

## Rothwell Resource Centre, Kettering

Rothwell Resource Centre (RRC) is one of seven education centres for people who are deafblind and for people with a single sensory impairment with associated disabilities. We are located near to Rothwell, Northamptonshire.

The day at RRC starts at 9.30am with mid morning, lunch and afternoon breaks. The day ends at 4.00pm.

Each learner has their own individual schedule and plan designed to meet their specific requirements, this is reviewed on a six monthly basis. Their week might consist of a combination of programmes including:-

- Educational courses
- Creative arts
- Planned leisure activities
- Mobility training
- Sensory awareness
- Lifeskills
- ICT
- Work placements

Within the framework of these programmes RRC offers a range of formal courses including Open College Network (OCN) and ASDAN Courses.

There is also an extensive range of activities including; Self Awareness, Personal and Social Development, Sensory Awareness, Environmental Studies, Art, Music, Horticulture, Office Skills, Hydrotherapy, Physiotherapy, Massage, Cooking, Sailing, Riding, Mobility, General crafts, ICT, Practical Language, Literacy, Practical Numeracy and Communication as well as a variety of projects.

Communication is the cornerstone of all the sessions; a 'Total Communication' approach is taken with the focus on the learners preferred means of communication. This may include Sign Supported English, British Sign Language, (BSL) the Deafblind Manual Alphabet, Braille & technological aids to communication. We also use pre-formal communication methods such as objects of reference and symbol based communication systems.

Professionally qualified education staff work at RRC and are assisted by Learning Support Assistants. All staff are required to complete induction and post induction modules; these include First Aid, Basic Food Hygiene and Fire Awareness. In order for staff to support the specialised needs of people who are deafblind, they are also trained in Deafblind Awareness issues as well as British Sign Language. Staff are also provided with the opportunity to undertake the MSI Degree and Deafblind Diploma as part of their ongoing professional development. We also use external specialists where appropriate for example a physiotherapist.

The environment at RRC has been designed with learners at the forefront of our minds. Each room has both tactile and auditory signs which provide vital clues to the deafblind people in order to help them locate areas more independently. We also have a variety of specialist equipment including: ·

- Talking microwave
- Talking tin lids
- Kettle tippers
- Liquid level indicators
- Switches
- Specially adapted craft equipment
- Interactive SMART Board
- Sound Beam
- Sensory resources and equipment
- Mobile and overhead hoists

Our main aim at the centre is to develop independence in all areas and to provide a better quality of life for the deafblind people.

For further information please contact

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