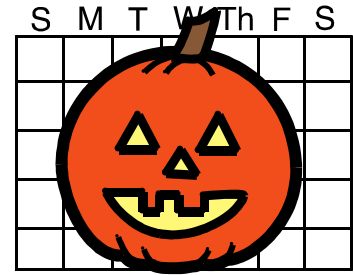




**South Manchester
Down's Syndrome Support Group**
Fulfilling Potential



October 2012

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

We are now a registered charity— Registered Charity No: 1147397



Chatterbox Club

October 20, November 17, December 8

Heaton Moor Evangelical church, Green Lane, Heaton Moor SK4 3LH 9.30am—12.15pm

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 want to enroll their children for SLT, 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. If you do not enroll for the SLT sessions, you are welcome to join us for all the other activities. We have arts and craft activities, sing and sign sessions and finish off with yoga. Our theme for October: Who/body parts

Sing and sign times 9:40 -10:00—over 7 years
 10:05-10:25—0-3 years
 10:30-10:50- 3-7 years

Yoga: 11.30- 12:15



Our September and October Chatterbox clubs are subsidised by a grant from Sports Relief

Our AGM

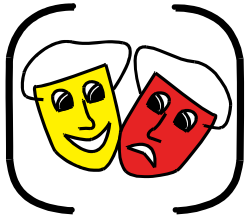
will be held on **Tuesday November 27** at the Northern Tennis club, Didsbury. Supper and drinks available from 7.30pm. Starts at 8.15 prompt.



Our Christmas Party

will be on **Saturday December 15 11am—2pm**. Details of venue etc in November newsletter.

SMDSSG Drama Group



An exciting new initiative for all those aged 9–15 years interested in drama and performing arts. SMDSSG in collaboration with The Edge Theatre and Arts Centre in Chorlton, Manchester are setting up a pilot project to provide a range of drama activities and opportunities for performing.

The sessions will be held at **The Edge Theatre Studios, Manchester Rd, Chorlton M21 9JG** and be facilitated by a drama practitioner experienced in working with people who have learning disabilities.

Five sessions are planned initially, with the hope of securing funding for a longer term project. The project starts on **Mon 8th October 4.30-6.00pm** and then will run weekly, except for half term, on the following dates.

8th Oct, 15th Oct, 22th Oct, 5th Nov, 12th Nov.

The sessions will be fun and a great way to develop confidence, self esteem, social, speech and language and communication skills.

If you are interested, please contact us Tel: 07593 542 107, email: contact@dsmanchester.org.uk to book a place.

There are 12 places available so book early to secure a place!



There will be a cost involved for these sessions. This has not been finalised yet but we aim to make this an accessible rate. If you are interested but the day or time is not suitable do get in touch because this will be useful for future planning.

To find out more about The Edge Theatre and Arts Centre visit their website at www.watersedgearts.com

Workfit

Please see attached letter from Veronica Mulenga, Employment Development Officer at the DSA.

Upcoming Training Organised by SMDSSG

These training events will go ahead if we have sufficient delegates

Friday October 19 2012

A half day introduction to CLICKER-6 by Crick Software
Please see enclosed flyer and booking form.

Tuesday November 6 2012

Communication, language and reading in children with Down's syndrome
Please see enclosed flyer and booking form.

Thursday November 29 2012

Supporting the development of numeracy skills.
Please see enclosed flyer and booking form.



Monday January 21 2013

Supporting social development and behaviour in children and young people with Down's syndrome. Booking forms available in November.

If you want to attend any of these training events, please book ASAP

**Please pass on this training information to your child's school,
other parents and other relevant professionals.**

Other Training

Meeting the needs of children with Down's Syndrome in the mainstream setting.
October 17th 9-4pm. The target audience for this training is SENCo's, teachers and support assistants working with children that live in Manchester - primary and secondary school staff. Schools will have been invited, but if your school needs more information, please contact Karen Bailey, SLT at Longsight Health Centre, 0161 248 1208.

Friday drop-ins

Volunteer(s) needed to choose dates, book a venue and draw up a rota for volunteers to be the named person for each month, take refreshments etc. There is lots of support and advice on offer and it shouldn't take up much of your time.



Please contact Bernadette (contact details below) if you would like to be the organiser or volunteer to be 'on duty' for one or some months.



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 offer support through our sing and sign sessions at Chatterbox and through our signing sessions (see below). Tina Kirwin (who is a BSL signer) who does the Chatterbox sing and sign sessions is always happy to answer your queries, as are some of us parents. 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.

Signing course for parents/carers, TAs and others interested

Mondays: drinks at 7.30pm to start at 8pm, finish at 9pm, October 8, 15 and 22
Chorlton library, Manchester Rd., Chorlton M21 9PN. Go to the Sure Start room up the ramp at the back of the library. Map at:

www.manchester.gov.uk/directory_record/3963/chorlton_library. We are offering these sessions are FREE but donations always welcome. What you missed in session 1—see attached notes.

Parents from Stockport can benefit from free Makaton training courses—to join the waiting list, call 0161 426 5200 and ask for Emma Kay. This course is available to non Stockport parents for £30 if there are spaces.

Activities/Events

EST Donkey sanctuary Manchester, Green Fold Abbey Hey Manchester*

M18 8RJ www.elisabethsvendsentrust.org.uk/view/manchester.

For children with additional needs and their families. Rides are booked in as you arrive from 10am—1pm. **Saturday clubs on third Saturday of the month –please call for details** : Tel 0161 301 4051. Relax over a cup of tea/coffee, bring a picnic or have a snack and meet other parents, carers and supporters.

All ability Cycling* No need to pre-book, just drop by, cycling for all abilities and opportunity to learn cycle skills with qualified teachers. **Please call the numbers given in advance for details.** **Trafford Wheelers** Longford Athletics track, Ryebank Rd Stretford M21 9TA. Sundays 1-3pm £2 per session. Call Helen 07871621778. **Stockport Wheelers Woodbank Park**, Saturdays 2.00 -4.30, Call Sue 07753428937. **Wythenshawe Wheelers** Saturdays 1—3pm, £1.50 per session. The Athletics Facility, Wythenshawe Park, Wythenshawe Road, Manchester M23 0AB. Sue 07753428937. **The Velodrome**, The National Cycling Centre, Stuart Street, Manchester M11 4DQ Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1 - 3.30pm, Call Helen 07871621778

CADS (Children's able and disabled sports) Clubs* www.seashelltrust.org.uk/cads

Please contact Gemma at the Seashell Trust | Stanley Road | Cheadle Hulme | Cheshire | SK8 6RQ Direct Line: 0161 610 0122 gemma.lynch@seashelltrust.org.uk

· Tuesday: Climbing 6-7pm, ages 5-16 £24.50/term Wednesday: Gymnastics 6-7pm. £24.50/term: Kids Yoga 5.15-6pm. £24.50 / term

Friday: Football 6-7pm, ages 5-11; 7-8pm, ages 12-16 £24.50/term*

· Saturday: Dance and Drama, 10am—11.30, ages 4-11; 11.45-1pm, ages 11+£24.50/term

October half term CADS: October 29 & 30 10-3 £30 per child.

CADS*Football at St James Catholic High School.

Manchester Specialist Resource Team groups* Stay and play sessions for young children with disabilities are held throughout the city. 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. **L'Arche boogie night—see flyer**

***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.**

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

Other support groups around Greater Manchester

East Lancs Down's Syndrome Support Group

contact Rachel at eastlancsdssg@aol.com or 07717483044

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 fourth Friday of each month at Sedgley Park Childrens Centre in Prestwich 12.30 - 2.30pm. Contact Sheila, email she.swarb@sky.com, 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.





Dates for your diary

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|--------------------|------------|
| Drama Group | October 8 |
| Signing | October 8 |
| Drama Group | October 15 |
| Signing | October 15 |
| Clicker 6 training | October 19 |
| Chatterbox | October 20 |
| Drama Group | October 22 |
| Signing | October 22 |



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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Fulfilling Potential



SMDSSG
PO Box 307
Manchester M21 3BR

Registered Charity No: 1147397

October 2012

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