



Rebel Sparks presents

Take Flight

Soar into a magical nest where a musical mother bird welcomes her curious chick. This enchanting, sensory adventure invites babies and caregivers to explore, play, and discover together joyfully.

Attenborough Arts Centre

Tickets: £10 recommended (pay what you can)

Baby and carer must have a ticket each

Sat 16 May 11am, 12.30pm & 2.30pm



Natalie Thomas and Stasha Dukic present

In The Deep

A gentle under the sea show for babies under 12 months. Lasts up to 90 minutes, with flexible entry and exit. Enjoy music, movement and puppets at your own pace.

Pork Pie Library

£4 per person

Sat 16 May 11am & 1.30pm



The Spark Arts for Children presents

The Spark Takeover

Children are in charge at this free, drop-in event! Come and experience creative activities for all the family, planned and co-created with children from Leicester schools.

Leicester Gallery

Tickets: FREE no booking required

Sun 17 May 11am till 3pm Drop in anytime



Attenborough Arts Centre presents

Sunday Sessions Give It A Go!

Join our friendly team in the Salmon Gallery for relaxed, creative sessions inspired by *Material Worlds*. Explore recycled wearable art, weaving, crochet or drawing, with space for your own responses.

Attenborough Arts Centre

Tickets: FREE no booking required

Sun 17 May 1pm - 3pm Drop in anytime



Crescendorious presents

Les-tah to the Front

A high energy show where an interactive live band celebrates your hometown "Les-tah". Packed with fun, kindness and punkstyle excitement, it's perfect family fun.

Curve

Tickets: from £10 a £2 non-refundable booking fee applies per order

Sat 23 May 11am & 2pm



Pedestrian presents

Graffiti / DJing

Work with professional graffiti artists to experiment with spray paint and make your own artwork. Mix beats and make your own music with professional DJs

More free creative activities happening throughout the day 11am-5pm

Pedestrian

Tickets: £8 per workshop

Sat 23 May Graffiti 11am / DJing 1pm



Phoenix presents

Paper Movies Workshop

Create your own paper movie in this drop-in workshop. Draw scenes on a paper film strip, then thread it through a special camera to bring your handmade mini movie to life.

Phoenix

Tickets: FREE no booking required

Sat 23 May 12 pm till 4pm Drop-in anytime



Curve in collaboration with The Spark Arts for Children

Family Community Day!

Enjoy a free Family Community Day at Curve with The Spark Arts for Children. Drop-in anytime 10:30am-4pm for creative, child led play and imaginative activities for all ages.

Curve

Tickets: FREE no booking required

Sat 23 May 10:30am till 4pm Drop-in anytime



Move Manchester presents

Lilo Lost it

Join Lilo on an enchanting journey of self-discovery as she explores themes of her mixed heritage identity, acceptance, and cultural celebration. Discover the joy of celebrating differences and the beauty of embracing who you are!

The BRITE Centre

Tickets: £5 / £4 with library card

Sat 23 May 11am & 2pm
30 mins with 15min workshop



Open Play Early Years presents

Tiny Play, Open Play and Replay

Let's play! An exciting day of hands-on creativity and sensory exploration.

Full workshop details online.

Leicester Gallery

Tickets: Pay what you can from £3

Sun 24 May 10 am-11am (0-12 months),
11am-12pm (0-4 years),
12.30pm-1.30pm (3-6 years)



Phoenix presents

A Minecraft Movie (PG)

♥ CHILDREN'S CHOICE

Four misfits are swept through a mysterious portal into a strange cubic world powered by imagination, where they embark on a magical quest.

Phoenix

Tickets: £3

Sat 23 & Sun 24 May check online for times



A Polka Theatre, Turtle Key Arts and AIK production

Sisters 360

♥ CHILDREN'S CHOICE

Stepsisters Fatima and Salima are determined to win the Tiny is Mighty skateboarding contest. When family drama hits, they launch a daring plan in this funny, uplifting show.

Performance followed by Q&A with the cast and the Mega Bosses of Spark

Attenborough Arts Centre

Tickets: Pay what you can from £5

Sun 24 May 2.30pm



The Mega Bosses of Spark

Peace, Equity and Play matter to us because they make the world better. **Peace** helps everyone feel safe and looked after. **Equity** means everyone gets a fair chance to join in and share their ideas. **Play** makes life fun and helps our imaginations grow. These values are important for Spark Festival 2026 because the festival is all about coming together, having fun and showing how we can help make the world kinder and fairer.

The Mega Bosses on why they chose peace, equity and play is part of Spark Festival 2026

The Spark Festival is amplifying children's voices across the city!

The brochure cover design was illustrated by The Mega Bosses working with a professional graphic designer to create this year's festival look reflecting the festival themes. Follow The Spark's socials to see more of their amazing artworks and marketing skills.

 SparkArtsFestival  @thesparkarts

Aged 8–13 and interested to become a Mega Boss?
Email info@thesparkarts.co.uk

CHILDREN'S CHOICE

means our Mega Bosses picked these
(the ultimate stamp of approval).

Hello from Trina

Director of The Spark Arts For Children

We are excited to invite you to The Spark Festival 2026. Our small and mighty team has been working hard with those really in charge – The Mega Bosses of Spark (aged 8–13). Our bosses have been very clear in their vision: the festival will be **“fun, not boring!”** They've also inspired our festival themes **Peace, Equity and Play** reminding us that joy and big ideas can go hand in hand.

For over 20 years, The Spark has culturally raised Leicester's children and this year they are front and centre of everything at the festival.

Expect to see The Spark Festival in libraries, schools and community venues with brilliant shows, hands-on adventures and plenty of free or pocket-money activities happening across the city. There's so much to explore from 16–24 May. We can't wait to welcome you to play, discover and make memories with us!

book online
thesparkarts.co.uk



Did you know The Spark is at your School?

You can book music, theatre and dance performances for your school hall during the festival. Full details online: thesparkarts.co.uk/schools

Festival Venues

The venues can help with specific information including access and booking tickets.

Attenborough Arts Centre

University of Leicester,
Lancaster Road LE1 7HA
Tickets 0116 252 2455
www.attenborougharts.com

Curve

Rutland Street LE1 1SB
Tickets 0116 242 3595
www.curveonline.co.uk

Leicester Gallery

De Montfort University, LE1 9BH
leicestergallery@dmu.ac.uk
thegallery.dmu.ac.uk

Pedestrian

29a Horsefair St, Leicester LE1 5BP
0116 251 6207
info@pedestrian.info
www.pedestrian.info

Phoenix

4 Midland Street LE1 1TG
0116 242 2800
www.phoenix.org.uk

Pork Pie Library & Community Centre

Southfields Drive LE2 6QS
0116 299 5480

The BRITE Centre

Braunstone Avenue LE3 1LE
0116 299 5476

The Spark Team are always happy to assist should you need us, tel: 0116 261 6893

We love to hear from people interested in volunteering and want to help us bring fun, creative arts experiences to children at our events.



Scan the QR code to see the full programme or visit thesparkarts.co.uk

Enormous thanks

Thank you for your donations and time including to those who supported us through The Big Give Arts for Impact campaign. You have all helped make The Spark Festival 2026 possible.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



If you'd like to help us reach even more children so they can attend in the future, please consider paying it forward. Email us at info@thesparkarts.co.uk



Planet Parade

During The Spark Festival you can discover Leicester in a new way with *Planet Parade*, a free family space trail mixing science and creativity created by local children and artists.

Venues across Leicester until 31 May

Download the My Leicester App to take part..