

A Parent and Carer guide to Children's University

We are delighted to invite your child to become a member of Essex and Suffolk Children's University. We have provided the following information to help you and your child get the most from their involvement. It is important to remember that participation in Learning Activities must be voluntary and take place outside the normal school day. Please reach out to your school initially for any queries. If you require further assistance, don't hesitate to contact a member of our team. You can find our contact details on the final page.



What is the Children's University?



Watch our animation to
find out more

The Children's University is a charitable trust who aims to develop a love of learning in children. We do this by encouraging and celebrating the participation of 5-14 year olds in extracurricular activities in and outside of school. Children receive a Passport to Learning in which they collect stamp codes for each activity they participate in at Learning Destinations. Learning Destinations are the activity providers we work with and can include after school clubs, museums and galleries, sports clubs, community groups, plus many more. Children receive a certificate upon reaching certain thresholds:

Bronze Award = 30 hours • Silver Award = 65 hours • Gold Award = 100 hours

The certificates follow these increments up to 1000 hours, meaning there are 30 certificates to collect in total. Those who reach the first Bronze award level will be invited to the annual Graduation ceremony in the Summer Term. The ceremony celebrates these achievements and children wear a traditional cap and gown while being presented with a certificate in front of their family and friends.

The Children's University aims to:

- ▶ Increase the number of 'beyond the classroom' opportunities for children aged 5 and above
- ▶ Break down barriers to 'beyond the classroom' opportunities for children facing disadvantage
- ▶ Provide participants with increased levels of curiosity, confidence, and resilience to help them realise their aspirations
- ▶ Recognise and celebrate continuing participation, creating a sense of achievement and success
- ▶ Build partnerships that enables us to provide more opportunities to more children



What is a 'Passport to Learning'?

Every child taking part in the Children's University has their own special 'Passport to Learning' which they use to collect activity stamps each time an event or venue is attended, or when a learning activity is undertaken.

Learning doesn't just take place in the classroom. Children learn new things in all sorts of places: at museums, on nature walks, by playing sports and music, and much more besides.

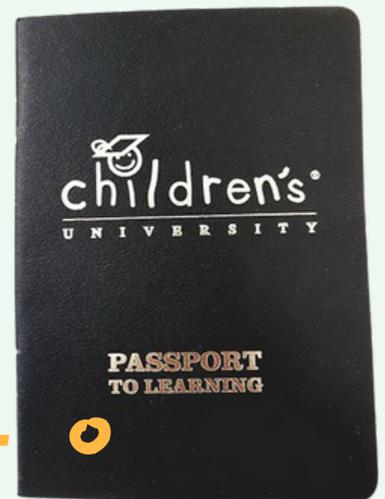
Issued with a Passport to Learning, children can travel around the East of England and the UK with their Passport to Learning, collecting stamps in recognition of their learning as they go. After all - travel is what a Passport is for!

How do I get stamps?

Hours can be collected at all after school clubs and other extra-curricular activities which take place in your child's school. They can also collect hours by visiting the many public Learning Destinations that are part of CU, these are clubs and organisations such as Sports clubs, Drama clubs, Scouts, Brownies, National Trusts and many more!

You can search for activities here;

<https://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/activity-search/>





Discover Learning Destinations

On the [National Children's University website](#), you can not only find all the Learning Destinations here in Essex and Suffolk, but in the rest of the UK too. Even though your child is part of Essex and Suffolk Children's University, there is no limitation to what Learning Destination they can visit, so you can take advantage of this when planning a day out or a holiday!



Children's University Challenges

Each half term Children's University share challenges to complete at home. The school will forward this onto you. These challenges cover a broad range of interests, from science experiments and artistic projects to outdoor explorations and local activities you can get involved in. They offer an exciting way for children to accumulate extra learning hours, especially during school holidays, contributing to their overall Children's University participation.

Contact Details

Email: childrensuni@unityspe.co.uk

Essex and Suffolk Children's University is delivered in partnership with Unity Schools Partnership Education

Read more on:

www.childrensuniversity.co.uk

