



Actaccessible
Drama for Every Body



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

IMPACT REPORT

2026

Connecting people through accessible creativity



No one left out of the story

Theatre • storytelling • creative learning • digital inclusion

CONTACT & SUPPORT

contact@actaccessible.co.uk

actaccessible.co.uk

actaccessible.co.uk/support

CHARITY & REGISTRATION

Registered CIO in England and Wales

Charity no. 1216226 | ICO no. ZC072610

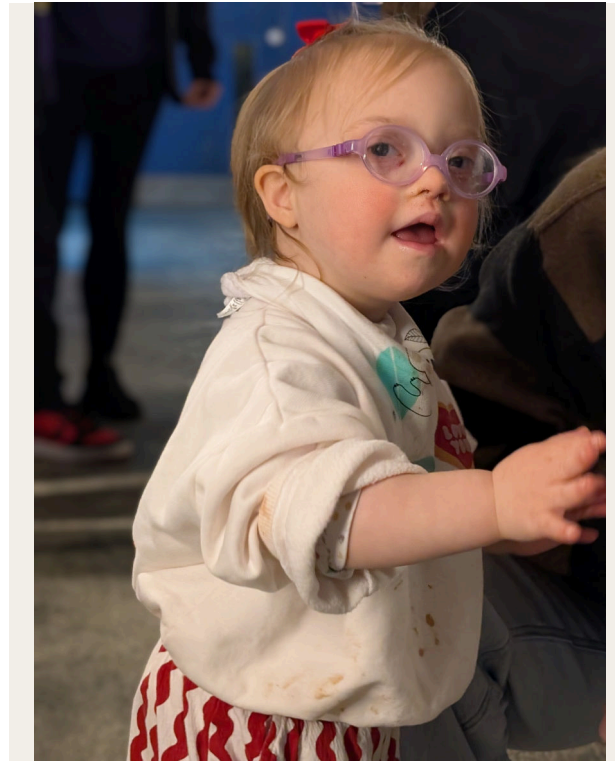
Trentside Studios, 3 Friars Walk,
Burton-on-Trent, DE14 1HS

Connection is the story.

The moments that matter are often simple: being seen, joining in, sharing a story and finding a way to communicate.



A chance to take part



Every moment matters



Shared experiences



Stories brought to life



Different ways to connect

Accessible experiences are shaped around the person, not the other way round.

Our work makes space for different forms of participation and connection.

THE DIFFERENCE WE ARE MAKING

Participation. Quality. A sense of belonging.

1,180

face-to-face engagements
in 2026

100%

would recommend Actcessible
Independent partner survey
Autumn 2026

9.9/10

average overall experience
Independent partner survey
Autumn 2026

57%

of team survey respondents
identified as disabled
Internal team members survey

The difference behind the numbers

“Since my disability prevents me from driving, I have been unable to take up many freelance acting opportunities. However, Actcessible has not only given me an opportunity to perform, but has actively worked on and carried out a plan to enable me to take the train to locations independently. Actcessible has been life-changing for me.”

Freelance performer working with Actcessible

HOW WE WORK

Access people can feel

Access starts before the visit. We talk with hosts about communication, sensory needs, space and timings. Those conversations shape both the performance and the activities around it.

“Having the BSL integrated was great and the humour kept all the children engaged the whole way through.”

Trustee, Derby Deaf Children’s Society



Sensory exploration during a visit.

Adaptable

Signing, audio description, touch tours, music and flexible pacing create different routes into the story.

Compassionate

Participants can watch, move, explore, meet a character or take a break. We respond to each person’s choices.

Team spirited

Performers, volunteers and hosts work together so that access is part of the whole visit.

100%

rated performers good or excellent in the independent partner survey (October); 90.4% rated them excellent.

STORIES THAT INVITE PARTICIPATION

Theatre to feel, follow and enjoy



The Bedtime Beastie

Especially created for visually impaired people to enjoy, while welcoming all audiences. Music, puppetry and touch tours bring a story about accepting difference to life through sound, texture and close-up interaction.

“I really liked the touch tour in the middle. This gave us the chance to feel the props and help understand the story more.”

Young visually impaired audience member



The Sword in the Stone

Especially created for Deaf children to enjoy, while welcoming all audiences. A playful adventure with integrated signing, adapted through audio description, Sign Supported English and flexible pacing to suit each group.

“Having the BSL integrated was great and the humour kept all the children engaged the whole way through.”

Trustee, Derby Deaf Children’s Society



The Masked Princess

Through songs, puppetry and visual storytelling, The Masked Princess introduces children to social masking: concealing or adapting behaviours and feelings to meet perceived expectations. The story explores the emotional effort this can involve, encouraging empathy, self-acceptance and freedom of expression.

“My child normally won’t sit through television or theatre for very long at all, but they watched the whole of The Masked Princess. I really think the story about masking and being yourself connected with them.”

Parent, Spectrum Autism Friendly Festival

CARE, PLAY AND MOMENTS OF RESPITE

A moment away from hospital life

The child who chose to stay

A young patient had spent the day moving between medical tests and appointments. During The Bedtime Beastie, she became absorbed in the puppets, characters and story. When her appointments were finished, she chose to stay for the rest of the show.

THE VIEW FROM THE WARD

“We’ve had these amazing performers today and they were just outstandingly good. The children were engaging. It was just wonderful and thank you so much for charities like this. They really do deserve a lot of support. They make such a difference.”

NHS Play Specialist



WHAT HEALTHCARE PARTNERS TELL US

“We've absolutely loved having Actcessible here today to perform at the children's outpatients department. It was really fun, really engaging, the colours were brilliant, the use of puppets was brilliant as well, and it worked really, really well for the young children and it was really refreshing to see such enthusiasm and thought about people.”

Music Co-ordinator, Air Arts, Burton and Derby Hospital

ACCESS DESIGNED AROUND THE PERSON

Not a one-size-fits-all performance.

In Deaf, visual-impairment and SEN settings, access is built into the story, the preparation and the way every person can take part.



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT



DEAF / BSL



SEN / SENSORY

86.5%

of independent 2026 partner survey respondents reported only occasional or rare access to specialist accessible performances or creative activities in their setting.

A STORY YOU CAN FEEL

The Bedtime Beastie uses audio description, puppetry and touch tours. A young visually impaired audience member said handling props helped them understand the story.

BSL THAT BELONGS

Signing is integrated into The Sword in the Stone, allowing Deaf and hearing children to experience the story together. Partner feedback praised the access and engagement.

ENGAGEMENT AT THEIR PACE

For SEN audiences, performers adjust communication, pacing and interaction. In partner feedback, a previously hesitant child joined crafts and came back for more.

WHAT PARTNERS NOTICE

“Actcessible tailors the show to suit our needs. They gave enough time care and compassion to each child both during the show and the games and interaction afterwards.”

SEN provision staff — independent 2026 partner survey

SKILLS THAT TRAVEL BEYOND A VISIT

Another way to be heard



MORE THAN WORDS

Through signing, gesture and creative play, children explore how to share feelings, make choices and connect with others. Their ideas count, whether or not they use spoken words.

When speech is difficult

After a signing workshop, a parent described her autistic daughter continuing to learn signs for feelings and everyday words. When speech was difficult, she had another way to express herself. Another workshop account describes a boy using signs to communicate stress when he could not vocalise his feelings.

“It was good learning about Braille and British Sign Language in our School. I'm proud I now can spell my name in sign language.”

School pupil, aged 10

Practising skills through drama

At Portland College, two October performances were accompanied by accessible drama workshops. Storytelling and role-play offered opportunities to practise communication, make choices and explore everyday situations.

“We had Actcessible in our school today and it's been brilliant. They've taught the children about sign language and Braille, but also the importance of being respectful and showing kindness towards others, and also about how all differences should be celebrated in school.”

Primary School Headteacher

LEARNING THAT LEAVES THE CLASSROOM

Inclusion is not just explained. It is practised.

Actcessible uses BSL, Braille and drama to explore communication, respect, belonging and real-life situations.



FROM A STORY TO EVERYDAY UNDERSTANDING

A performance opens the conversation. Practical workshops give pupils ways to explore communication differences and practise including one another.

01 DISCOVER

BSL, Braille and sensory exploration show pupils different ways to communicate.

02 PRACTISE

Role-play lets learners try choices, conversations and everyday situations.

03 INCLUDE

Lessons turn shared creative play into kindness, respect and belonging.

THE IMPACT THAT LASTS

Learning beyond the visit

School feedback describes pupils continuing to learn signs and sharing what they had learned in an assembly months later.

Confidence outside school

"I feel more confident ordering in a restaurant after the drama workshop."

SEN teenage beneficiary

Drama helps children practise how to communicate, understand difference and include one another.

CREATIVE LEARNING IN PRACTICE

More than a workshop.

Beyond our performances, Actcessible offers practical, accessible workshops that help people communicate, practise everyday situations and discover new skills.

86.5%

of partner survey respondents said they had accessed interactive drama or creative workshops from Actcessible.

46.2%

accessed educational sessions or lessons

51.9%

accessed family and community activities

THE CHANGES PEOPLE NOTICE

"Kept me calmer. The workshop helped when we practised being in a restaurant."

Workshop participant

"I spelt my name and it felt good."

Workshop participant

SKILLS THAT TRAVEL HOME

Workshops can make space to rehearse making choices, ordering food, using Braille, exploring BSL and asking for what we need. One learner said they felt more confident ordering at a restaurant after drama role-play. Partner feedback described learners practising independence and communicating at their own pace.

THE NEED PARTNERS ARE TELLING US ABOUT

Wellbeing matters.

Partners told us which themes they would most like Actcessible performances or workshops to address in the future. Their priorities extend well beyond entertainment.

93.1%

expressed interest in mental health and emotional wellbeing as a theme for future work.

INTEREST IN FUTURE WORKSHOP AND PERFORMANCE THEMES



A PRIORITY, NOT AN OUTCOME CLAIM

These percentages show interest in future topics, not a measured improvement in wellbeing for every person. They help us plan activities responding to the emotional, social and communication needs of our audiences.

Source: Independent Actcessible Partner Survey 2026 (27 October dashboard).

WHAT THE FEEDBACK CONFIRMS

Inclusion people can feel.

Alongside the direct workshop feedback, partners rated the accessibility, educational value and participation within Actcessible performances. Their responses help show what inclusive creative delivery can look like.

100% agreed performances were accessible and inclusive for the people they support.

100% agreed performances encouraged audience participation and engagement.

100% agreed performances introduced valuable ideas, skills or experiences.

98.1% agreed performances were educational and informative.

THE CASE FOR RETURN VISITS

93.9% would consider welcoming Actcessible one or more times a year if funding and resources were available.

Reliable funding could help turn that interest into consistent access.

THE MOMENTS THAT STAY WITH US

Being seen. Joining in.

Watching the whole story

At Spectrum Autism Friendly Festival, a parent reported that their child watched all of The Masked Princess, despite usually finding it difficult to stay with television or theatre. They felt that the themes of masking and being yourself had connected with their child. The significance was personal: a story had held their attention in a way the parent did not usually see.

Connection across language and experience

At Upbeat Communities in Derby, performers spent time with women and children from displaced communities, including families who had recently arrived in the UK. Music, play and creative activity offered shared ways to participate, communicate and enjoy time together.

From watching to dancing

At Carden Care Home, the team described residents moving from quiet observation to dancing with performers. One resident asked for more when the session finished. The change in the room was immediate: people were moving, responding and sharing the experience.

A PERFORMER REFLECTS ON THE TOUR

“It's been an honour to be a part of a tour that is making such a huge difference to people who otherwise would have a lot more difficulty accessing theatre. You can visibly see the joy and lightness it brings! We've had a couple of times where it's been tough not to get emotional. The impact is obvious and the need for organisations like Actcessible and tours like this is obvious!”

Actcessible performer — published website testimony

INCLUSION WITHIN THE TEAM

Opportunity changes more than a performance.

Lived experience shapes our work. Practical adjustments, flexible communication and supported responsibilities help people contribute their skills and develop confidence.

“Actcessible means a lot to me as someone with a learning disability. It helps me improve my confidence and personal growth. And during my time as part of the crew of Actcessible, it has helped me make some really lovely friends.”

Actcessible volunteer — video testimony

ALISHA: A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

“I was born extremely prematurely at 24 weeks gestation. I spent almost the first two years of my life in the NICU and PICU, being intensively cared for by the neonatal staff, and have been back and forth ever since.

One of the things I have always wished for, even as an adult, is a way to distract myself from back to back observations, tests, and scans, a way to truly switch off.

Actcessible provides that distraction for everyone, whether it is tailored for deaf people or for blind people like myself. If I had experienced something like Actcessible while on a ward, it would have taken me to a place where I did not have to worry about the next test or scan.

I could take a break from hospital life. I feel more places should have setups like this, it makes such a difference.”

Alisha — Actcessible volunteer | Full homepage testimony

CREATIVE ACCESS BEYOND A VISIT

The story continues online

A visit can start a conversation. Online games, stories and videos give children, families and educators another way to explore communication, disability and creativity in their own time.

4,000+

website interactions

First 10 months of 2026

Learn through play

Braille Racer and BSL – Escape The Temple introduce communication through interactive challenges. They extend the practical learning at the heart of our workshops.

Choose an adventure

Dragon Tamer includes signing and captions. Squeakspeare offers optional audio cues and spoken descriptions, giving players different ways to follow the action.

Learn from lived experience

The Louis Braille video features a blind contributor who reads Braille. Other resources explore neurodiversity and disability rights, with captions, transcripts and signed content.

Participation can continue after the performers leave: learning a sign, trying a new game or exploring a different perspective with someone at home or school.

Explore: actcessible.co.uk/online

BUILDING ON THE FIRST YEAR

More opportunities. Stronger foundations.

Our next step is to make accessible creative visits more dependable: returning to communities, responding to what hosts tell us and properly resourcing the people and preparation behind each visit.

OUR 2027 AMBITION

40

performances

30

workshops

2,500

attendances

Our provisional target is approximately 2,500 attendances across the entire planned 2027 outreach programme. Actual attendance will depend on the venues, settings and needs of each group, and will be recorded as activities take place.

Invest in people and access

Support paid creative work, rehearsal and preparation, accessible resources, transport and host liaison.

Keep learning from experience

Strengthen attendance records, accessible feedback and follow-up so we can understand what changes for participants.

Build lasting relationships

Develop repeat visits and a mix of grants, donations, Gift Aid, fundraising and partnership income.

RESPONSIBILITY BEHIND EVERY VISIT

Trust, accountability and good governance.

Our work is supported by defined responsibilities, safeguarding procedures and trustee oversight — so inclusion is delivered with care, integrity and accountability.

OUR CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Registered CIO

Charity number 1216226

ENGLAND & WALES

Established December 2025

Independent trustee oversight of charitable purpose and public benefit.

01 / DIRECTION

Trustee leadership

The Board of Trustees oversees strategy, charitable objectives, risk and organisational decisions. Defined roles include the Chair, Treasurer and Safeguarding Trustee.

02 / PROTECTION

Safeguarding

A Designated Safeguarding Lead and deputies support clear reporting pathways, safer recruitment, DBS checks, staff training and risk assessments tailored to each venue.

03 / ASSURANCE

Financial stewardship

Trustees oversee budgets, management accounts and expenditure decisions. Treasurer scrutiny, financial records and clear responsibilities support careful use of charity resources.

04 / DIGNITY

Privacy and inclusion

A Data Protection Officer, access controls and confidentiality procedures protect personal information. Lived experience and accessible feedback help shape improvements.

PLAN • PROTECT • REVIEW • IMPROVE

Public safeguarding, safer recruitment, data protection and equality policies are available via actaccessible.co.uk/from-our-dsl.



Help make room for the next story.

Thank you to the children, families, learners, hosts, volunteers, performers and supporters who have made our first year possible.

“I really enjoyed watching and singing along to the songs and the music. I enjoyed Beastie going on her little adventure. The colourful bouncy ball was great to play with.”

Audience member, aged 8

Inspired by what you've read? Whether you'd like to arrange a visit, discuss a partnership or support our work, we'd love to hear from you.

Support a visit. Help resource access. Become a partner.

Make your next conversation count.

Visits, partnerships and general enquiries:

contact@actcessible.co.uk

To support our work: www.actcessible.co.uk/support

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