



# South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group (SMDSSG) February 2010



Website: [www.dsmanchester.org.uk](http://www.dsmanchester.org.uk)  
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## Group news

**Coffee mornings Tuesday February 9 10am-12noon**

**New venue** St Aidan's Centre, 238 Wythenshawe Rd., Northern Moor, M23 OPH.

The centre is on the corner of Wytheshawe Rd and Northolt Rd - use the big door on the corner of these roads for access. Come along for a chat, drink and browse our resources.

**Children welcome but not essential!**

### Chatterbox Club

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

**February 27, March 20, April 24, May 15, June 26**

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. If your child is not enrolled for SALT sessions, your family is still very welcome to come along for coffee and a chat.

Themes will be:

February - Places we go to

March - Easter/Spring

April - What we do / verbs

May - Concepts/opposites

June - Holidays

In January our theme was 'People who help us' here is some of our children's art work:



**Emailed newsletters** If you can receive your newsletter by email instead of post, it will save us the postage ... let us know at [contact@dsmanchester.org.uk](mailto:contact@dsmanchester.org.uk).

**If you know of any information, resources, training etc that may be of interest to other parents/carers or professionals who receive this newsletter, let us know**  
[contact@dsmanchester.org.uk](mailto:contact@dsmanchester.org.uk)

## ***Training Update and Signing***

We had another full training session in January on **The inclusion of children with Down syndrome - expectations of behaviour**. We had lots of very positive feedback. There was some discussion about the lack of support for parents (and some professionals) in using **sign language** - we all know how important it is to support the spoken word with sign for our children. The following resources may be useful:

- BSL for sign supported English (SSE), as used in Manchester:  
[www.britishsignlanguage.com](http://www.britishsignlanguage.com), [www.british-sign.co.uk](http://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 - contact details below. Forest ([www.forestbooks.com](http://www.forestbooks.com)) books have other BSL based resources.
- Makaton, as used in Stockport [www.makaton.org](http://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](http://www.signalong.org.uk).  
Various Signalong books are available at Amazon.
- Sing and Sign DVDs by Sasha Felix - [www.singandsign.co.uk](http://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 cover geographical areas that use different sign language, so doing some training in signing is not straightforward but certainly something we are thinking about. 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.

## ***Training and conferences***

**Online seminars from DownsEd** DownsEd have launched their new online seminars and courses service. Visit [www.downsed.org](http://www.downsed.org) and click on online courses to book and take part in an interactive live training session with Sue Buckley and other experts based at Down Syndrome Education International. All you need to join in is an Internet connection, a compatible browser and (optionally) a telephone line. Each seminar is live and lasts for 90 minutes and includes 30 minutes for questions from participants, offering lots of opportunities to get the information and advice you want. Downloadable handouts and resources lists are also provided to seminar participants. Subject areas are: Childhood (5-11 years), Early Years (birth to 5 years), Speech and Language, Teenage (11-16 years). Courses and seminars are suitable for teachers, teaching assistants, educational/school psychologists, speech and language therapists, other health and education professionals, representatives of support groups and families seeking detailed information.

## **Advance notice of proposed training organised by SMDSSG in Manchester**

**September 24:** Using the Written Word and ICT to promote language and communication

**November 4:** Numicon Training

**January 2011:** Inclusion and Behaviour

*Booking forms and details will be available after Easter*

**Training available in Bradford** Details at [www.downsupportbradford.ik.com](http://www.downsupportbradford.ik.com) or contact Wendy Uttley or Wendy Rhodes Tel: 01274 616966 email: [office@downsyndromebradford.co.uk](mailto:office@downsyndromebradford.co.uk) Address: The Pamela Sunter Centre 101 Town Lane, Thackley Bradford BD10 8LP

**Signing and children with Down syndrome** Fridays 9.30 to 11.30 on 26th Feb and 5th March 2010 **Session 1** will cover why we use signing with children with Down syndrome and the signs for manners, animals, home, food, family and other people, and the alphabet. **Session 2** will cover signs for the school day, colours, descriptions, time/days, questions and connective/link words. Followed by discussion on how behaviour can be addressed through introducing signing and a brief software demonstration of Speaking For Myself. Both sessions include practice of useful phrases and familiar children's songs. **COST:** £40professional/£20 per family member.

**The inclusion of children with Down syndrome - expectations of behaviour** Friday 19th March 2010, 9.30 to 2.30pm. By considering the learning profile of a child with Down syndrome and looking at areas of need this course will aim to address areas where difficult behaviours may develop. It will look at expectations, appropriate behaviour, including self help skills and go on to outline strategies to encourage good behaviour. **COST:** £60 per professional/£30 per family member. Includes lunch

**Numicon** Session 1: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010, 9.30 to 12.30 Session 2: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010, 9.30 to 12.30 Delegates are welcome to attend both or either one of the sessions. However if you are new to Numicon it is NOT recommended to attend session 2 only **COST:** Both days - £80.00 per professional/ £40 per parent. Lunch included. One day - £40.00 per professional/£20 per parent. Lunch included.

### **Using the Written Word and ICT to promote language and communication skills**

9.30 to 3.00 Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 **COST:** Full day - £60 per professional/£30 per parent to include buffet lunch. Half day - £40.00 per professional/£20 per parent to includes lunch.

**What time is it?** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010, 9.30 to 3.00 **COST:** £60.00 per professional/£30 per parent, lunch included.

**Local 2010 Conferences run by the Down's Syndrome Association**  
All sorts of discounts are available by booking early and multiple bookings. Contact the DSA for details and a full list of 2010 learning opportunities: website [www.downs-syndrome.org.uk](http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk). To make booking enquiries please telephone 0845 230 0372 or email [Lesley@downs-syndrome.org.uk](mailto:Lesley@downs-syndrome.org.uk)

### **3-day Specialist Speech and Language Course**

**Manchester Monday 10th May 2010 to Wednesday 12th May 2010**

This 3-day course will give an in-depth understanding of how Down's syndrome affects speech and language development, and a wealth of practical advice. Target Audience: Registered Speech and Language Therapists working with adults and children with Down's syndrome. Course Tutors: Symbol UK Ltd Delegate Rate: Professionals £340. This fee includes attendance, refreshments, lunch and course documentation. If you book five or more professional places at this conference, you will receive a 10% discount on your booking.

### **5-11: A 2-day Primary Education Event**

**5th and 6th October in Manchester**

This 2-day workshop-based conference offers delegates the opportunity to attend just one or both days. This event is complemented by a school-age speech and language development conference (at the same venue) on the third day. Day one features the learning profile, fine motor skills and writing, reading, maths and differentiation. Day two features numeracy, transition, ICT, behaviour and communication. Delegates will have the opportunity to choose from a range workshops. Suitable for all education staff working in mainstream primary school. Parents are also welcome. Delegate Rates: For one day - Professionals £115, parents/family carers £40; two days - Professionals £210, parents/family carers £80; both days plus the School-age Speech and Language Development Conference on 7th October - Professionals £300, parents/family carers £120. This fee includes attendance, refreshments, lunch and conference documentation.

### **School-age Speech & Language Development conferences**

**7th October in Manchester, 12th November in Birmingham**

This conference aims to improve the understanding of the communication needs of children with Down's syndrome and features presentations on the communication profile of children with Down's syndrome; raising communication expectations; speech and language intervention; overcoming communication difficulties in everyday settings; and desired speech and language therapy input for school-age children. Target Audience: Health, education and social care professionals working with children with Down's syndrome and parents/carers of children with Down's syndrome of a school age. Conference Speakers: Symbol UK Ltd. Delegate rate: Professionals £115, Parents/Family Carers £40.

### **Early Years Speech & Language Development conferences**

**8th October in Manchester, 11th November in Birmingham**

This conference aims to improve the understanding of the communication needs of children with Down's syndrome and features presentations on the communication profile of children with Down's syndrome; raising communication expectations; speech and language intervention; the development of a communication environment for home and early years settings and desired speech therapy input for early years. Target Audience: Health, education and social care professionals working with children with Down's syndrome and parents/carers of children with Down's syndrome in a pre-school setting. Conference Speakers: Symbol UK Delegate Rate: Professionals £115, Parents/Family Carers £40

### **3-day Course: Supporting Pupils with Down's Syndrome**

**Friday 17th September, Friday 15th October and Friday 19th November 2010 Leeds**

This course promotes best practice in supporting pupils with Down's syndrome. It will provide knowledge related to the condition and its impact on learning as well as strategies to ensure progress. Students will engage in suitable activities to enable them to understand the condition and their role in supporting teaching and learning. **Students will have the opportunity to complete homework which will be assessed against NVQ and Support Work in School (SWiS) standards.** Target Audience: Teaching assistants, cover supervisors, classroom-based support staff in early years, primary and secondary settings.

### **Access & Success: supporting positive behaviour and effective differentiation for pupils with Down's syndrome**

**14th October in Leeds, 25th November in Birmingham**

This practical event features presentation-based workshops and aims to enhance the day to day practice of supporting pupils with Down's syndrome. The day will focus on behaviour management as well as the creation of differentiated materials. Target Audience: Teaching and learning support professionals working in mainstream schools with children with Down's syndrome. Delegate Rate: Professionals £115. This fee includes attendance, refreshments, lunch and conference documentation. Places are limited.

### **Primary conference**

**9th November in Birmingham**

Suitable for all education staff working in mainstream primary school. Parents are also welcome. Including the specific learning profile, differentiation, behaviour, reading and writing, transition, communication, maths and number.

### **Including Students with Down's Syndrome in Mainstream Secondary School Leeds Thursday, 18th November 2010**

This conference will feature presentations on educating and preparing your student for life beyond school, and the learning profile and accessing the curriculum. Delegates will have the opportunity to choose workshops from topics such as developing key skills, 14+ transition, and sexuality and relationships education. Target Audience: Teaching and learning support professionals working in mainstream schools with children with Down's syndrome. While specifically geared towards professionals, parents are also welcome at this conference. Professionals £115, Parents/Family Carers £40

## *Resources/Information*

**Early Years and SEN show**, with CPD seminar programme, Manchester central, Friday 23 and Saturday 24 April 2010, see [www.teachingexhibitions.co.uk](http://www.teachingexhibitions.co.uk) for details.

**Free resources at: 'Visual Aids for Learning'** These visuals were created by Jenine and Wayne Addison. They have kindly made them available for everyone and can be used for school and home and for various age groups [www.visualaidsforlearning.com](http://www.visualaidsforlearning.com)

**Save up to 25% off selected products at DownsEd online stores this February** Throughout February you can save up to 25% off many of the carefully selected resources from other publishers ordered through our online stores - including some Woodbine House books, Numicon Teaching resources, POPS resources, Greenhouse publications: [blogs.downsed.org/downsed](http://blogs.downsed.org/downsed)

**Does your child wear glasses? "Erin's World"** is a frame line designed and manufactured to fit children with Down syndrome. Unlike other frames, the bridge is adjusted to fit smaller noses and the temples (some people call them arms) are designed to help keep the glasses from constantly slipping. Erin's World frames are available in a variety of sizes and styles to fit toddlers to adults. The range can be viewed at [www.specs4us.com](http://www.specs4us.com).

To receive regular updates from **DownsEd** by email visit <http://blogs.downsed.org/email/>  
Some snippets: DownsEd have re opened their **consulting and assessment services** offering expert advice and support to schools, LEAs and families. Consultations for families can take place at the Sarah Duffen Centre, Portsmouth or by telephone or via the web. For schools they can be on site or again via telephone or the web. Visit [www.downsed.com/consultancy](http://www.downsed.com/consultancy).  
**Launch of new UK Parliamentary group on Down syndrome.** This new group has been formed to work to inform MPs and Lords about the issues facing people with Down syndrome and their families across the UK and consider ways in which policy changes can improve their quality of life. One goal is to ensure that people with Down syndrome are recognised by government departments as not only having many needs in common with other disabled and non-disabled people but as also having distinct needs that are associated with having Down syndrome. Something that continues to hold back much needed specific practice and interventions. Two working groups are to be formed. The first to identify national best practice standards in healthcare, early intervention, education, social support and employment and to work to ensure such practice is put into practise. The second is to focus on research.

### **UPDATE ON THE LAMB REPORT INTO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND PARENTAL CONFIDENCE**

The latest Lamb report

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/downloads/8553-lambinquiry.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/downloads/8553-lambinquiry.pdf)

Brian Lambs letter to Ed Balls:

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/downloads/brian-lamblttter-to-ed-balls.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/downloads/brian-lamblttter-to-ed-balls.pdf)

Ed Balls response to Brian Lamb listing what actions are to be taken:

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/downloads/ed-balls-lettterto-brian-lamb.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/downloads/ed-balls-lettterto-brian-lamb.pdf)

## *Events*

EST Donkey sanctuary Manchester, Green Fold Abbey Hey Manchester M18 8RJ

**February 20 10am - 3pm - Saturday Club at Donkeys\***. Donkey riding for children with additional needs and their siblings. Open session, indoor and outdoor play areas for children, drinks and food available to purchase. Tel 0161 301 4051 for more details.

**CADS Saturday Club\*** - inclusive group offering dance & drama at the Common Room at the Seashell Trust, Cheadle and every Saturday during term time. Current sessions are as follows: 9:30-10:45am 4-7 year olds; 10:45-12:00pm 8-12 year olds; 12:00-1:00pm 13+ years old. Contact Gemma Castle at 0161 610-0124 or email [cads@seashelltrust.org.uk](mailto:cads@seashelltrust.org.uk) to book.

**Arts Drop In\*** For Children aged 0-10 yrs who have disabilities and their families. Alexandra Park Play Centre (Park on Demesne Rd/ buses to Alexandra Rd Sth or Princess Rd and walk through the park), 12 - 2pm. Sat Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> June, Sat 24<sup>th</sup> July CONTACT Lorna 07939998176 or Jess 07707297316 for more info.

**\* Please note: not run by the South Manchester Down Syndrome Support Group. For information only and 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** Monday 8th February, 4-6pm at Slide and Seek, Unit A, SK14 Industrial Park, Broadway, Hyde SK14 4QF Hyde. The cost is £2 per child for the play session (it is a large soft play centre) and hot food for each child. Siblings welcome.

**New support group in Oldham: Family Support & Play Group.** To meet on a monthly basis and be for children with DS, their brothers, sisters, parents, carers and grandparents. They are thinking of using the Sure Start Centre based in Hollinwood, just off the M60. If you would be interested in coming along text or e-mail your contact details to: Frances at [francesbattle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:francesbattle@hotmail.co.uk) or Text Moira on 07759684398 and they will be back in touch with you as soon as they have sorted out some definite dates, times and venue.

**North Manchester Coffee Mornings** The last Tuesday of each month (not holidays) 1pm - 3pm at Redvales Children Centre, Dorset Drive, Bury. Contact Sheila on email [she.swarb@tesco.net](mailto:she.swarb@tesco.net) mobile: 07729179201 for details.

**Down's Syndrome Family & Carer's Group, Lancaster** starting on 6th March 2010 10am-12 noon at Appletree Children's Centre, Milking Stile Lane (Off Willow Lane) Lancaster. All ages welcome. Meetings will be every first Saturday of the month. For information contact: Liz Fawcett e-mail: [lizfawcett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizfawcett@hotmail.co.uk) or phone Appletree Children's Centre on 01524 64132. Hope to have play, chat and refreshments at the first meeting.

## *Inclusion Message*

How we refer to children affects the way they are perceived. By talking about "children with Down syndrome" or "children with a learning disability" rather than a "Down's child," "Down's kids," "Down syndrome child" or a "learning disabled child" helps us to see the child rather than the condition. All children are children first and foremost, whatever their ability. Using positive language influences attitudes. People's attitudes and their willingness to accept children and people, whatever their ability is crucial to inclusion. Through the years there have been many words used to label children with Down syndrome - all negative. In some schools in Ontario, Canada, where children of all abilities have been included in mainstream schools since 1969, terminology is very positive. Any child who needs a modified curriculum, whether because they are gifted or have a learning disability are referred to as **EXCEPTIONAL** because they are the exception to the typical child. This is a wonderfully positive term that does not distinguish between abilities and promotes a positive attitude. Inclusion comes down to **ATTITUDE**, to be able to think outside the box, to be open to new ideas and change, to be flexible and ready to modify. **Attitude is key**. It can be a barrier to good inclusion or it can be a driving force that makes inclusion work..

## *Dates for your diary*

<b>CADS Saturday club</b>	Saturdays
<b>Coffee morning</b>	February 9
<b>Saturday Club at the donkeys</b>	February 20
<b>Chatterbox Club</b>	February 27
<b>Arts drop in</b>	February 27

The views and items on this newsletter are not necessarily those of the South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group.

Mention does not necessarily mean recommendation or support.

***South Manchester Down's Syndrome Support Group***  
***February 2010***