

ABC NEWSLETTER

The bi-monthly newsletter from The Leeds & District Autism, Behaviour, Communication Support Group

Registered Charity No. 1023066

June-July 2010

www.abcleeds.org.uk

Contact us at Leeds ABC, 25 Somerdale Walk, Bramley, LS13 4SF, Tel : (0113) 2579269 (a message can be left on this number). Alternatively, email info@abcleeds.org.uk or cath.leedsabc@googlemail.com. Views expressed by correspondents are their own and not necessarily those of the committee members or the editor. Leeds ABC does not recommend any one approach to autism, just as no two people are the same, so their individual responses will differ.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Susan - 2579269, Mandy - 2795142, Catherine - 07552181803, Susan C. - 2770779, Vic - 2822797

Hello! Welcome to the Leeds ABC newsletter. First of all we need to say that **we've moved out of our office!** Therefore all calls and correspondence must be directed to our chairperson Susan's address and telephone number (see above). Our monthly meetings will still be held at the **Cubic Business Centre in the meeting room.** Features in this edition include, courses, autism friendly airport information and much more!

DIARY DATES

GROUP MEETINGS	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
LEEDS ABC (DAYTIME MEETING) Suite 3, Cubic Business Centre, 533 Stanningley Road, LS13 4EN	Tuesday 8 th 10am-midday	Tuesday 13 th 10am-midday	
KIRKSTALL LEISURE CENTRE Kirkstall Lane, Leeds LS5 3BE Family swim in large pool	Saturday 12 th 5pm-6pm	Saturday 17 th 5pm-6pm	
AUTISM/ASPERGER ADVICE SESSIONS 3 rd floor meeting room Central Library	Friday 11 th 10am-midday	Friday 2 nd 10am-midday	<u>No session in August</u> Back again on; <u>Friday 3rd September</u>
LEEDS ABC (EVENING MEETING) Burley Lodge Centre 42-46 Burley Lodge Road LS6 1QF	Wednesday 30 th 6pm-8pm		

A full list of support groups around Leeds and their meeting times is available and called "Additional Needs & More!" Please contact our Information Officer, Catherine Holme on cath.leedsabc@googlemail.com tel: 0775 218 1803 if you require a copy.

AUTISM/ASPERGER ADVICE SESSIONS

Leeds Library and Information Service in partnership with STARS (Education Leeds Autism Response Service) and Leeds ABC will help you with advice on issues relating to individual children and young people with autism and their specific needs as well as information and support for parents. Library staff will help

you use Boardmaker to design and print visual resources. All sessions run from 10.00am to midday on the 3rd floor meeting room of the Central Library. This will be a standing item under "Diary Dates".

BOARDMAKER (PECS SYMBOLS)

The software programme, Boardmaker, has thousands of symbols and images that can be printed and used to support visual communication e.g. communication boards, visual timetables and social stories and is available in 25 libraries across Leeds. Parents and Professionals can book sessions with a librarian to learn how to use the software or use the software independently to print boards and symbols. Each library has a laminator so that you can laminate your boards and symbols after printing. There is no charge for using Boardmaker in libraries or for laminating your boards and symbols, but there is a charge of 15p per page for printing. The libraries are:

ARMLEY	BEESTON	BRAMLEY	CENTRAL	CHAPEL ALLERTON
CHAPELTOWN	COMPTON ROAD*	CROSSGATES	DEWSBURY ROAD	GARFORTH
GUISELEY	HALTON	HEADINGLEY	HOLT PARK	HORSFORTH
MIDDLETON	MOOR ALLERTON	MORLEY	OAKWOOD	OTLEY
PUDSEY	ROTHWELL	SEACROFT	WETHERBY	YEADON

* Compton Road reopens in late 2010

For further information visit, www.leeds.gov.uk/boardmaker or telephone Enquiry Express for more details: (0113) 2476016. Alternatively you can also contact the Learning Co-ordinator, Jason Tutin on: (0113) 3952357 or email: jason.tutin@leeds.gov.uk.

BIC Kids teacher's resources

BIC Kids is working with The National Autistic Society (NAS) by producing free teaching resources for teachers. Their teaching resource includes classroom activities both to help teachers support children with autism and to explain the condition to the class as a whole. Using drawing and colouring helps to make lessons fun and creative and can help children with autism practice their fine motor skills and express their emotions in a non-verbal way. To download the resource pack visit: www.bickidsschoolclub.com.

The SEN Market Place Event

Tuesday 15th June 2010

10am - 2pm

Leeds Civic Hall

The SEN Market Place event was initiated in 2007 by the then North West (SILC) Parents Forum to help families. It was hoped this event was able to bring multi agencies and families together under one roof providing information about the help and support that lots of families need.

Light lunch will be provided.

For more information contact:

Angela Bernard-Ferguson Information Officer, Leeds Parent Partnership Service

Tel: 0113 3951236

Email: angela.bernard-ferguson@educationleeds.co.uk

Leeds ABC and The Next Generation Youth Group will have an information stall at this event.

Meanwhile, if there's any particular information about autism you would like to see at this event, please contact the Leeds ABC Information Officer, Catherine Holme at cath.leedsabc@googlemail.com or Mobile 07552181803. Look out for us!

NAS help! 2 course Wakefield Managing anger in young people (8-16 years) with Asperger syndrome

17 Jun 2010 10.00 am - 2.30 pm

Managing anger in young people with Asperger syndrome is a practical seminar focusing on communication strategies and dealing with difficult behaviours. Looking also at dealing with your son/daughter's anger and

some coping strategies. In this particular seminar the NAS will not be covering physical interventions. The seminar is specifically aimed at those parents/carers with children aged 8-16 years of age with a diagnosis of Asperger syndrome or autism spectrum condition (ASC) within mainstream schools.

Please note light refreshments only are available on these programmes; please feel free to bring your own lunch if required.

Jubilee Hall Community Centre, 5 Roads Ends, Townley Road, Wakefield, WF2 8NS

For any queries relating to help! 2 seminars please contact the NAS on 0191 5680732 or

jan.fuller@nas.org.uk.

NAS help! 2 course Wakefield Supporting the siblings of your child with an ASD

24 Jun 2010 10.00am - 2.30pm

A seminar focussing on the needs of the siblings of your child with an autism spectrum condition and strategies to teach the siblings about their brother/sister and ASDs. This seminar is aimed at parents/carers who have a child with an ASC and additional siblings (aged up to 18). Please note that light refreshments only are available on these programmes; please feel free to bring your own lunch if required.

Jubilee Hall Community Centre, 5 Roads Ends, Townley Road, Wakefield, WF2 8NS

Please contact Jan Fuller on 0191 5680732 or jan.fuller@nas.org.uk to book a place. Light refreshments only will be provided on this seminar. Please feel free to bring your own lunch.

Also don't forget the Leeds Help! 2 courses:

Meeting your child's sensory needs

29 June 2010 10.00am - 2.30pm

Stanningley Sports and Amateur Rugby Club, The Arthur Miller Stadium, Coal Hill Drive, Leeds, LS13 1PA and

Anti-bullying strategies and support for your child with an ASD

07 July 2010 10:30am - 2:30pm

Stanningley Sports and Amateur Rugby Club, The Arthur Miller Stadium, Coal Hill Drive, Leeds, LS13 1PA

These seminars are aimed at parents/carers of people aged 3-18 years of age who have a diagnosis of autism, Asperger syndrome or ASD. To book a place on these programmes please phone: Jan Fuller on (0191) 5680732 or email jan.fuller@nas.org.uk.

NAS Calderdale Resource Centre Summer conference

Monday 28 June 2010

The Shay Stadium, Shaw Hill, Halifax, HX1 2YT

From 8.45am (registration) till 4.30pm.

Something for everyone! Including workshops on employment, sensory issues and much more.

Cost: £60 professional; £30 parent/carer; £10 person with autism

Tea and coffee served throughout the day. Sandwich buffet lunch provided.

Places may be limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

For further details and to book a place contact:

Calvin Manyange (NAS Calderdale Resource Centre Manager)

NAS Calderdale Autism Resource Centre

Hanson Lane Enterprise Centre, Hanson Lane, Halifax, HX1 5PG

Email: calderdaleresourcecentre@nas.org.uk

Mobile: 07500 088 569 / 07563 707512

New National Autistic Society website:

The new NAS website launched on 25th May. They've redesigned the way it looks and have introduced lots of new features. I've been on it briefly and it's much improved! To find out more visit

www.autism.org.uk.

Free Speech and Language Therapy day in Leeds

As part of the Better Communication Research Programme we a workshop is to be held for children with Speech, Language and Communication needs and their parents.

Saturday 3rd July 2010 ~ 1.30 -4pm Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 8BH

www.leeds.gov.uk/cityMuseum

A Family Workshop: Exploring Outcomes for Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs
You can make a day of it by visiting the museum and its attractions in the morning (entrance is free) and join our workshop in the afternoon. Children will work with Dr Jane Coad, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Child and Adolescent Health, University of the West of England to explore their ideas about what they value and enjoy. The workshop will be creative, fun and packed with activities and refreshments.

Parents will work with Sue Roulstone, Professor of Speech and Language Therapy, University of the West of England to explore their views on the outcomes they wish for their children and families. The afternoon will be mainly in the form of discussion groups, with tea and scones to ease the chat.

If your child is between the **age of 8 and 11 or 12 and 15** and you are interested in being involved contact Fay Smith at the Speech and Language Therapy Research Unit for further information.

Email: fay.smith@speech-therapy.org.uk

Tel: 0117 3406529

National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy Conference

The National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy (NCYPE) is proud to host their third national conference for the parents and families of children and young people with epilepsy.

The event is designed to provide information and support for mums, dads and siblings of the 60,000 under 18s across the UK living with epilepsy as well as the young people themselves.

Talks and workshops will be delivered by a wide range of experienced professionals working in the field of epilepsy including Professor Helen Cross, epilepsy specialist nurses and psychologists. There will also be an exhibition where parents can learn about services and support from key organisations.

Also, the conference will once again host the very popular Teens Workshop for young people to give them the opportunity to learn with each other and share experiences with their peers.

The price for adults is £15 and for teenagers 12-18 years is £10.

Refreshments, lunch and delegate packs are included in the price.

Saturday July 3rd 2010 at the:

Ramada Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, Central Manchester, UK.

For more information and booking forms for the conference and study days please visit

www.ncype.org.uk/epilepsy

or by calling 01342 832243 ext 296.

Lianne Dunbar

Childhood Epilepsy Information Service

National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy (NCYPE)

01342 832 243 ext 296

Drama, Dance and Music opportunity

Come together and join in the fun with Stagecoach during the Summer Holidays! You will have a fabulous time learning new skills, making new friends and putting on a show for your family and friends. The workshop involves both special needs and mainstream children coming together to have fun through drama, dance and music. Children and young people aged 9 to 19.

Ralph Thoresby School, Holtdale Approach, Leeds, LS16 7RX

The workshop starts on 26th July 2010, Mon - Fri, 10am - 4pm. For more information contact Stagecoach on 0845 0767 783 or visit www.stagecoach.org.uk.

Summer Playschemes

Information about summer playschemes for children and young people with additional needs is beginning to appear on The Family Hub website. To keep an eye on dates, times and venues, visit:

www.thefamilyhubleeds.org.uk, click on "family services" then "disability." Scroll down to "sports and leisure activities" and click on "special needs playschemes." A box where you can type in your postcode should appear and you can begin your search!

People in Action new website and Play in Action runs through school holidays

People in Action have a new updated website which is really easy to use and has lots of information about the dates for all their activities. I found out that "Play in Action," an inclusive activity group for young people aged 8-14 with additional needs, their siblings and friends is running every Saturday throughout the summer holidays! Play in Action is based at Cross Green Youth Centre, Pool Road Otley, LS21 1HD.



For further information visit www.peopleinaction.org.uk or contact:

Jane: (0113) 2470411 or email: piafamiliesinaction@googlemail.com

Changes to Family Fund

From 1 April 2010, the Family Fund has changed the way it looks at income to help families on the lowest of incomes. They will consider a grant application where a family's total income from all sources, including net income and benefits, is below £25,000 in England and £27,000 in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

For further information visit www.familyfund.org.uk.

STARS Stay and Play Leeds

This takes place at Nesfield Family Resource Centre: Nesfield View, Belle Isle, LS10 3LA. The group runs on Thursdays, during school term times, from 12.30 - 2.30. It is an excellent facility: there is a well equipped play room, a secure outdoor play area, and a room for training. The children that attend the group are encouraged to develop their communication skills through intensive interaction and musical interaction. There is also the opportunity for the children to use and develop competency with PECS. In addition they offer training on a wide range of Autism related topics. It is an ideal opportunity to meet other parents and carers of young children with Autism from across the city.

Downloadable autism booklet for Manchester Airport

Manchester airport in partnership with The Autistic Society for Greater Manchester and The National Autistic Society has produced a booklet to convey the routine of travelling from their airport. The publication is available to download at:

www.manchesterairport.co.uk. To find the booklet either search 'autism' in the search box

or click on airport information > Airport Accessibility and scroll to the bottom of the

screen. The booklet has clear step by step visual photographic sequences about airport travel and lots of activity worksheets. It's good to see such a large airport considering the needs of autistic people.



PECS basic 2 day workshop in Leeds

I know it's in September which is a while away but I thought I'd put it in now as time flies and these workshops don't come to Leeds very often!

A 2 day workshop is the basic training in picture exchange communication system (PECS), consisting of 13 hours of training on the theoretical background and details of all six phases of PECS, rationale and hands-on implementation of PECS, and including demonstrations, video illustrations and opportunities to practice. Also covered: the Pyramid approach to education; how to create effective learning environments; and other visual strategies useful for communication and independence. This workshop is aimed at all parents and professionals wishing to implement PECS effectively. It is also a requirement for anyone considering the PECS implementers certification. The main website for more information is: www.pecs.org.uk.

13 Sep 2010 - 14 Sep 2010 (Inclusive).

Venue: The Met Hotel

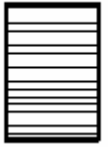
King Street, Leeds

LS1 2HQ

Duration: 2 days. Costs: Professionals £270; Parents £140. Target Audience: Professionals, parents.
Speaker: TBC

Special writing paper update

You may recall in the last newsletter, I featured an article about some special writing paper, by Mead, with raised lines for tactile sensory feedback. The paper has been very effective in helping my daughter to write in a straight line and has improved her confidence with writing. Unfortunately, since I purchased the paper from Spacekraft, they have stopped selling it! Their reason was that their supplier in the USA had let them down. I found another company who featured it in their catalogue, Special Direct www.specialdirect.com. I ordered it but it appears they are having the same problems with importing it from America! It looks as if we will have to order it direct from the States! I can't believe that in this day and age such a simple but effective learning resource is not produced or available in the UK! If anyone is aware of UK suppliers of this paper, please get in touch!



Funding awarded for Leeds ABC Family Swim

We are pleased to say that Leeds ABC has been awarded £651 after applying to Leeds Community Foundation's Sport Relief Community Cash scheme. This money will go towards the swimming pool hire at Kirkstall Leisure centre for our monthly family swim.

Back To Me Amplified Is All The Beauty In Your Eyes

*Smiles are the jewels in our eyes
I see your beauty deep inside
I see all the light and love you are
When I see I see by far
All the beauty, not the scars
Not the anger or attack
Only what's coming back
Back to me amplified
Is all the beauty in your eyes*

Daniel White 2010

No one can make you feel inferior without your permission" - Eleanor Roosevelt

"Supporting each other, Learning together"

Leeds ABC would like to thank the following funders:

