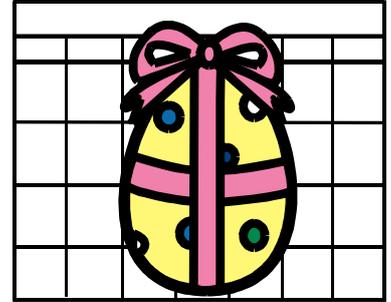


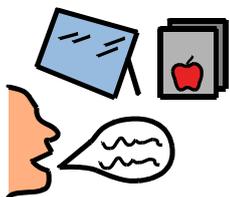


**South Manchester
Down's Syndrome Support Group**
Fulfilling Potential



April 2011

phone: 07593 542 107, email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk website: dsmanchester.org.uk



April 30 Chatterbox Club Heaton Moor Evangelical church, Green Lane, Heaton Moor SK4 3LH. Our monthly SaLT sessions combined with play, a chance to meet other families, sing and sign and craft activities.

Teachers and TAs welcome - the activities modelled in these sessions are suitable to be used in educational settings. **Even if your child is not enrolled for SaLT sessions, your family is very welcome to come along for coffee, chat and sing and sign—just pop a donation in the box at the kitchen counter.**

Sing and sign sessions: over 5's 10.05-10.35, under 5's 10.50-11.20

Run of the mill indoor play centre Tuesday April 26 4.30-6.30

Pear Mill Industrial Estate, Stockport Rd West, Bredbury, Stockport SK6 2BP - booked for our exclusive use. Cost £5 per family, including food. This cost is heavily subsidised so extra donations always welcome! **To make organising easier, please book a place ASAP: phone: 07593 542 107, email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk**

Would you like to come to an information/resource sharing event focused on our children's specific learning strengths and needs?



Maybe once every 1/2 term, sessions could focus on, for example, literacy, speech and language development, numeracy, inclusion, etc., maybe sessions for preschool, primary or secondary ages. They could be on a week day (10am—1pm) or evenings (7-9pm) if that would suit more people. Perhaps approx 60 min talk about the subject, followed by contributions from those who have brought along resources they have found useful for their child. The sessions would be informal and an opportunity for sharing knowledge and ideas. There would also be resources on display to borrow from the group. If these sessions prove successful, it might be possible to hold additional ones at times when SEN-Cos, teachers and TAs could come along to learn and contribute. Sessions will probably be free or cost about £5. Please let me know if you would be interested in attending, if you would prefer daytime or evening sessions or have any suggestions for format, Bernadette phone: 07593 542 107, email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk



Funding NewsHuge thanks to South West Manchester

Cricket Club who raised a massive £2460 for us during the past year. Also to Jean and Roger Khoryati who have generously donated £1000 to the group.

Amnesty Do you have any resources (books, DVDs etc) belonging to your support group? If so, please contact us to arrange return. Many thanks

Something Special magazine launches 6th April 2011.

BBC Something Special magazine launches in April, created especially for children with learning disabilities. It is based on the successful CBeebies television programme Something Special starring Justin Fletcher MBE and his much loved alter-ego Mr Tumble. Something Special magazine is packed full of fun activities that are appealing and accessible to children with special needs, and features Makaton signing. The magazine team asked families who are fans of Something Special to help them develop the magazine, and have also consulted with professionals from SEN schools, The Makaton Charity and the National Autistic Society. To celebrate the launch of the magazine, the BBC is giving away 10,000 free copies of the sample magazine: <http://www.makaton.org/khxc/gbu0-prodshow/ss-mag-1.html>



"Clued In" in Tameside provides 1:1 support for children aged 3 - 18 from their region, to access out of school activities like Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs and other social activities. The service is free. For more information, contact Gayle Cansell on 01457-766107.

DS/ASD Email Forum The DSA has set up a group forum where parents and carers of children with Down's syndrome and Autism can talk about any issues that concern them and get advice from each other:

<http://listserv.down-syndrome.net/SCRIPTS/WA-DOWNS.EXE?AO=DS-AUTISM-UK>

Early Support is a national programme to improve the way that services for young children with disabilities in England work with families. It provides a standard framework and a set of materials that can be used in many different circumstances, as well as a set of expectations about how services should work with families. Materials include developmental journals - and there is a specific journal for children with Down's syndrome:

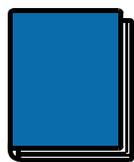
<http://education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/ES49>. This material encourages families to record and celebrate their child's learning and development through the early years. It's designed to support early intervention by improving everyone's understanding of the developmental processes involved and by providing a shared basis for discussion as a child grows and changes. At the heart of the Developmental Journal for Down syndrome is a set of charts that families use to record what their child is able to do as time passes and they learn new things. It's a tool to help families track and understand development in their child and it supports partnership working - in particular, the sharing of information between families and the professionals they meet.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/earlysupport>

British Sign Language resources and courses can be found at:

<http://www.british-sign.co.uk/index.php>

There is an online course you can do in your own time for £15



Greater Expectations: Living with Down syndrome in the 21st century, Jan Gothard, Freemantle Press 2011 reviewed by Fiona Place.

This book is a welcome addition to the literature - not only are there too few books of its kind in print - but Gothard has managed to collect an exceptionally comprehensive and diverse set of voices to capture what it means to live with Down syndrome in the 21st century.

An historian, Gothard tackles the project with intellectual rigour - interviewing more than 60 parents of children with Down syndrome as well as people with Down syndrome. She also demonstrates an acute understanding of cultural and historical context. She could have chosen to include only the more vocal and articulate parents, however determined to collect information from the widest of parent bases, she worked diligently and tirelessly to seek out as many different voices as possible.

Importantly, this theme of inclusion, this seeking out of different voices runs through chapter after chapter. For example in the chapter the 'baby I'd dreamed of having' Gothard not only places the 'dream' within in its socio-political context, but also presents a range of parental reactions - from immediate acceptance to the descent into a fully-fledged nightmare.

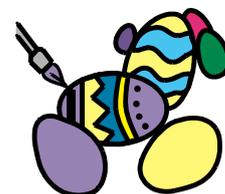
The fully-fledged nightmare is however, as Gothard points out, often short-lived, with most parents realising the nightmare is more about a lack of welcome on the behalf of society rather than the lived reality of Down syndrome.

Time and time again Gothard shows us how parents grow, how their children grow. As a result the reader is more than able to appreciate how the joys of a life lived differently might accumulate. Yes parents may have to fight for services, may have to fight to have their children included in their local community however it would seem from reading Gothard's interviews most parents come to believe it is a fight that enriches them, that is worth the time, effort and energy. That we can indeed have greater expectations.

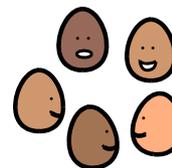
The book is also important because it does not shy away from addressing the difficult subject of prenatal testing and its relation to the desire on the behalf of parents to have greater expectations for people with Down syndrome. How does a parent have greater expectations when the medical community expects women will terminate an affected foetus? Gothard explores in detail how parents come to understand the meaning of tests such as CVS and amniocentesis and how they negotiate their way through any subsequent pregnancy and the current climate of non-acceptance.

For a new parent the book may be challenging, however for those down the track the book will serve as a valuable resource as it successfully conveys the experiences of parents across the life span and creates a valuable sense of community.

Do you have any book reviews you would like to share ?



Events/Activities/Groups



For Manchester families: Aiming High Music Stuff*

Units 3 & 4 DAVID CUTHBERT CENTRE 877 Ashton Old Road Openshaw Manchester M11 2NA OFFICE Tel 0161 2238700 Saturdays 1.30 - 4.30. Please book in advance.

Spring Fair at the donkey sanctuary* 16th April from 10am till 4pm,

Plenty of activities including a donkey riding obstacle course, tombola, cake stall, penalty shoot out game and lots more. All visiting children (weighing under 7 stone) can ride the donkeys. There is also an Easter Egg appeal, asking everybody to donate an Easter Egg for the Spring Fair, if you feel you may also be able to help in any other way, please contact the centre. EST Donkey sanctuary Manchester, Green Fold Abbey Hey Manchester M18 8RJ, Tel 0161 301 4051 for details www.elisabethsvendsentrust.org.uk/view/manchester.

Bamboo* parent support group. Every Friday, 12.30—2.30, Burnage Children's centre, Broadhill Rd. For parents of children with additional needs. For details, please call Nicki Mansfield (07815 675581), Sam Stout (07791 114179) or Sam Emblow (07948 961049).

Manchester Pre-school special needs groups* Stay and play sessions for young children with disabilities are held throughout the city by the Pre-School Special Needs Service (PSSN). For more information about any of these groups contact the Pre-school Special Needs Service on 0161 274 6377.

At Seashell Trust Stanley Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 6RQ*

CADS swimming development team runs lessons for all ages and abilities. Both group sessions and one to one sessions are available and also parent and baby sessions in the hydro-therapy pool. Please contact Wendy McNeil 0161 610 0159 wendy.mcneil@seashelltrust.org.uk

CADS dance and drama session run by the Y dn't U dance group at the Seashell Trust. The cost of the sessions are £3.00 per child and they run **every Saturday in term time**. 10-11.30am Aged 4-11yrs and 11.45 -1.00pm ages 11+yrs. All abilities welcome. For more information please call 07960 279074 or 07966 559164

CADS Fitness Club Every Thursday during term time, £1.50 per session, £10 per term. 13-17 years 6-6.45pm, 18-25 years, 7-7.45pm. Contact Heather Potter on: 0161 610 0121 or email: heather.potter@seashelltrust.org.uk

Easter CADS 18-21 April*—for details contact Gemma Castle on 0161 610 0122 gemma.castle@seashelltrust.org.uk

Seashell Swim Intensive Swimming Course May30-June 3*—for details contact Wendy McNeil 0161 610 0159 wendy.mcneil@seashelltrust.org.uk

Other support groups around Greater Manchester*

Tameside and Glossop Down's syndrome support group

Contact: Vicky on 07792827899 or email victoriamassey@hotmail.com.

Bury Down's Syndrome Support Group

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month (Term time only) from 1-3 pm at Redvales Children's centre, Bury. Contact Sheila, email she.swarb@tesco.net mobile: 07729179201 or Jackie on 07796 765361. Website: dsbury.org.uk

Bolton Smiley Faces Contact Judith Smethhurst 01204 382954

Cheshire Down's syndrome support group www.cheshiredownssyndrome.com

Down's Syndrome Family & Carer's Group, Lancaster

Liz Fawcett lancasterdsgroup@hotmail.co.uk or 01524 64132. Meetings every 1st Saturday in the Month at Appletree Children's Centre, Milking Stile Lane, Lancaster LA1 5QB

West Pennine Down's syndrome support group- new details

Family Support and All- Age Play Group NOW meeting every Second SATURDAY of the month 1.00pm to 4.00pm Stanley Road Children's Centre Chadderton Oldham OL9 7HX Cake, Coffee and Chat, New Resource Lending Library (Open 1.00pm -2.00pm), Sticky Fingers Creative Play, Sing & Sign, Wii Fun, Table Tennis & Table Football, Sand Play and Toy Play Ball Games and Lots of other Family Fun-filled Activities.

Further details: DSWESTPENNINE Down's Syndrome Family Support Group

www.dswestpennine.co.uk dswestpennine@hotmail.co.uk General Enquiries:

Tel: 07842555725 New Parent Helpline: Tel: 07842534819.

***Please note: not run by the South Manchester Down Syndrome Support Group. For information only—we are not responsible for changes to date, time or venue. Please use the contact information supplied to confirm details and to ask any questions.**

New guide to mental capacity

Carers UK has produced a new booklet - What every carer needs to know: a guide to mental capacity. The booklet is an essential guide to the law on mental capacity and looks at how carers should be involved in making important decisions alongside professionals and the people they look after.

Download free at:

[http://www.carersuk.org/Information/GuidetoMentalCapacity?](http://www.carersuk.org/Information/GuidetoMentalCapacity?dm_i=74C,EM2U,R8QPT,1642C,1)

[dm_i=74C,EM2U,R8QPT,1642C,1](http://www.carersuk.org/Information/GuidetoMentalCapacity?dm_i=74C,EM2U,R8QPT,1642C,1)

A march for the hardest hit

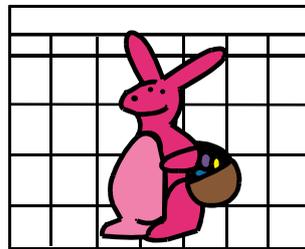
Thousands of disabled protesters will rally against cuts to services this May

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/news.asp?id=21388&pageno=&year=&menuId=90>

Dates for your diary



CADS Saturday club	Saturdays
Spring Fair at the donkeys	April 16
Seashell Swimming	Saturdays
Bamboo	Fridays
Run of the Mill	April 26
Chatterbox Club	April 30



The views and items in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group. Mention does not necessarily mean recommendation or support.



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