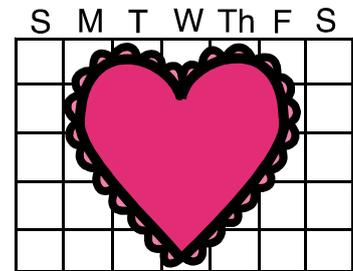


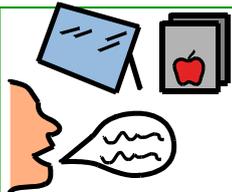


South Manchester
Down's Syndrome Support Group
Fulfilling Potential



February 2011

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



February 26 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 10.45-11.15

Feedback from our Inclusion and Expectations of Behaviour Training day

We were full to capacity with 39 delegates. Wendy gave an excellent description of our children's specific additional needs and learning strengths. She went on to explain how these should be considered to understand our children's behaviour, when encouraging our children to learn age appropriate behaviour and to help us turn round unwanted behaviours.

Some of the feedback the day:

"Just what I needed to feed back to school" "think positive"

"I now have a greater awareness around why certain behaviours occur"

"It will affect everything I do in the nursery"

"great, interesting and informative"

"Wendy speaking from experience -lots of examples and opportunities for discussion"

" It will affect my use of language and positive attention"

"taking control of situations—preferably before problems arise"

"Excellent day thank you"

Funding News Huge thanks to

Crystal Chords who have raised £1000 for us.

Key 103's Cash For Kids fund allocated us £850 for Chatterbox.

A customer in Marks and Spencer found £50 which was unclaimed and they asked for it be donated to us.

Fundraising event

Saturday February 19th 8pm 50/60s Night, South West Manchester Cricket Club, Ellesmere Rd, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0SG. Food (hotpot and sandwiches) and raffle.

Tickets: £3 per for one person or £5 for a couple. Call 0161 881 1921 For more details.

Training/Advice

From DownsEd International

Training Web seminars offer a cost effective training solution for families and professionals. Delivered by expert practitioners and researchers, the online seminars and web courses cover all aspects of development and education for children with Down syndrome from birth to teenage years. The seminars provide detailed information and advice, tips and techniques to help families, teachers and therapists provide effective support for learning and development. For details of up and coming seminars visit www.downsed.org/events and click on their event leaflet.

Research updates Recordings of presentations covering: improving working memory skills, the links between signing and speaking, developing and evaluating a classroom reading and language intervention, improving children's problem solving skills and the co-diagnosis of autism and Down syndrome, All available by visiting <http://downsed.org/webevents/> Click on event recordings in the left hand menu.

Consulting DownsEd now offer direct support and training over an internet connection and/or telephone call. Individual teleconsultations last 30 minutes or more and cover guidance for preschool and school aged children in the areas of cognitive development, numeracy, accessing the curriculum and support for learning. Visit www.downsed.org/consulting

See and Learn DownsEd would love to receive feedback on their See & Learn service. There is an online survey available at <http://surveys.downsed.org/seeandlearn2010.aspx>. Or by email on the address feedback@seeandlearnr.org

Publications Articles from their scientific journal Down Syndrome Research and Practice are now available to download. Visit www.down-syndrome.org/research-practice/

At the DSA

For further details and to book, please contact Lesley Alabaf on 0845 230 0372 or email lesley.alabaf@downs-syndrome.org.uk

EARLY YEARS

FAMILY WEEKEND A full weekend allowing families (with children under the age of 2) to spend time with other families in a warm and positive environment. 2 days of information and advice for parents with full crèche facilities and DSA advisors on hand.

The weekend will be held at Ribby Hall, Preston. 6-8 May 2011

WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN A day for parents and professionals focusing on the needs of children aged 0-2 years. Saturday, 24th September 2011.

COMMUNICATION/SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER A day for families and professionals supporting children with Down's syndrome aged 2-11years to develop their communication skills.

Wednesday, 5th October 2011

COMMUNICATION FOR LIFE A day for families and professionals supporting children and young people with Down's syndrome aged from 9 to young adulthood to develop their communication skills. Thursday, 6th October 2011

3 DAY COURSE FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

This course has been established with Symbol UK Ltd, speech and language advisors to the DSA, to improve the knowledge, skills and expertise of speech and language therapists working with people who have Down's syndrome. 2nd to 4th November 2011

EATING AND DRINKING

A day for parents and professionals supporting children with Down's syndrome in developing happy, healthy eating and drinking. Friday, 25th November 2011

EDUCATION

EARLY YEARS FUN

A day for families and professionals supporting children with Down's syndrome in Early Years education. Thursday, 12 May 2011

PRIMARY TIMES

A day for families and professionals supporting children with Down's syndrome at Primary school. Wednesday, 15th June 2011 & Wednesday, 12th October 2011

SECONDARY LIFE

A day for families and professionals supporting young people with Down's syndrome at secondary school. Wednesday, 22nd June 2011 & Thursday, 17th November 2011

ACCESS AND SUCCESS

A hands-on day for families and education professionals exploring curriculum access and positive behaviour for children and young people with Down's syndrome. Wednesday, 28th September 2011

YOU, YOUR CHILD AND THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF STATEMENTS AND EDUCATION LAW A day for families and professionals around how to navigate your way around the education system with a focus on the statementing process. Thursday, 13th October 2011

Parents' Training Day Tuesday March 22 1pm-3.30pm, Stockport Learning Support Services, Cheadle Heath Centre, Edgley Rd., Cheadle Heath, Stockport SK3 0RJ

Stockport has 3 Primary Inclusion Officers whose job is to support primary schools by providing educational resources for children with additional needs and to assist teachers in differentiating the curriculum. They provide annual training for teachers and teaching assistants who work with children who have Down's syndrome. This year, they have offered to present similar training to parents of children who have Down's syndrome. Caroline Sheehan, a parent from our support group, will be demonstrating some strategies which she feels has helped her son (now in year 6) with his numeracy and literacy.

This training is free. To book contact Caroline Sheehan on 0161 925 6153.

Education, early years and SEN show 8 & 9 April 2011 Manchester Central

TES Education North, incorporating Early Years and Primary Teaching Manchester and Special Needs North. Ideas, educational resources and CPD seminars for early years, primary and secondary educators. For more details, visit:

<http://www.teachingexhibitions.co.uk/Exhibitions/TES+Teaching+Exhibition/North/2011/>

If you know of any training, events or information that may be of interest to other parents or professionals who work with our children, please let us have details for the newsletter: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk

Events/Activities/Groups

Saturday club at the donkeys* February 19-an open visiting time when children with additional needs are able to ride the donkeys with their brothers and sisters. Rides are booked in as you arrive between 10am and 1pm. It is also a chance to visit adoption donkeys, relax over a cup of tea/coffee, bring a picnic or have a snack and meet other parents, carers and supporters. Closes at 3.00 pm. At EST Donkey sanctuary Manchester, Green Fold Abbey Hey Manchester M18 8RJ, Tel 0161 301 4051 for details
www.elisabethsvendsentrust.org.uk/view/manchester.

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). Parents and carers get the chance to meet up with others, share ideas, discuss issues and play with their children during the monthly get togethers. Members of the PSSN team are on hand to help the children learn and develop through play and to model play ideas for parents. The sessions are open to any children with special educational needs, developmental delay, learning difficulties or other disabilities, and their siblings.

Venues, dates and times:

Benchill Sure Start Children's Centre 22 Lyndene Road Thursday 1.00-2.30pm, 15th July, 29th July. And every 2 weeks thereafter.

Didsbury Park Sure Start Children Centre, Wilmslow Road. Every first Monday of the Month 1.00-2.30pm 6th September, 4th October.

Longsight Sure Start Children's Centre, 1a Farrer Road, Longsight. Every last Friday of the month, 1pm-3pm.

Rusholme Sure Start Children's Centre, Great Western Street, Rusholme. Every first Friday of the month 1.30pm-2.30pm

Moston Children's centre Adrian Street Nr Lightbowne Road Moston M40 5EA, every 4th Monday at 1.30 - 2.30pm

Cheetham New group for parents who have children with DS under 5 yrs old, every 4th Monday at 10.30- 11.30. Its a meet up/ play & learn group, at **Woodville children's Centre**, Shirley Rd, Cheetham M8 7NE.

For more information about any of these groups contact the Pre-school Special Needs Service on 0161 274 6377.

Bamboo* parent support group. Every Friday, 12.30—2.30, Burnage Children'e 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).

Friendship Club Friday March 18 Ten Pin Bowling Parrs Wood 6pm*

£3 per child for 2 games, including child's meal. Must be pre-booked by March 11.
Contact Caroline Sheehan on 0161 925 6153.

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

February CADS 21&22 February*—for details contact Gemma Castle on 0161 610 0122 gemma.castle@seashelltrust.orf.uk

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

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

***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.**

Other support groups around Greater Manchester

Tameside and Glossop Down's syndrome support group

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

West Pennine Down's syndrome support group

Website: www.dswestpennine.co.uk New Parent Support:

Email: dswestpennine@hotmail.co.uk General Enquiries: 07842555725

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

contact: Liz Fawcett e-mail: lizfawcett@hotmail.co.uk

Signing

Signing is a great way to support the spoken word for our children for many reasons:

- It attracts attention and helps the child focus on what you are trying to communicate
- It slows down your speech
- It reduces the amount you say
- It makes words visual- so the child can hold it in their head for longer than the spoken word, giving the word a 'tag' before it can be said
- It aids language development
- The child can communicate before they can speak—reducing frustration
- It helps our children to understand what you are trying to communicate

The following resources may be useful:

- BSL for sign supported English (SSE), as used in Manchester:

www.britishsignlanguage.com, www.british-sign.co.uk, 'Communication Link: A Dictionary of signs' by Cath Smith from Beverley school for the deaf. 'Let's sign and Down's syndrome' by Cath Smith and Wendy Uttley both available from Forest books and Amazon . Wendy's book also available from the Bradford group (office@downsyndromebradford.co.uk). Forest (www.forestbooks.com) books have other BSL based resources.

- Makaton, as used in Stockport www.makaton.org, Something Special DVDs, Dave Benson Phillips' Makaton Nursery Rhymes - lots on website.

- Signalong (based on BSL), as used in other areas www.signalong.org.uk.

Various Signalong books are available at Amazon.

- Sing and Sign DVDs by Sasha Felix - www.singandsign.co.uk- there are several DVDs and other resources available. "Sing and Sign is largely compatible with Signalong, Makaton and other sign supporting systems designed to be used with speech and based on the signs of British Sign Language (BSL)."

As a support group, we currently offer support through our sing and sign sessions at Chatterbox. Tina Kirwin (who is a BSL signer) who does these sessions is always happy to answer your queries, as are some of us parents (eg Bernadette and Jo). Although there are different sign languages (and different regional variations in sign), what matters is that everyone working with your child is consistent in using the same sign for a given word.

Dates for your diary

CADS Saturday club	Saturdays
Saturday Club at the donkeys	February 19
Seashell Swimming	Saturdays
Bamboo	Fridays
Chatterbox Club	February 26



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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