

ABC NEWSLETTER

Leeds & District Autism, Behaviour, Communication Support Group - Registered Charity No. 1023066
www.abcleeds.org.uk

June/July/August 2013

“Supporting each other, learning together”

Contact us at Leeds ABC, 25 Somerdale Walk, Bramley, LS13 4SF Tel: (0113 2579269 – a message can be left on this number) or email info@abcleeds.org.uk. 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, Susan C. – 2770779 or Vic – 2822797

GROUP MEETINGS	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
LEEDS ABC – Evening Meetings St PETER’S CHURCH Hough Lane, Bramley, LS13 3JF	Tuesday 11 th June 7pm – 9pm *Post 16 Education. See next page	Tuesday 9 th July 7pm – 9pm	No meeting in August
LEEDS ABC – Fun Day Outdoor Sessions	No session in June, BUT there is one on WEDS 29th MAY 11am-2pm. Meet at Kirkstall Abbey Visitor Centre.	Weds 31 st July 11am-2pm. Meet Lakeside Cafe, Roundhay Park.	Weds 7 th 11am-2pm. Meet Temple Newsam Car Park near house. Weds 14 th 11am-2pm. Meet Golden Acre Car Park. Weds 21 st 11am-2pm. Meet Kirkstall Abbey Visitor Centre. Weds 28 th 11am-2pm. Meet Roundhay Park Lakeside Cafe.
NEXT GENERATION YOUTH GROUP High functioning autism or Asperger’s age 11-18 yrs Burley Lodge Centre, 42-46 Burley Lodge Rd LS6 1QF	Every Wednesday (term time only) 6pm to 8pm	Every Wednesday (term time only) 6pm to 8pm	Every Wednesday (term time only) 6pm to 8pm
PRIMARY YOUTH GROUP High functioning autism or Asperger’s age 7-11 yrs. Burley Lodge Centre, 42-46 Burley Lodge Rd LS6 1QF	Every Monday (term time only) 6pm to 8pm	Every Monday (term time only) 6pm to 8pm	Every Monday (term time only) 6pm to 8pm
KIRKSTALL LEISURE CENTRE Kirkstall Lane, LS5 3BE Family swim in large pool	Saturday 22 nd from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.	Saturday 13 th from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.	No swim
AUTISM/ASPERGER ADVICE SESSIONS 3 rd floor meeting room Central Library, Leeds	Friday 7 th June 10.00am to midday	Friday 5 th July 10.00am to midday.	No session.

LEEDS ABC YOUTH GROUP

The Next Generation runs every Wednesday (term time only) at THE BURLEY LODGE CENTRE, 42-46 BURLEY LODGE ROAD, BURLEY, LS6 1QF

It is for young people with high functioning autism or Asperger's syndrome aged 11-18 years at a cost of £3 per week. We have a team of young, enthusiastic volunteers who are all CRB checked. Activities include arts and crafts, games, social skills sessions, specialist workshops and occasional trips out. For further information contact Leeds ABC Vice Chairperson, Mandy Craven on 0113 2795142/07769317744 or Email: mandycraven.leedsabcgroup@googlemail.com



PRIMARY YOUTH GROUP

This group is on Mondays (term time only) at THE BURLEY LODGE CENTRE, 42-46 BURLEY LODGE ROAD, BURLEY, LS6 1QF. It is for children aged 7-11 years with high functioning autism or Asperger's Syndrome at a cost of £3 per week. All the volunteers are CRB checked and activities include arts and crafts, games, social skills sessions and specialist workshops. The children attending will work together to choose a name for the group and design a logo. For further information contact Leeds ABC Vice Chairperson, Mandy Craven on 0113 2795142/07769317744 or Email: mandycraven.leedsabcgroup@googlemail.com

AUTISM/ASPERGER ADVICE SESSIONS

Leeds Library and Information Service in partnership with STARS (Leeds Education Autism Response Service) and Leeds ABC will help you with advice on issues relating to individual children and young people with autism or Asperger syndrome 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.

BOARDMAKER (PECS SYMBOLS)

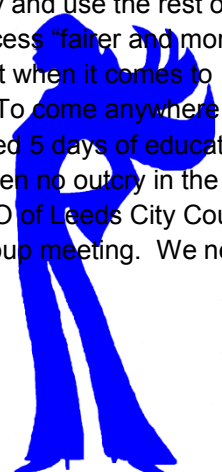
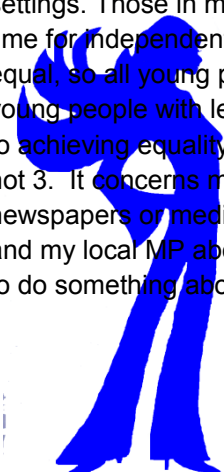
The software programme, Boardmaker, has thousands of symbols and images that can be printed and used to support visual communication e.g. communication boards, visual timetables and social stories and is available in 25 libraries across Leeds. Parents and Professionals can book sessions with a librarian 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 20p per page for printing. The libraries are:

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

For further information visit, www.leeds.gov.uk/boardmaker or telephone Enquiry Express on 0113 2476016. Alternatively you can contact Learning Co-ordinator, Jason Tutin on 0113 3952357 or jason.tutin@leeds.gov.uk

*POST 16 EDUCATION

It has come to our notice that a Government initiative is going to come into force between September 2013-2015, whereby all 16-19 year olds will only receive funding for 600 hours of education, the equivalent of 15 hours a week which works out at about 3 days a week. This includes all those young people who attend SILCs and specialist settings. Those in mainstream settings only tend to receive this amount of education anyway and use the rest of the time for independent study or other independent activities. Apparently it is to make the process "fairer and more equal, so all young people have an equal amount of time for learning". Now we all know that when it comes to young people with learning disability/additional needs of any sort, that is absolute rubbish!! To come anywhere near to achieving equality our young people actually need more education and support. They need 5 days of education, not 3. It concerns me that there has been so little information sent out and that there has been no outcry in the newspapers or media as it is going to be a nationwide programme. I have contacted the CEO of Leeds City Council and my local MP about all of this and hope to have more information at our June support group meeting. We need to do something about this so I hope that you can attend.



***PUSSYCATS
DISCOTHEQUE
PRESENTS***

A ladies only charity disco

for

Leeds ABC Support Group

Registered Charity No. 1023066

Supporting families dealing with autism

at

STANNINGLEY RUGBY CLUB,

Coal Hill Drive, LS13 1PA

on

SATURDAY 6th JULY 2013

from

7.30pm – midnight

RAFFLE AND NIBBLES!

Tickets: £5.00

ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY

CONTACT: Susan McDonagh on 0113 2579269 (you can leave a message) or email: info@abcleeds.org.uk

LADIES DISCO

I'm sorry that we had to cancel the Ladies Disco on 23rd March, but the weather was atrocious and none of us could get out! Thankfully we have been able to re-arrange the date and we have the same venue and the same DJs and it is now all happening on 6th July. You can use the same tickets and it would be great if some more of you could

come. If any of you that have bought tickets are unable to attend on the new date, please get in touch and we will give you a refund.

INCLUDE ARTS EVENT

Include, the Leeds Arts and Disability Network, is running a FREE half term Arts Event for young people aged 13-25 with additional needs on Thursday, 30th May 2013, 1pm – 4.30pm at The Carriageworks Theatre, The Electric Press, 3 Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD. If you enjoy singing, dancing, acting, story-telling or art, then it is the place to be. There will be lots of inclusive arts workshops and taster activities run by West Yorkshire Playhouse, Phoenix Dance, Pyramid of Arts, Leeds Libraries, Purple Patch Arts, Dance Action Zone and others. There is no need to book. For more information, contact Kathryn Sturman: kathryn@keystonecp.org.uk or 07868 755 344

This event is part of the Breeze International Youth Festival that runs from Wednesday 22nd May to Sunday 2nd June 2013 www.breezeleeds.org/biyf

SatARTday @LeedsArtGallery

This is a fun family friendly drop-in full of activities where you will be able to create artworks inspired by current exhibitions and explore new art ideas and ways of thinking. It is on the first Saturday of every month (1st June, 6th July, 3rd August and 7th September) from 11am – 3pm and it is FREE. For information ring 0113 2478254. They can be followed @LeedsMuseums and @LeedsArtGallery and www.facebook.com/LeedsMuseumsandGalleries

PLAYGROUND @LeedsArtGallery

Exciting multisensory events for **very young people and their Carers** to gain confidence as learners, explorers, imaginative and creative thinkers. This is FREE and takes place once a month on Fridays (7th June, 12th July and 23rd August) from 10am to 12 noon. For more information ring 0113 2478254.

RELAXED PERFORMANCE AT WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE (children)

A relaxed performance is a specially adapted theatre show designed for those with additional needs. West Yorkshire Playhouse (WYP) has been running relaxed performances for children and young people with additional needs since 2009. There will be a relaxed performance of Rumpelstiltskin on Friday 31st May at 1.30pm. This is a family show with music for ages 5 plus. In a relaxed performance there is a relaxed attitude to noise and movement. It's fine if you want to leave the theatre and come back in during the performance. Changes will be made to sound and lighting effects. There will be extra staff to help you find your way around. The WYP will send you a pre-show information pack to help you prepare you for your visit. This will give you details of the story including different characters and things to look out for to help you follow the storyline. For more information contact Nicky on 0113 213 7296 or nicky.taylor@wyp.org.uk

AUTISM FRIENDLY CINEMA SCREENINGS

Sensory friendly screenings every month at 90 Odeon Cinemas in the UK and Ireland. The closest one in this area is at the Gallagher Leisure Park, Thornbury, Bradford BD3 7AT. During these screenings the:

- Lights are left on low and the volume is turned down
- There are no trailers before the film
- People can move around the cinema and make noise
- People can bring their own food and drink
- Those with autism and/or sensory differences can attend the cinema with their friends, siblings and other family members in an inclusive environment.
- Support workers/carers can attend for free with a Cinema Exhibitors Association (CEA) card. The application form can be found at www.ceacard.co.uk and the card is £5.50 for the year.

For monthly film details go to www.dimensions-uk.org/autismfriendly

“No one can make you feel inferior without your permission”

Eleanor Roosevelt

DISABILITY ROCKS 2013 (from R. Sutton)

The second Disability Rocks Festival hits Ilkley on Saturday 8th June at the Nell Bank Centre, Denton Road, LS29 0DE. Francesca Martinez will be extending her UK tour of “What the Heck is Normal” to join the day. Francesca, who has cerebral palsy, has toured internationally with sell-out runs across the world including the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and the prestigious Just for Laughs Festival in

Montreal. Bands include Danny & the Champions of the World, The Loose Salute, Bo Weavil, Trevor Moss and Hannah Lou and many others. Workshops include the ever popular Drumming Tent, a DJ/Dance workshop, arts, drama and dance activities. There will be a sensory yurt for younger guests and a sensory tent and quiet space for older guests. There will also be food stalls and lots of other activities. The venue is fully accessible with state of the art changing facilities all in a beautiful setting. The aim is to provide an enjoyable, positive experience for everyone whilst ensuring the event is particularly safe and suitable for guests with disabilities, families, friends and carers. We are hoping to have a busking stage where people will be able to book their own 15 minutes of fame, playing without power but with their own unique style. Disability Rocks has a pretty funky website at www.disabilityrocks.org which will give regular updates on the event. You can also buy your tickets online. They must be bought in advance of the gig. Tickets hotline is 0844 8700 000.

CHILDREN'S DAY 2013

A FREE family event, packed full of things to see and do at Headingley Stadium on Sunday 9th June from 10.30am – 4pm. There will be lots of activities, including:

- Sports festivals and activities from Pro Coach, Leeds Rhinos, Leeds Carnegie and Leeds United!
- Eureka, Flamingo Land, Jorvik Viking Centre, Thackeray Medical Museum and stadium tours!
- WY Police open day, ECB Cricket Factory, Pony Rides, Archery, Fire Engines, Bouncy Castle and much more!!

Not to mention the chance to meet our fun loving mascots and your favourite players from Leeds Rhinos. To top it all off “Emmerdale vs Special Guest Team” will battle it out on the outfield in a fast paced 10 over cricket match at 2.30pm. A great day out for the whole family! Find them on Facebook at “Children’s Day 2013” or on twitter @ChildrensDay13

THE RICHMOND HILL PARENT NETWORK

Richmond Hill Primary School, in conjunction with Leeds Parent Partnership Service, is offering the opportunity to parents/carers who have children of primary school age with autism and/or complex communication difficulties, to meet up and share experiences, ideas and strategies. The venue is Richmond Hill Primary School, Clark Lane, Richmond Hill, Leeds LS9 8PN on Friday 14th June and Friday 12th July from 9.30am – 11.30am. If you have any questions, please contact Rachael Harwood on 0113 395 1227 or email rachel.harwood@leeds.gov.uk

LEEDS AUTISM NETWORK

The STARS team – Leeds Education Autism Outreach Service – are running a FREE session at Roundhay High School, Old Park Road, LS8 1ND (in the staff room) on Thursday 20th June on “Mentoring young people with autism in High Schools”. If you are interested in attending this session, please book your place by emailing West Oaks on hibberca01@leedslearning.net

PARENTS and CARERS TRAINING – AUTISM COURSE (children aged up to 5 years)

The Leeds Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) service in conjunction with STARS (Specialist Teachers Autism Response Service) is offering a one day course for parents/carers of children with autism. This course is to help parents/carers understand what autism is, learn how to develop communication skills in their child and how to adapt the home environment to make life a bit easier. Participants will also get the opportunity to meet other parents/carers whose children have similar difficulties. The course is FREE to parents who have a Leeds postcode and/or Leeds GP and have a child with a diagnosis of autism who is in receipt of, or waiting for speech and language therapy.

Date: Wednesday 3 July 2013 – 9.30am to 2.30pm

Venue: Headingley Enterprise and Arts Centre (HEART), Bennet Road Leeds LD6 3HN

To book a place telephone Kat Bradford, SLT secretary on 0113 305 5041. Places are limited and allocated in order of receipt of completed application forms. To guarantee your place a booking form must be completed and returned to the SLT department at St Mary’s hospital no later than 10 days before the course date (the address is on the booking form). Places will be confirmed in writing before the course begins. If you would like more information about the day, please ring Jo Sandiford (SLT) 0113 305 8029

NAS AUTISM SHOW – EVENT CITY MANCHESTER (28th/29th JUNE 2013)

At the autism show you will find leading professionals and high profile parents discussing the latest news, research and their personal experiences in the Autism Matter Theatres as well as free confidential advice on a variety of issues and hundreds of specialist products and services to peruse. To find out more and to purchase tickets go to www.autismshow.co.uk

WOMEN and GIRLS on the AUTISM SPECTRUM 2013

A one-day conference presenting the latest research and practice in diagnosis and support for women and girls with autism is being organised by the NAS and will be held in Leeds at the Hilton City Centre Hotel on the 1st October 2013. The conference will examine the unique challenges facing women and girls with autism. International experts will discuss the implications for future research and practice, including prevalence rates, adaptation of diagnostic criteria and differences in presentation. The keynote speaker is Jennifer O'Toole, the founder of Asperkids and the author of two internationally successful books. She has Asperger's syndrome herself as does her daughter. Booking will open soon, so if you are interested it would be best to register your interest so that information can be sent to you. Go to www.autism.org.uk/news-and-events

SCOPE (previously Leeds Inclusion Support Service)

Scope is a new service for families with disabled children and young people in Leeds, from the age of 0-18, offering advice and information on a host of disability matters and short break activities. These can be arranged during the day, after school, at weekends and in the holidays. They will work closely with activity organisers to make sure they meet your child's needs, so your child can join in and develop their confidence and independence – while you take a break. For more information ring on 0800 085 1879 or email leeds@scope.org.uk (www.scope.org.uk/leeds)

RELAXED PERFORMANCE AT WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE (adults and brave young people!)

A serious drama full of magic and mystery as Sherlock tries to solve a new case. There are some very dramatic and very scary moments including scenes of extreme peril and death. The same assistance is available at this performance as the children's. It takes place on Friday 7th June 2013. Tickets for Sherlock Holmes cost between £17-£22 with companion seats and group discounts available. Tickets for this show must be booked in advance. For more information contact Nicky on 0113 213 7296 or nicky.taylor@wyp.org.uk

WE ARE THEATRE – Expanding the vision of theatre

Singing/Dancing/Acting for adults with learning difficulties/disabilities in Leeds. Weekly sessions running all year round at Seacroft Village Hall, LS14 6JS. Sessions £9 per week. Work towards 3 member led public performances a year. Gain confidence, learn new skills and make new friends. All welcome ages 17 and above. First session free – TUESDAYS 4.15pm – 6pm FRIDAYS 1pm – 2.45pm. To book a place, ring 0752 136 4107 or email: wearethatre@googlemail.com

Localgiving.com/Leeds ABC

Localgiving.com is a not-for-profit organisation helping small charities and community groups to reach more supporters, raise more money and help more people. Leeds ABC is a totally voluntary autism specific group and we work hard to make a real difference to the families that we make contact with. @KMcAven is completing the Three Peaks Challenge and 6 of us will be taking on the Leeds 10k to raise funds. It would be great if you could donate via the localgiving page. Thank you.



LeedsAbcGroup

@LeedsABCGroup

