

Family-friendly Awards 2026



MAYA ELLIS
Member of Parliament
for Ribble Valley

My guide to family-friendly places and events in Ribble Valley and the wider Lancashire area



Lancashire is full of hidden, and not so hidden, gems that give families space to spend time together.

With help from my constituents, I've pulled together a list of venues, activities and events to help families find things to do across the county. The following were nominated in my first awards.

Family-friendly Pubs

Pubs that go out of their way to cater for families are always great to discover. They might have dedicated spaces for colouring and toys, offer outdoor playgrounds so the kids can have a run around or simply have fantastic menus aimed at younger appetites.

The following pubs have been highlighted as being great for families:

- The Plough, Preston Road, Grimsargh
- The Nabs Head, Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury
- Lower Buck Inn, Edisford Road, Waddington
- Traders Arms, Mellor Lane, Mellor
- The Swan with Two Necks, Pendleton Hall Main Street, Clitheroe
- Ego at The Knowles Arms, Pleckgate Road, Blackburn
- The Stag's Head, Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh

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Family-friendly Restaurants and Cafes

Pubs that go out of their way to cater for families are always great to discover. They might have dedicated spaces for colouring and toys, offer outdoor playgrounds so the kids can have a run around or simply have fantastic menus aimed at younger appetites. The following pubs have been highlighted as being great for families:

- Franco's, Preston Road, Longridge
- Potters Barn, Church Street, Ribchester
- Happy Bunnies, Liverpool Road, Longton
- AJ's at Huntleys, Whalley Road, Samlesbury
- Mini Dunes, Lancaster Road, Preston
- Light Ash Farm Cafe, St Michael's Road, Bilsborrow
- Four1Two, Blackburn Road, Higher Wheelton
- Dempsey's, Briercliffe Road, Burnley
- Eight at Gazegill, Dancer Lane, Rimington
- Farmer Parr's Animal World, Rossall Lane, Fleetwood
- Holy Grounds, Ribblesdale Place, Preston
- The Garden Room, Samlesbury Hall, Preston New Road, Samlesbury
- The Mill at St Catherine's Park, Lostock Lane, Lostock Hall
- Tiggis Ribble Valley, Longsight Road, Clayton-le-Dale
- Ego at The Knowles Arms, Pleckgate Road, Blackburn
- Checks and Greys, Cathedral Close, Blackburn
- Ice and Spice Cafe, King Street, Clitheroe

“

A destination to visit rather than just a café.

”

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Family-friendly Events

From community-run occasions spanning a few days to one-off shows and experiences, Lancashire is renowned for putting on events for all the family. The list below includes recommendations from my constituents:

- Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Show
- Chipping Agricultural Show
- Garstang Show
- Lytham Food Festival
- Lytham 1940s Weekend
- Grimsargh Field Day
- Ribchester Field Day
- Preston Caribbean Carnival
- Longridge Field Day
- Clitheroe YFC Christmas Tractor Run
- Egg Rolling in Avenham Park, Preston
- Chipping Steam Fair
- Leyland Festival
- Longridge Soapbox Derby
- Waddow Hall Easter Family Fun Day
- Waddy Duck Race
- Morecambe Vintage Bus Day
- Festival of Making
- Good Friday Walk to Rivington Pike from all local villages and towns
- Paul's Farm Pumpkin Patch

“ *Great family atmosphere where all are welcome.* ”

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Family-friendly Indoor Activities

If you're looking for somewhere to take the kids' indoors (especially during cold or wet weather), Lancashire has something for all families. Think soft play and escape rooms right through to smaller regular group meetings in community venues. The suggestions below have come from my constituents:

- Leaping Lizards Play Centre, Lincoln Way, Clitheroe
- Flip Out trampoline and adventure park, Mercer Way, Preston
- Rascals Party and Play Centre, Capitol Trade Park, Preston
- The Harris museum, Market Place, Preston
- Lucardo escape room, Kay Street, Rawtenstall
- The Little Lancashire Village - Rawtenstall, Burnley, Brownhill and Darwen
- Fulwood Leisure Centre, Black Bull Lane, Preston
- The Flower Bowl Entertainment Centre, Garstang Road, Brock
- All Thrive Sensory Play Space, Kings Street, Leyland

Family-friendly Outdoor Activities

Looking for a fab day out where all your needs are covered?
These outdoor activities were suggested by my constituents:

- Bowland Wild Boar Park, Bowland Country Park, Chipping
- Mrs Dowson's Farm Park, Longsight Road, Clayton-le-Dale
- Gisburn Forest
- Ribble Valley Steam Railway and Museum, Chain Caul Road, Ashton-on-Ribble
- Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston New Road, Samlesbury
- Windmill Animal Farm, Fish Lane, Burscough
- Farmer Parr's Animal World, Rossall Lane, Fleetwood
- Flower Bowl Crazy Golf, Garstang Road, Brock
- Waddow Activity Centre, Waddington Road, Waddington
- Dunsop Bridge Park Play
- Blackpool Zoo, East Park Drive, Blackpool
- Beacon Fell
- Go Ape, Witton County Park, Blackburn

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Family-friendly Employers

Employers that are supportive of employees with children find their approach improves morale and increases employee retention. The following employers have been given a shout-out by constituents:

- Crown Paints, Hollins Road, Darwen
- Procters Cheeses, Saunders Raike, Chipping
- Vital Synergy, Friendship Mill, Whalley Road, Read
- Hill Dickinson LLP
- easyJet
- Together Women Project
- Caritas Diocese of Salford
- NSPCC
- MAG (Mines Advisory Group)
- ITV
- Places for People

“ Their approach to family life is embedded in the culture.”



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Family-friendly Staff and Menus

We all know those people who remember the names of your kids or chat to your baby while you're getting them into their highchair. Whether it's the serving staff at your favourite cafe or the staff that welcome you at an activity centre, employees who welcome families are worth their weight in gold. It's also great to find an eatery that's given real thought to their kids' menu, with options outside the norm.

The following venues have been praised by constituents for having friendly staff and menus:

- The Plough, Preston Road, Grimsargh
- The Nabs Head, Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury
- Lower Buck Inn, Edisford Road, Waddington
- Traders Arms, Mellor Lane, Mellor
- The Swan with Two Necks, Pendleton Hall Main Street, Clitheroe
- Ego at The Knowles Arms, Pleckgate Road, Blackburn
- The Stag's Head, Whittingham Lane, Goosnargh
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“ Amazing staff that interact with all the family even the four-legged members.” ”