

Challengers was established in 1979, and now runs 25 different schemes for disabled children and young people aged 2-25. Our play and youth schemes are situated across the South East but children and young people come from all over. This is because we never exclude a child and so people often are prepared to travel long distances. With help from supporters such as CECA we managed to provide over 140,000 hours of fun a year.

Play is not a luxury or a benefit, but is essential to the healthy growth and wellbeing of children and young people, and therefore should be accessible to all. Currently disabled children and young people are regularly excluded from mainstream play; one study by Sense has found that **51% have been intentionally excluded from play opportunities**. What makes Challengers unique is our dedication to being fully inclusive.

The CECA lunch raised over £3,000 for Challengers enabling us to deliver the summer programme and offer families a short break. They, and we, are enormously grateful to you and would love the opportunity of showing any one of you around a scheme so you can see the happy faces for yourself. We would also warmly welcome you to think about coming to see our Business Club and meeting other professionals who have supported the charity. Thank you.



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ceca2019>

<https://disability-challengers.org/>

Ben's Story

Ben is 11, and has Asperger's Syndrome, Vesico-ureteric Reflux Disease, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and severe anxiety issues. He struggles with forming friendships and with social interaction, leaving him isolated; in his eight years at school he has only ever had one invitation to someone's birthday party. **Ben just wants to be included, but mainstream society is not kind to people who are different.**

Challengers is the key for Ben. He has attended our Farnham Play scheme since he was 5, and for him it is a safe environment where he is celebrated for being the amazing individual that he is. Attending Challengers gives Ben stability, security and safety, and over the years he has really flourished and grown in confidence. Challengers is invaluable for children like Ben, because it gives them a chance to really be included.

- **£750** could pay for all of the transport costs of one of our young adult schemes in the summer holidays
- **£1,520** could provide 10 days of 1-1 support for disabled children at a Challengers Playscheme
- **£3,515** could pay for all of the summer holiday trips and activities at a Challengers Youthscheme

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