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Whistlestop visit for train club

THERE was plenty to choo-choo-choose from when a miniature railway club specially tailored for autistic children visited a special school.

The Engine Club set up model steam, diesel and electric locomotive layouts at the Avenue School, in Conwy Close, where it marked the first of its once-a-term visits on Friday.

Volunteers John Jeffery and Barrie Machin guided youngsters through Hornby, Brio and Thomas the Tank Engine models explaining how they worked.

Organiser Sarah Snow, from Emmer Green, founded a sister club in Romford, Essex, last year on behalf of her son Marcus Leith-Snow, seven, who suffers with the neurological disorder affecting social interaction.

She said: "The children were really excited and one of the teachers said it really helped

them focus and improve their communication skills."

The club meets on the last Saturday of every month, from 11am-2pm, at Katesgrove Children's Centre, in

Elgar Road, Reading.

There is a suggested £1 donation towards refreshments.

Email sarahsnowuk@yahoo.co.uk or see www.theengineshed.org.uk



On track: Engine Shed volunteers John Jeffery, right, and Barrie Machin, set up miniature railways for Avenue School pupils.