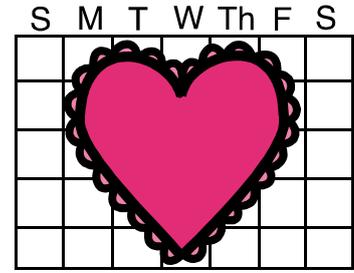




**South Manchester
Down's Syndrome Support Group**
Fulfilling Potential



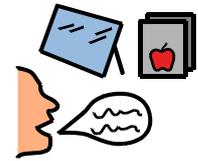
February 2012

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

Chatterbox Club

Heaton Moor Evangelical church, Green Lane, Heaton Moor SK4 3LH

Our Chatterbox Club is a family social occasion that also provides the opportunity for children to get together with others of a similar age for group speech therapy. For families who enroll for SaLT, sessions are delivered by qualified speech and language therapists who have specialist training in the specific communication needs of people who have Down's syndrome. Parents and carers can pick up useful ideas and information from the therapists about how best to support their children's communication. **If you would like to enroll your child in the SaLT sessions, contact Bernadette, email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk, phone: 07593 542 107.** During the morning, families can have a coffee and share information, ideas and tips while their children play or take part in activities organised by an experienced arts and crafts teacher. "Sing and sign" classes are led by an experienced signer, offering the whole family a chance to learn some signs - a valuable support for children who have Down's syndrome. We often have visitors to Chatterbox and **Teachers and TAs are very 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.



If you have enrolled your child for a SaLT session, you will receive the new timetables soon.

February 25 March 24 April 28 May 19 (to avoid holidays) June 23

Run of the Mill In door Play Centre Thursday February 16 5-7pm

Pear Mill Ind Est Stockport Rd West,
Bredbury, Stockport SK6 2BP is booked for
our exclusive use. **Cost £5 per family, including children's food.** This price is heavily subsidised so extra donations always welcome!
Please book a place ASAP.

Our postal address is:
SMDSSG PO Box 307
Manchester M21 3BR

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

Our Preschool drop-ins 9.15-11am February 10, March 16

Chorlton Sure Start Centre, Chorlton library Manchester Road, M21 9PN.

We can have a sing and sign session if you wish and there will be an opportunity to have a drink, chat and browse our resources. Go to the Sure Start room at the back of the library. map at: www.manchester.gov.uk/directory_record/3963/chorlton_library

We are looking for a new venue, so that we can make these drop-ins 10am-12noon.

So watch this space

Is your child getting the right support at school?

Do you have a Statementing question?

Call the DSA 0208 614 5100

Welcome letter for new parents of babies.

We have a new welcome letter for new parents of babies with Down's syndrome—attached.

Chatterbox Venue

Some of you may have noticed that we are outgrowing our Chatterbox venue. If anyone knows of a venue with a large hall (with coffee making facilities) plus 4 other rooms (for 3 SaLT sessions and sing and sign), please let Bernadette know: phone: 07593 542 107. email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk

Clicker 5 training

A few years ago, we held CLICKER-5 training for parents, teachers and TAs, which was well attended. Would you like us to organise this again? The cost would probably be about £40-£50 for a day's training. If you are interested, let us know ASAP. For those of you living in Trafford it is available through Trafford SENAS.

Three new youth clubs for young adults with learning disabilities

Please see attached information or <http://www.manchesterparentcarernetwork.com/> For further information or to request a place please contact Keavy on 0161 230 1420.

New Parent Contacts

Some years ago, several parents kindly volunteered to be new parent contacts and we now have quite a few contacts in many regions in and around Manchester. It would be great to have some parents of younger children on our list. If you feel you would be happy to be contacted by new parents or by parents who know they are expecting a baby with Down's syndrome, or if you would like to know more about what it entails, please contact Bernadette Tel:07593 542 107 email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk

EVEN IF YOU RESPONDED TO THE ITEM IN OCTOBER'S NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR INTEREST.

Do you need help/advice with benefits or to find funding for special equipment etc?

- The DSA Benefits Advisers can help on 0208 614 5100
 - **In Manchester**, You can call the Contact Centre on 0161 255 8250 and ask for a referral to the Specialist Resource Team for their area. **In Trafford**, Trafford Council Benefits Section PO Box 65 Sale M33 6BY benefits@trafford.gov.uk 0161 912 2220
 - **Contact a family** www.cafamily.org.uk can give you a list of charities which may give general grants to families with a child who has a disability. Freephone 0808 808 3555
 - **Cerebra** www.cerebra.org.uk give out grants for things like: Buggies, Hydrotherapy, Outdoor play equipment, Power wheelchairs, Riding for the Disabled, Sensory equipment, Soft play matting, Specialist car seats, Specialist seating, Speech and Language Therapy, Standing/Walking Frames, Switches, Touch screen computers, Therapies at recognised treatment centres, Trampolines, Tricycles and quadricycles, Weighted blanket/vests. 0800 328 1159, email: info@cerebra.org.uk
 - **Turn2us** www.turn2us.org.uk Is a charitable service which helps people access the money available to them - through welfare benefits, grants and other help. The website has been designed to help you find appropriate sources of financial support, quickly and easily, based on your particular needs and circumstances. Turn2us is part of Elizabeth Finn Care.
 - **The family fund** are the UK's largest provider of grants to low-income families raising disabled and seriously ill children and young people. They help ease the additional pressures families face and can help with essential items such as washing machines, fridges and clothing but can also consider grants for sensory toys, computers and much needed family breaks together. www.familyfund.org.uk, Email info@familyfund.org.uk Tel 08449 744 099.
 - **Manchester carer's centre** 0161 272 7274, carersline@manchestercarers.org.uk www.manchestercarers.org.uk can tell you about grants available.
 - **The Gaddum Centre** www.gaddumcentre.co.uk 0161 834 6069 administers a number of trust funds. Applications to these funds are evaluated by committees and grants provided where applicants meet the criteria required.

Do you have any contacts, websites etc to add to this list? Please let us know at: email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk, phone: 07593 542 107.

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), is 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, is used in Stockport www.makaton.org, Something Special DVDs, Dave Benson Phillips' Makaton Nursery Rhymes - lots on website. Also do regional courses in Makaton—details on website.

•Signalong (based on BSL), is 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).

Our group currently offers 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.

Makaton Training Organised by the Makaton Charity:

Makaton Beginners Workshop: 22nd, 29th February; 7th March & 14th March 2012 6.15pm-9.15pm, Abacus Childrens Centre, £45 for two sessions. £90 for four sessions. The workshop gives a thorough introduction to the Makaton language programme together with learning approx 280 signs/symbols **Makaton Training for Professionals—**

foundation: 22nd, 29th February; 7th March & 14th March 2012, 6.15pm-9.15pm, Abacus Childrens Centre, £45 for two sessions. £90 for four sessions. The workshop gives a thorough introduction to the Makaton language programme together with learning approx 280 signs/symbols. **Enhancement Workshop** 12th, 19th & 26th March 2012, 9.30am -

3.30pm, Abacus Childrens Centre Cost £180. **Further information on all courses: Helen Adams tel: 01457 856323 email: makaton.helen@talktalk.net**

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

Activities/Events

EST Donkey sanctuary Manchester, Green Fold Abbey Hey Manchester*

M18 8RJ, Tel 0161 301 4051 for details www.elisabethsvendsentrust.org.uk/view/manchester.

Saturday clubs: February 18, April 21, May 19. **Spring Fair: March 17.** For children with additional needs and their families. Rides are booked in as you arrive from 10am—1pm. Relax over a cup of tea/coffee, bring a picnic or have a snack and meet other parents, carers and supporters.



All ability Cycling* Open sessions are about recreational cycling where people can focus on fun and the health benefits of riding bikes. There's no need to book, come down, take a look! Cycling for all with disabilities and differing needs, fun together with family, friends and carers, range of cycles for all abilities, opportunity to learn cycle skills with qualified teachers. **Trafford Wheelers Longford Athletics track**, Ryebank Rd Stretford M21 9TA. Sundays 1-3pm. (and Mondays and Fridays 9.30 - 12.30) £2 per session. Call Helen for details 07871621778. **Stockport Wheelers Woodbank Park**, Saturdays 2.00 -4.30 (and Thursdays and Fridays 9.30 - 12.30) Call Sue for details 07753428937. **Wythenshawe Wheelers** Saturdays 1—3pm. (and Tuesdays and Wednesday 9.30 - 12.30) £1.50 per session. at The Athletics Facility, Wythenshawe Park, Wythenshawe Road, Manchester M23 0AB. **The Velodrome**, The National Cycling Centre, Stuart Street, Manchester M11 4DQ Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1 - 3.30pm, Call Helen for details 07871621778. Open all year round. No need to pre book a session. If you need any more information before you visit please ring Sue on 07753 428937.

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 Donna Griffin on 219 2648

The Friendship Club* for school age children who have Down's syndrome, their siblings and friends to socialise together. Interested? Contact Caroline Sheehan on 0161-925-6153.



L'Arche prayer evenings* A chance for people with learning disabilities, their friends, carers, family and friends to pray and reflect together. Stay for a cup of tea and biscuits afterwards! Every first Wednesday in the month, 7.30pm, at Chorlton Central Church, Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, M21 8BF (Corner of Zetland Road and Barlow Moor Road). Fully accessible venue. If you would like more information contact Kevin on 07714 397333 or at kevin.coogan@larche.org.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.**

Symbol UK have a 2012 Life and Learning programme available at:

http://www.symboluk.co.uk/standard.aspx?i_PageID=10297

It includes:

Specialist development programme for practitioners working with people who have Down syndrome: Modular courses Clifton Park, Bristol: 18th - 21st June 2011 and Dickley Court, Kent: 1st- 4th October

Cost: £100 per module, each module lasts 1 day (9.15-4.30pm) with lunch provided

We plan to offer these modules at least annually in Kent and/or Bristol so practitioners can complete the full course in stages. *Specialist Development programme for speech and language therapists working with people who have Down syndrome* From 2005-2011 Symbol delivered a 3 day Specialist development programme for Speech and Language Therapists, hosted by the Down's Syndrome Association. This year, in response to feedback from participants, we have developed a 4 day, modular course that provides opportunities for more in depth discussion of interventions. Participants will develop an in depth knowledge of Down syndrome across the lifespan and designing and delivering interventions in a range of settings, with plenty of opportunities to discuss individual cases and the practicalities of working within specific services. This four day course can be completed in modules, in sequence.

Module 1: An in depth introduction to Down syndrome and the Down syndrome community: Review and discussion of the specificities of the syndrome, including an in depth look at the communication profile and learning style, and an overview of medical issues; historical and current issues for the Down syndrome community such as access to education and the drive for mainstream inclusion; a wealth of practical information too, on supporting communication, 'teaching' to the learning style, specific approaches to behaviour management, and how services and practitioners can take into account what is known about the syndrome when working with this client group.

Module 2 (for speech and language therapists only): Evidence Based Practice and principles for intervention, including assessment, goal planning, AAC and VOCA.

Module 3.1 (for speech and language therapists and highly experienced/specialist SLT support practitioners) Intervention targeting language and social communication

Module 3.2 (for speech and language therapists and highly experienced/specialist SLT support practitioners) Intervention targeting speech and feeding

Modules 1, 2, and 3 must be completed in sequence (3.1 and 3.2 can be taken in any order).

On completion of all 4 modules, participants will receive a certificate of completion of the specialist development programme.

Managing Transitions Seminar - Cerebra

Disabled children and their transition into adulthood: the law and good practice.

The session, facilitated by Luke Clements, aims to provide attendees with an overview of the legal responsibilities of local authorities and NHS bodies to ensure that the social care, education and health care needs of disabled children are fully addressed - and sustained - as they move into adulthood. This session will also provide attendees with updates concerning relevant legal and policy developments and a forum where attendees can:

bring practical problems that have cropped up in their lives and obtain legal and practical advice on how best to resolve these

clarify any issues of uncertainty they have concerning carers' social care rights.

contribute their experiences and expertise to assist in developing a strategy that improves the chances of disabled children and their carers successfully managing the transitional process.

Objectives/outcomes

By the end of the session, attendees should have a better understanding of:

The need to plan adult transitions early, starting in year 9 (aged 14);

The legal obligations of local authorities and health bodies to manage the transition process and to cooperate;

The legal responsibilities of local authorities and NHS bodies to provide support services before and after a disabled young person's 18th birthday.

The differences between the social care assessment obligations and eligibility criteria of disabled children and disabled adults;

The extent to which the duty to provide direct payments changes when a young person becomes 18;

The nature of local authority 'children leaving care duties' in relation to children who have been 'looked after';

The post 18 education rights of disabled people;

The differences between the NHS's responsibilities to provide support for disabled children and for disabled adults;

The assessment of a person's mental capacity to make decision and their 'best interests' and how this differs for adults and young people.

Dates and locations

Tuesday 27th March - Neurosupport Centre, Norton Street, Liverpool. L3 8LR

Wednesday 28th March - Leeds (venue to be confirmed)

Wednesday 25th April - Reading (venue to be confirmed)

Seminar Programme

9.30am - Registration - Tea/coffee and biscuits

10.00 am - Introductions

10.10 am - The legal and the organisational frontiers

10.30 am - Frequently encountered problems

10.45 am - The legal obligations of local authorities and health bodies to manage the transition process and to cooperate

11.15am - Tea/coffee break

11.30 am - The assessment obligation and differing eligibility criteria

12.10 pm - Direct payments and Independent User Trusts

12.30 pm - Looked after children and the 'children leaving care' duties

1.00 pm- Educational rights after the end of a SEN statement.

1.30 pm - Buffet lunch

2.15 pm - The continuing responsibilities of the NHS

2.30 pm - Mental capacity and best interests decision making

3.00 pm - Strategies to ensure a successful transition into adulthood

3.30 pm - Evaluations & Close

Cost

It's free for parents and carers. £30 (non-returnable) for professionals.

Interested?

Please email Melanie Dean at melanied@cerebra.org.uk or telephone 01267 242 556 for further information or to reserve a place.

Alternatively, use the online registration form.

<http://www.cerebra.org.uk/English/events/Pages/SeminarRegistration.aspx>

Dates for your diary



Preschool Drop-in

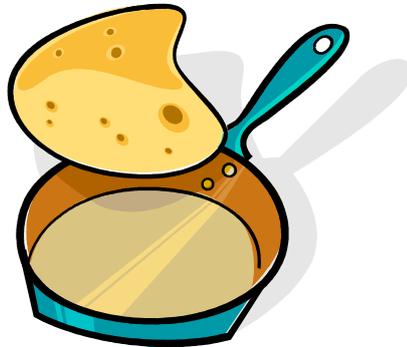
February 10

Run of The Mill

February 16

Chatterbox

February 25



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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