



Fringe by the Sea: Family Guide 2026

Everything you need for a brilliant day out with the kids

Fringe by the Sea is a festival for everyone - and families are right at the heart of it. Whether you're popping in for a few hours or making a full day of it, there's plenty to keep little ones (and grown-ups) entertained.

We believe the best festival experiences are shared across generations - bringing together kids, parents, grandparents and friends to enjoy great moments side by side.

As part of our 2026 Love of Life theme, this year's festival is packed with opportunities to get creative, explore nature, discover new things and connect with each other.

What to Expect

From live shows and hands-on workshops to free drop-in activities, Fringe by the Sea is packed with family-friendly experiences across the site.

- A dedicated Kids Zone with free and ticketed activities
- Interactive workshops, crafts and creative sessions
- Family-friendly shows across music, theatre, science and storytelling
- Open, relaxed spaces to explore, play and take a breather

Many events are designed specifically for children, while others are suitable for all ages - just check listings for guidance. Under 18 tickets are available for some events. These may be limited in number. See event listings for details.

Children must be supervised at all times

Family Programme

This year's family programme is packed with magical moments for curious minds and creative kids. Highlights include:

CIRCOBELLO – A joyful mix of circus, physical comedy and colourful characters, packed with laughs and family-friendly fun.

Joseph Coelho: Relic – The former Children's Laureate brings storytelling, imagination and adventure to life.

Black Blues Brothers: Let's Twist Again – High-energy acrobatics, jaw-dropping stunts and musical comedy for all ages.

MASSAOKE: Sing The Movies – A giant movie-themed singalong where everyone can join in with the biggest film hits.

Kevin Quantum: And For My Next Trick – Mind-blowing magic, illusions and audience participation from Scotland's master magician.

Artie's Singing Kettle – Songs, stories and nostalgic family fun from one of Scotland's best-loved children's performers.

Comedy Club 4 Kids – Proper stand-up comedy for children and their grown-ups, featuring top comedy performers.

Monski Mouse's Baby Disco Dance Hall – A playful dance party packed with music, movement and fun for little ones.

Mr Boom – Interactive songs, stories and musical mayhem guaranteed to get kids joining in.

Circus Skills Workshop – Learn juggling, plate spinning and circus tricks in these hands-on drop-in sessions.

There's plenty for older kids and grown-ups too - from film screenings and creative masterclasses to interactive performances, outdoor adventures and free live music across the site.

Many shows offer discounted tickets for children, helping make the festival accessible for families.

Free & Drop-In Fun Around the Site

There's loads to enjoy beyond ticketed events:

- theSpace Dunbar – try DJing, music-making and creative activities with local youth projects
- Makers Market – colourful stalls, gifts and crafts to browse (great for kids too)
- The Hub – free live music, pop-up activities and a lively festival atmosphere
- Pop-up activities – from crafts to games, surprises pop up across the site daily
- Wildlife Discovery Trail – explore the festival site, uncover East Lothian creatures, learn fun nature facts and collect rewards along the way
- Bloom Canopy – colour your own butterflies, bugs and birds onsite, then watch them become part of the evolving community artwork in the central Hub
- Doodle Crazy – look out for our Doodle House, Cubes and Waves

Babes in arms go free

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult

Food & Drink

There's something for even the fussiest eaters:

- Street food village with a wide variety of options
- Sweet treats, ice cream and snacks
- Plenty of family-friendly choices

Take a break, grab food and enjoy it in the open spaces.

Getting Around

The festival takes place in a park setting with grass and some uneven ground. It's buggy-friendly, but terrain can vary. There's short walking distances between area and plenty of space to sit, relax and regroup

Comfortable footwear is recommended for everyone

Accessibility for Families

- All main venues are wheelchair accessible
- Buggy transport available from Meet & Greet point
- Accessible toilets on site with baby change facilities -these can be found in the Big Top arena, Lodge venue area and in the main toilet block
- Friendly stewards on hand to help

If you have specific requirements, the team are always happy to assist. See our Accessibility Guide for more information.

Bringing the Dog?

Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome on site and at most shows, with the exception of some evening standing gigs in the Big Top (as indicated on event listings)

Look out for the Dog Water Station, kindly provided by Barker and Bone

Lost Children & Welfare

- Lost or Found children are taken to the Crew Hut (behind Box Office)
- First Aid team on site
- Speak to any steward if you need help

Top Tips for Families

- Book in advance – popular shows sell out quickly
- Mix ticketed events with free drop-in activities
- Build in time for food, rest and exploring
- Check age guidance before booking
- Arrive early for a more relaxed start

- Bring headphones/ear protectors for the music events

Make a Day of It

Fringe by the Sea isn't just about shows - it's about soaking up the atmosphere.

Take your time, wander the site, discover something unexpected, and enjoy a proper day out by the sea.