



# South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group

*Fulfilling Potential*

September 2012

phone: 07593 542 107, email: [contact@dsmanchester.org.uk](mailto:contact@dsmanchester.org.uk) website: [dsmanchester.org.uk](http://dsmanchester.org.uk)

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



## Chatterbox Club

September 22, 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. **If you wanted your child enrolled for SLT you should have received a group number and time by email. Please contact us if you haven't.**

Our theme for September is food

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

### Calling all First Aiders

Are any regular visitors to Chatterbox first aiders? If so, please let us know.

## Signing course for parents/carers, TAs and others interested



Several parents have asked for opportunities to learn more signs in a group with other parents, so the following sessions have been organised:

**Mondays 8-9pm**

**September 17, 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](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/directory_record/3963/chorlton_library). At the first session, you can meet with speech therapist Elaine Benson and let her know what you would like to gain from these sessions.

These sessions are FREE—donations always welcome.

## Upcoming Training Organised by SMDSSG

These training events will go ahead if we have sufficient delegates

### Monday October 1 2012

Support and practice in primary education for children with Down's syndrome  
Support and practice in secondary education for children with Down's syndrome  
Please see enclosed flyers and booking forms.

### 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 form available in November.

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

All assessment slots for 2012 are now filled but we have a couple of slots left on January 22 2013, so let us know if you would like to book some of Gill's time.



### 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.

## 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, 22nd 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](mailto: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.



### Funding news

We made another successful application to the Community foundation for Greater Manchester **Nine Lives Community Fund** and have received £2000 to subsidise Chatterbox for November 2012 to March 2103.

#### **Chatterbox 2012-2013 Funding:**

September and October: Sports Relief

November 2012 — March 2013:

Nine Lives Community Fund

April—June 2013: NJL Consulting

### Closure of ENT and Hearing Clinic for children with Down's syndrome at Central Manchester Children's Hospital

The committee of SMDSSG wrote to the chief executive of Central Manchester University Hospitals about the closure of the specialist ENT clinic.

The reply we received is attached.



## Venture Arts. FREE art classes



From Venture Arts:

Venture Arts has been in existence for over 27 years but as a centre for adults with a variety of learning disabilities and we have recently (over the past 3 years) been able to expand and offer art workshops to children and young adults with the help of some funding from Short Breaks Manchester.

We run sessions for young people on a Saturday morning and a Wednesday from 3.30 til 6 at our bright and friendly art centre in Hulme. The projects that we do run for roughly ten weeks and are continuous throughout the year, with a short break at Easter and one at Christmas. All of the projects are taught by professional artists who have experience of teaching art to people with learning disabilities. We try to rotate the projects as much as possible so that the children can gain as many skills and as much experience as possible. Our workshops are in photography, 3D, textiles, animation, illustration and much more.

We usually have exhibitions once a year in which family and friends can see the fantastic creations that have been made by their loved ones at high profile venues, past exhibitions have been at The Lowry, Salford Quays and Manchester Art Gallery.

Please see our website for more details, [www.venturearts.org](http://www.venturearts.org).



**All of this is completely free, but attendees have to be between the age of 8 - 18 and have a Manchester postcode (this is subject to change in the near future as we have just gained Children In Need funding which should hopefully not restrict the classes to those only from Manchester).**

We also provide classes for adults with Learning Disabilities from Monday to Friday 10 til 12 and 1 til 3.

Please could you forward this to anyone that you think could be interested?

Katherine Long Project Coordinator Venture Arts 0161 232 1223

## Activities/Events

### **EST Donkey sanctuary Manchester, Green Fold Abbey Hey Manchester\***

M18 8RJ [www.elisabethsvendsentrust.org.uk/view/manchester](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

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## Dates for your diary

Signing	September 17
Chatterbox	September 22
Education Training Day	October 1
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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**Down's Syndrome Support Group**  
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Registered Charity No: 1147397

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