



## ESCAPE SUPPORT GROUP

**ESCAPE SUPPORT GROUP** is a parent led charity offering activities and support to families with disabled children.

The group recognises the need for **ALL** the family members to have the opportunity to spend quality time doing fun things together.

The children have a wide variety of disabilities ranging from profound and multiple, physical, sensory, learning and behavioural difficulties to speech and language problems and developmental delay. Because of these needs the children have very different life experiences from normal. They have limited opportunities because of the additional care that they require.



The siblings of the disabled children are seen as young carers and they have to learn to adapt their lives to accommodate the needs of their sibling. All the children, through no fault of their own, can find themselves excluded, isolated, misunderstood and sometimes subject to prejudice simply because of their additional needs.

A small grant was awarded from the Millfield Students' Community Fund to pay for a specially adapted coach which took the group out for the day to Alton Towers. Students at Millfield have chosen to raise money to create a fund to support local community organisations across the county. SCF finds projects that fit the criteria set by the students. Decisions are made by the students themselves.

Cathy Mercer (the charity co-ordinator from ESCAPE) commented:

*"Alton Towers is always a very popular day trip and this year was no different, everyone had an amazing time. Many of our children had the added bonus of exit passes at the attraction so this enables them to avoid queuing and enjoying the rides that much more. We were asked to take part in a local radio interview following this trip, the youngster that did this talked non-stop about the day."*

One of the parents added *"Can I just take this opportunity to say thank you for including Alton Towers on Escape's itinerary. As you know I have been really struggling with my son for quite a while now, combination of Asperger's and teenager not a good mix!! However, as usual, the adrenaline rush from the rides worked its magic, and for a whole day I had a son who was pleasant to be around, even at one point giving his mum a hug and asking if I was ok, something that hasn't happened for many many months. A positive something for me to hold on to on the days when he doesn't respond to me in any positive manner"*

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