 11+	Free	Safe spaces supervised by youth workers with activities, social opportunities and youth voice.	Youth Clubs - YEPS
Play Adapt	Children and young people with additional needs and their families	Free	Sessions specifically designed for children and young people with additional needs and their families.	RCT Play Adapt RCT Families
Free School Holiday Swimming	Families	Free	All eight RCT swimming pools offer one hour of free family swimming per	Free Swim

			day, Monday-Friday, during school holidays except Christmas.	
Free Weekend Family Swimming	Families	Free	All eight RCT swimming pools offer free weekend family swimming for one hour all year round.	Free Swim
Summer Reading Challenge	Children aged 4-11	Free	Children can join at any RCT library, receive a starter pack and collect free rewards for reading.	Libraries
Food and Fun	Eligible learners via participating schools	Free	School-based programme providing meals, nutrition education, physical activity and enrichment. Families should check with their child's school.	CTM info

3. Sport RCT Summer of Fun 2026

Sport RCT states that the 2026 Summer of Fun programme runs for four weeks between 27 July and 21 August 2026. Booking and queries should be made through Sport RCT.

Session	Age	Area / Venue	Dates and time	Booking / link
Sports Tots	2-5	Rhondda Sport Centre, Ystrad	Tuesdays 10:30-11:15, 28 July-18 August	Sport RCT
Sports Tots	2-5	Sobell Leisure Centre, Aberdare	Wednesdays 10:30-11:15, 29 July-19 August	Sport RCT
Sports Tots	2-5	Y Pant Comprehensive, Pontyclun	Thursdays 10:30-11:15, 30 July-20 August	Sport RCT
Balance Bikes	2-5	Rhondda Sport Centre, Ystrad	Tuesdays 11:30-12:15, 28 July-18 August	Sport RCT

Balance Bikes	2-5	Sobell Leisure Centre, Aberdare	Wednesdays 11:30-12:15, 29 July-19 August	Sport RCT
Balance Bikes	2-5	Y Pant Comprehensive, Pontyclun	Thursdays 11:30-12:15, 30 July-20 August	Sport RCT
Multi Sports	6-12	Rhondda Sport Centre, Ystrad	Tuesdays 12:30-14:30, 28 July-18 August	Sport RCT
Multi Sports	6-12	Sobell Leisure Centre, Aberdare	Wednesdays 12:30-14:30, 29 July-19 August	Sport RCT
Multi Sports	6-12	Y Pant Comprehensive, Pontyclun	Thursdays 12:30-14:30, 30 July-20 August	Sport RCT
Disability Multi Sports	3-19	Sobell Leisure Centre, Aberdare	Mondays 13:00-14:00, 27 July-17 August	Sport RCT
Family Sports	2-12	Treherbert Park, Treherbert	Monday 27 July, 10:00-11:00	Sport RCT
Family Sports	2-12	Glyncoch RFC, Glyncoch	Monday 3 August, 10:00-11:00	Sport RCT
Family Sports	2-12	Penywaun Community Centre, Penywaun	Monday 10 August, 10:00-11:00	Sport RCT
Family Sports	2-12	Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre, Tylorstown	Monday 17 August, 10:00-11:00	Sport RCT
Hockey Camp	6-11	Ysgol Afon Wen, Hawthorn	Wednesday 19 August, 10:00-13:00	Sport RCT

YEPS / 11+ sessions listed with Sport RCT	Age	Venue	Date/time	Link
3G Open Access	11+	Darran Park 3G	Wednesdays 16:30-19:00: 22 July, 5 August, 26 August	Sport RCT
3G Open Access	11+	Sobell Leisure Centre 3G	Thursdays 13:00-15:00: 23 July, 6-27 August	Sport RCT
3G Open Access	11+	Tonyrefail Leisure Centre 3G / Bryn Celynnog 3G /	Thursday 13 August, 13:00-15:00	Sport RCT

		Ysgol Afon Wen 3G		
YEPS Football	11+	Baglan 3G	Tuesdays 17:30-20:00: 21 July-25 August	Sport RCT
Mobile Youth Provision	11+	Check YEPS/Sport RCT for location	Wednesdays 13:00-15:00: 29 July and 19 August	Sport RCT

4. Libraries, reading and rainy-day activities

RCT libraries are a good free, local and weather-proof option for families. The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge is free for children aged 4-11 and children can join at any RCT library.

Offer	Who	Cost	What families should do	Link
Summer Reading Challenge 2026	Children aged 4-11	Free	Visit any RCT library to join and collect a starter pack. Check local library pages/social media for events.	RCT Libraries
Library craft/story/family sessions	Families	Usually free or low-cost	Check each local library for its holiday timetable; booking may be needed for some activities.	RCT Libraries
Treorchy Library community pianos / family-friendly creative activity	Families	Check locally	Treorchy Library is hosting workshops, performances and family-friendly activities linked to the community piano project.	Library news

5. Food and meals

Provision	Who	Cost	Details	Link
Local food banks / food pantries / cost-of-living support	Families needing practical support	Free/varies	Use Connect RCT and RCT Families to identify local support by area.	Connect RCT

6. Large family events and low-cost/free days out

Event / place	Area	Date / access	Cost note	Link
Rhondda Arts Festival (RAFT)	Rhondda	10-12 July 2026	Check event listing for costs by activity/event.	RCT Events
Big Welsh Bite	Pontypridd / Ynysangharad War Memorial Park area	1-2 August 2026	Outdoor family event; check listing for details.	RCT Events
RCT 90s Summer Party	Ynysangharad War Memorial Park	22 August 2026	Check ticket/cost details before promoting as family activity.	RCT Events
Free family swimming	All eight RCT pools	School holidays and weekends	Free one-hour family swim sessions; check local pool timetable.	Free Swim
Lido Ponty / Lido Play	Pontypridd	Tickets available through September 2026	Swimming is ticketed; Lido Play is a family-friendly play space. Check booking/cost before attending.	Lido Ponty
Dare Valley Country Park	Aberdare / Cynon	Open access	Free outdoor day out; check parking/cafe/activity costs.	Visit RCT
Barry Sidings Country Park	Rhondda/Taf area	Open access	Free outdoor day out; check parking/cafe/activity costs.	Visit RCT
Ynysangharad War Memorial Park	Pontypridd	Open access	Free park/play/outdoor space; some attractions/events may be ticketed.	Visit RCT
Rhondda Heritage Park / Welsh Coal Mining Experience	Trehafod	Check opening/tickets	Paid attraction but useful as a local day-out option.	Visit RCT
Theatres: Park & Dare / Coliseum	Treorchy / Aberdare	Check programme	Shows/workshops may be free, low-cost or ticketed.	RCT Theatres

7. Area guide - Rhondda, Cynon and Taf

Rhondda

Venue / source	What is available	Age / audience	Link
Rhondda Sport Centre, Ystrad	Sport RCT Sports Tots, Balance Bikes and Multi Sports on Tuesdays.	2-12 depending on session	Sport RCT
Treherbert Park	Family Sports on Monday 27 July, 10:00-11:00.	2-12	Sport RCT
Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre, Tylorstown	Family Sports on Monday 17 August, 10:00-11:00.	2-12	Sport RCT
Darran Park 3G	YEPS 3G Open Access on selected Wednesdays.	11+	Sport RCT
Treorchy Library	Library activities and Summer Reading Challenge; community piano project also linked to family-friendly creative activity.	Families / 4-11 for reading challenge	RCT Libraries
RAFT / Rhondda Arts Festival	Summer arts festival listed by RCT Events.	Families - check programme	RCT Events
Valleys Kids	Community-based family and youth activities; check current local programme.	Families / children / young people	Valleys Kids

Cynon Valley

Venue / source	What is available	Age / audience	Link
Sobell Leisure Centre, Aberdare	Sport RCT Sports Tots, Balance Bikes, Multi Sports and Disability Multi Sports.	2-19 depending on session	Sport RCT
Penywaun Community Centre	Family Sports on Monday 10 August, 10:00-11:00.	2-12	Sport RCT
Dare Valley Country Park	Outdoor family day out, walks, play and nature.	Families	Visit RCT

Aberdare / local libraries	Summer Reading Challenge and local library events.	Families / 4-11 for reading challenge	RCT Libraries
The Coliseum, Aberdare	Family shows, theatre and possible workshops - check listings.	Families	RCT Theatres
Sobell Leisure Centre 3G	YEPS 3G Open Access on Thursdays in the summer programme.	11+	Sport RCT

Taf

Venue / source	What is available	Age / audience	Link
Y Pant Comprehensive, Pontyclun	Sport RCT Sports Tots, Balance Bikes and Multi Sports on Thursdays.	2-12 depending on session	Sport RCT
Glyncoch RFC, Glyncoch	Family Sports on Monday 3 August, 10:00-11:00.	2-12	Sport RCT
Ysgol Afon Wen, Hawthorn	Hockey Camp on Wednesday 19 August; also listed as part of 3G Open Access on 13 August.	6-11 / 11+ depending on session	Sport RCT
Tonyrefail Leisure Centre 3G	YEPS 3G Open Access listed on Thursday 13 August.	11+	Sport RCT
Ynysangharad War Memorial Park	Free park/play space and key summer event location.	Families	Visit RCT
Big Welsh Bite	RCT event listed for 1-2 August 2026.	Families - check programme	RCT Events
Lido Ponty / Lido Play	Outdoor swimming and play facilities; check ticketing and availability.	Families	Lido Ponty
Pontypridd / local libraries	Summer Reading Challenge and local library events.	Families / 4-11 for reading challenge	RCT Libraries

8. Inclusive and ALN friendly provision

Provision	Who	Key details	Link
Play Adapt	Children and young people with additional needs and their families	Free open-access provision specifically designed for additional needs. Check local provider details and capacity.	RCT info
Disability Multi Sports	Ages 3-19	Sobell Leisure Centre, Mondays 13:00-14:00, 27 July-17 August.	Sport RCT
Free family swimming	Families, including children who may prefer a quieter/known venue	Check pool timetable and accessibility details before attending.	Free Swim
RCT Family Information Service	Families looking for inclusive childcare/activity information	Use FIS for additional signposting, childcare and family support.	FIS

9. Low-Cost Family Meals in and Around RCT

Provider	Offer	Notes for families
Morrisons Café, Porth	Kids eat free	One free children's meal (under 16) with every adult main meal costing £5 or more.
ASDA Café, Talbot Green	Kids eat for £1	Children's meal available for £1. Check the latest terms before visiting.
ASDA Café, Aberdare	Kids eat for £1	Children's meal available for £1. Check the latest terms before visiting.
The Longbow Beefeater, Pontyclun	Two children eat breakfast free	Two children under 16 receive a free breakfast with one paying adult breakfast.
Tirfounder Fields Brewers Fayre, Aberdare	Two children eat breakfast free	Two children under 16 receive a free breakfast

		with one paying adult breakfast.
Pausa Café (Dunelm), Upper Boat	Kids eat free	One free children's meal with a qualifying adult spend. Check current offer before travelling.

Please note: Restaurant and cafe promotions may change during the school holidays. Families are advised to check the provider's website or contact the venue before travelling to confirm the latest offer and any qualifying terms.

10. Travel

Provision	Who	Cost	Details	Link
Children and Young Persons £1 bus fare	Children and young people aged between 5 - 21	£1.00	£1.00 bus travel across Wales.	Children and Young persons £1 bus fare Transport for Wales
Family Train Ticket	Two children under the age of 16 with a fare-paying adult.	Cost of the adult fare for the return trip	It's a Return train ticket that lets two children under 16 travel free of charge with a fare-paying adult. Perfect for saving you money on family train travel.	Family train ticket - Kids go free Transport for Wales

11. Family support and cost-of-living help

Support source	Useful for	Link
Free School Meals	Free School Meals provide eligible learners with a healthy, nutritious meal during the school day.	Free School meals - Apply for free school meals Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Schools Essential Grant	To help eligible families with the costs of school uniform and equipment.	School Essentials Grant 26/27 (For September 2026 year groups) Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
RCT Family Information Service	Families needing signposting to childcare, support services and activities.	Services for Children and Families in Rhondda Cynon Taf RCT Families
Connect RCT	Finding local food support, community groups, events, wellbeing support and neighbourhood services.	Connect RCT
Citizens Advice RCT	Advice on benefits, debt, housing, employment and practical support.	Advice - Citizens Advice Rhondda Cynon Taf
Interlink RCT	Voluntary sector networks and local community organisations and well-being support.	Wellbeing and Support - Interlink RCT English

12. Community organisations and sources to keep checking

These organisations may not all have a single published summer timetable yet, but they are useful sources for Community Focused Schools and FEO's to check.

Organisation / source	Why check it	Link
Connect RCT	Community activities, local groups and support often appear here before families hear about them elsewhere.	Connect RCT
Valleys Kids	Community, family, youth and creative activities in RCT communities.	What we do - Valleys Kids
Gilfach Goch Community Association	Local community activities, family support and holiday provision in/around Gilfach Goch.	CHILDREN & YOUTH Ggca
Interlink RCT	Voluntary and community sector links; useful for finding smaller providers.	Home - Interlink RCT English
RCT Theatres	Family shows, workshops, cinema/theatre events and creative opportunities.	RCT RCT Theatres, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Visit RCT	Parks, attractions, walking routes and local day out ideas.	Visit RCT
Local school websites/social media	Food and Fun, school-based holiday clubs, events and local signposting.	School-specific

Local community centres/churches/sports clubs	Often run one-off summer fun days, holiday clubs or low-cost sessions.	Check locally
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