

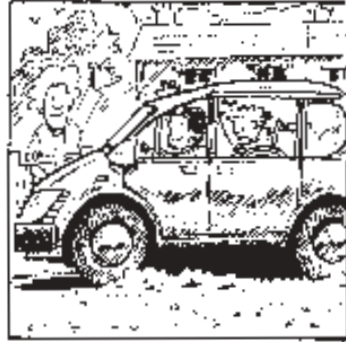
## **TRANSPORT:**

### **On the Move with a Child with Special Needs**

Moving around with a child with special needs can be difficult, especially if the family does not have a car. The LEA, NHS, SSD and some voluntary agencies may be able to help you with transport, see Box 12 for details of schemes.

### **Schools Transport**

Children with special educational needs do not have a specific entitlement to free transport, but if the LEA has allocated a place for your child with a Statement of SEN to a particular school, (whether or not it's a special school), they will consider providing transport. Your child can either be issued with a bus pass or arrangements may be made for a taxi or specially adapted mini-bus to transport him/her to and from school. If necessary an escort can be provided. If you would like more information or have any concerns about the service, contact the Special Needs Transport Officer, Tel: 01865 815328.



If your child wants to go on to further or higher education after leaving school, the LEA may still be able to help with transport. You can also ask SKILL, the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, Tel: 02074 500620.

### **Transport for Hospitals, Clinics and Out Patient Appointments.**

If your child is unable to use public transport and you do not have a car, your child's GP, hospital doctor or social worker can book you free hospital transport. This will either be an ambulance or car.

If you can get to the hospital independently but receive Income Support, you can apply for help with your travel expenses. Take your benefit book with you to your appointment to prove your entitlement, as it's complicated to claim. Ask the hospital where the correct office is to claim your travel costs or you can pick up Leaflet H11 'NHS Hospital Travel Costs' from the hospital or from your local Social Security Office for more details.

Some voluntary groups provide some transport to hospital, though they may need several days notice and may not be active in your area. Some to try are: Flexicare (covering an 8 mile radius of Oxford) on 01865 779404; the British Red Cross transport department, Tel: 01865 225622; and the Fish and Good Neighbour Scheme, Tel: 01865 515102.

### Other Journeys

Many journeys do not concern school or health. If you are unable to transport your child to a service s/he needs, SSD may be able to help you. Contact the SSD Transport Co-ordinator for your area on the following numbers: South & Vale, Tel: 01235 559997; North & West, Tel: 01295 257930; City, Tel: 01865 768329.

There are five **Ring-a-Ride** schemes operating in Oxfordshire. These offer inexpensive door-to-door services in adapted mini-buses for people unable to use public transport and their escorts. They do not transport you or your child to school, hospital appointments or a centre run by SSD, but they do carry you for a social purpose, for instance shopping, swimming, and visiting friends. You can often only book the working day before you wish to travel, but if your child has a special appointment you may be able to book a week in advance. Ring OCVA to book, Tel: 01865 744478.

There are also voluntary minibus and car services in many towns and villages that can take you to the doctor or to a social activity, although not all the vehicles will be suitable for a child with disabilities. Oxfordshire Rural Community Council holds a free directory of services, Tel: 01865 883488.

### **The Family Car**

The Mobility Advice and Vehicle Information Service, Tel: 01344 661 0001, offers practical advice on the best car and adaptations to suit your child. If your child is over 5 years old and receives the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Motability Scheme allows you to put this towards hiring or buying a car or wheelchair, Tel: 01279 635666.

If your child is over 2 and has mobility problems that are likely to be permanent, you may be eligible for a 'Blue Badge' for your car, which allows easier parking in restricted areas and is recognised in Europe. Contact the Blue Badge Administrator, Tel: 01865 854409 to apply.

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### **Public Transport**

Your child (and you as an escort) may be entitled to bus fare concessions, depending on where you live. In some parts of Oxfordshire you will be issued with a Bus Pass or tokens, whilst in others there are no concessions. Check with your local or district council office.

### **Longer Trips**

If you are considering travelling by train with your child, pick up a leaflet '*British Rail and the Disabled Traveller*' at your local station, which gives details of facilities and concessions. Tripscope is a free travel information service for disabled people. It can advise on any journey, local, national or international, Tel: 0845 7585 641

**BOX 12: TRANSPORT SCHEMES**

Banbury Community Transport Association	01295 273086
British Red Cross	01865 225622
British Red Cross Banbury	01295 261261
County Access Officer	01865 815591
Henley Handibus	01491 573575
Mobility Advice	01344 661000
Motability	01279 635666
OCVA Ring a Ride	01865 744478
Readibus Dial-a-Ride	01189 311414
Social Services Transport Co-ordinator	01865 768329
Special Needs Transport Officer	01865 815328
Thamesdown Dial-a-Ride	01793 616050
The Oxfordshire Transport Co-ordinator	01865 251946
Triscope	0208 5807021

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**Toilets for the Disabled**

The National Key Scheme (NKS) offers independent access to public toilets for disabled people. Over 4,000 toilets have been fitted with the NKS lock including those at a number of seaside resorts and other areas of interest. The NKS involves fitting standard locks and making keys available to disabled people. RADAR will supply keys at a cost of £3.50. Send a letter stating your child's disability with a cheque or postal order to RADAR, Unit 12, City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 8AF. Tel: 0207 2503222. RADAR also publishes a book listing locations of all toilets fitted with NKS locks.