



Deaf Parenting UK



Deaf Parenting Newsletter

September 2007

Autumn Issue 4

WELCOME!



Hello and welcome to the autumn **edition** of the newsletter produced by **Deaf Parenting UK**.

I am at a loss on where to start... children starting school or returning to school, parents who just had babies or waiting for the arrival of the new bundle of joy!

For many of us, the impending arrival of the first day of school is looming near. My main thought are with the parents who will be sending their children to full time school for the first time this month. Children attending school is an excellent way for interaction with other children and building social skills.

Parents will view the first day with a range of emotions, and your child will definitely have them too. I remember being very excited for my daughter when she was started pre-school but I was tearful when I left her, desperately trying to keep it together as I walked out of the hall! Good luck on your child's 1st day at school!

Furthermore, I hope you find this newsletter edition as enjoyable as the last one...And don't forget, we would love to hear from you, if you have a story to tell or tips to share, get in touch!

Nicole Campbell
DPUK Coordinator

CONTENTS

<i>DPUK AGM/WEBSITE LAUNCH</i>	<i>1/2</i>
<i>WFD</i>	<i>2/3</i>
<i>NEWSROUND</i>	<i>4/5</i>
<i>DPUK MAILSHOT</i>	<i>6/7</i>
<i>ANNOUNCEMENTS</i>	<i>8/9</i>
<i>NOTICEBOARD</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>CONTACTS</i>	<i>11</i>

Deaf Parenting UK 1st AGM and Re-launch of DPUK Brand new Website

Deaf Parenting UK is the first ever charity and small national organisation run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents, representing the needs of Deaf parents in the UK, of whom are sign language users and are 90% likely to have hearing children. Deaf Parenting UK's key aim is "Enabling confidence, empowering and supporting Deaf parents."



Deaf Parenting UK is proud to announce the major launch of their brand new website, which had been revamped, designed by Remark! The website is seen as an exciting central point of resources with BSL

Funded by:



Translation, enabling Deaf parents to have equal access to information and to learn more about parenting skill courses, 1:1 parenting support, Deaf Parents Forum, what we do and how Deaf parents can be involved in our work.

Deaf Parenting UK also held their first AGM, together with their comprehensive report of achievement, looking at how far Deaf Parenting UK have come since it first started in 2001. Deaf Parenting UK is pleased to welcome new Trustees to our Board of Trustees - Kevin Buckle, Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford and Shabab Reza and look forward to their contribution, expertise and skills to Deaf Parenting UK.



Finally, to increase Deaf Parenting UK's profile of who we

are and what we offer to Deaf parents and professionals working with them, Deaf Parenting UK team of trustees and Remark! staff worked together on the website as well as designing a professional exhibition stand of 3m high, 3m wide with lots of visual images of what Deaf Parenting UK do.

A positive slogan: "**Enabling confidence, empowering and supporting Deaf parents**" was created as Deaf Parenting UK's motto, to sum up what Deaf Parenting UK means and what we do, were then added onto the exhibition stand and onto our website.

To learn more about Deaf Parenting UK website and what we do, please go on www.deafparent.org.uk and we hope you will enjoy browsing and look forward to your contribution/feedback.

WFD: 16th – July 2007

Sabina, Chair of Deaf Parenting UK, attended the 15th World Congress of the WFD (World Federation for the Deaf) in Madrid, capital of Spain. The theme of the congress was 'Sign Languages and Human Rights', looking at various areas that affect Deaf people's life ranging from Human rights, linguistic & culture; Sign Languages; Education; Technology; Mental Health; Women, CODA, Youth, Older people, Deafblind people, BME (Black & minorities ethnic) communities and many more.



Sabina, Chair of Deaf Parenting UK and Markku Jokinen, WFD President

Sabina have been networking with so many people on local, national and international level and met Markku Jokinen, President of the World Federation of the Deaf during the conference, highlighting the needs of Deaf parents and pressing for Deaf parents to be recognised as a key priority for WFD in the same way as CODA, Women, Youth, Education and Mental health.

Sabina also recognised the uniqueness of Deaf Parenting UK as a national organisation in UK. She checked with other countries and there were none like DPUK apart from small projects here and there, but not a formal organisation of Deaf parents for Deaf parents. It shows on how important for Deaf Parenting UK to present itself as a good model for other countries across the world on enabling confidence, supporting and empowering Deaf parents.

What is WFD?



The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is an international non-governmental organisation comprising national associations of

Deaf people. It watches over the interests of more than 74 million Deaf people worldwide -more than 80% of them live in developing countries, where authorities are rarely familiar with their needs or desires.

The WFD was founded in 1951, during the First World Congress of the WFD, held in Rome. Such an early date makes the WFD one of the oldest international disability organisations in the world.

Currently, the WFD has a membership of 127 national associations from the five continents worldwide.

Recognised by the United Nations (UN) as their spokes-organisation, WFD works closely with the UN and its various agencies in promoting the human rights of Deaf people in accordance with the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other general acts and recommendations of the UN and its specialised agencies.

When necessary, WFD uses special, legal or administrative measures to ensure that Deaf people in every country have the right to preserve their own sign languages, organisations, and cultural and other activities.

WFD have national members from 127 countries, of which each representing their country. National members convene in a General Assembly every four years in conjunction with the World Congress.

The General Assembly elects the Board and approves the WFD action plan for the following four years.

The Board is the responsible body for implementing those policies approved by the General Assembly.

WFD activities are conducted according to these principles:

- To promote the status of national Sign Languages.
- To improve Deaf education.
- To improve access to information.
- To claim for Deaf human rights in developing countries.
- To promote the establishment of Deaf organisations where none currently exist.

The importance of the WFD is vital since it allows cohesion among all entities of Deaf people in the world. Likewise, this organisation strives for solidarity towards millions of Deaf people from Countries whose political and economic situation deprives them from exercising their rights to sign language; and equal opportunity in all spheres of life, including access to education and information.

For these reasons, all Deaf people must become acquainted with WFD work and support it, because it is through union and commitment that we will get a freer world.

What does it means for Deaf Parents?

The principle of Human Rights and sign language means that at local level, we need to work together to ensure that Deaf parents have access to education, parenting information and enjoy their human rights as Deaf person and as a parent where they are entitled to enjoy family lives and need to have access to information/services without any barriers and discrimination.

DPUK NEWSROUND *Deaf Parenting News nationally...*

International winner for breastfeeding icon designed by a Deaf father in USA.



[Mothering Magazine Interview with Matt Daigle](#)

Why did you enter this contest?

My friend who subscribes to *Mothering* magazine forwarded the contest information to me. She knew that one of my passions is logo design and she thought I would do a great job in creating something that would benefit breastfeeding mothers.

What elements/aspects of breastfeeding did you hope to convey?

I wanted the icon to accurately convey a child nursing on his mother's breast rather than being held by a mother or parent. I wanted the image to be feminine. I wanted to give the impression of breast on the icon (the space between the baby's arm and his/her chin), without having to show a breast in its entirety. While I feel that breastfeeding and breasts are natural, I didn't want to alienate those people who may have a more conservative view about exposing breasts, since this image could be released into the public domain.

How do you hope the symbol will be used?

I hope this symbol is used in all public places to clearly communicate to the public that breastfeeding is natural and healthy and that as a society we support it. I hope that having a symbol will encourage more entities to establish breastfeeding-friendly areas for families to use. Finally, I hope that this symbol will encourage people to make breastfeeding their first choice in nourishing their children.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about your design?

As a profoundly deaf individual, I know how important it is to communicate through visual means. This is why I wanted my design to communicate clearly and quickly that breastfeeding facilities are offered or nearby. I also know, first hand, how frustrating it is to be in a public place and have a hungry baby and not have a clue if breastfeeding facilities are nearby or even offered at all. How much easier it would be to walk up to an information desk, point to the breastfeeding icon, and be directed to the facilities.

Any words of wisdom for the world regarding breastfeeding?

Breastfeeding is natural and healthy and women should never feel embarrassed or awkward for feeding their children in public.

(Extracts from www.mothering.com)

For full article, go to:

http://www.mothering.com/sections/action_alerts/iconcontest/icon-winner.html

Family Fun Events in London

The first event planned on 16th June 2007, took place at the Crystal Palace Park.



Deaf adults played rounder and fun entertainment for young children. The day turned out to be successful despite the occasional torrential rain, which did not hinder the children's enjoyment and approximately 30 Deaf parents/adults and 20 children attended.

The children were delighted with the kid's entertainment which took place inside a large gazebo, consisting of a 'Clown' who proved very popular in story telling, singing and dancing, balloon modelling, face painting, fun and games etc.



A very Big Thank you to all of you that attended the fun day and making it such a great day!

The 2nd event took place at Charlton Athletic Football Club Summer Tournament, in Catford on Saturday 21st July.

CADFC and DPUK joined together to create the Summer Tournament incorporating the family fun event for children of deaf parents.

Families from all over London and surrounding areas attended with their children and the highlight of this event included bouncy castle and kids entertainer, with entertainment ranging from face painting, sing songs, dance, balloon modelling etc.

We are delighted that to note just over 40 children attended this event, which has been hugely successful. Thank you to everyone who came along, making it known that it is very important for deaf parents and children to meet and interact with other members in the deaf community.



DPUK MAILSHOT *Your experiences, your views, your topics....*

Positive support in the lives of deaf children and their families:

Over the last few years, early identification of deafness has been a priority in England and elsewhere in the UK. Now it is possible to identify deaf babies very early after birth thanks to new technology. The average age of diagnosis is now only 2 months. Early identification has impacted the life of deaf children and their families in many ways. For example, professional support for families starts earlier than ever before. Hearing parents not used to deafness have to face up to the new experiences and challenges it brings very quickly after birth.

Some studies in the USA predict that early-identified deaf babies will do much better than used to be the case. For example, Yoshinaga-Itano (2003) found out that early identification and early intervention results in better language (including sign language), speech and social-emotional development.

However, there are many differences between early intervention services in the USA and in the UK. Therefore, it is difficult to say if early intervention is having similar effects on the well being of deaf children and their families in this country.

What kind of support do Deaf and hearing parents get after having a deaf baby? Are Deaf and hearing parents' satisfied with the quality of professional intervention? How does support affect what parents' think of their deaf babies? How do deaf babies develop over the first years of life? Finally, does early intervention make a positive difference in the lives of deaf children and their families?

Positive support in the lives of deaf children and their families is a 3-year project, which is interested in understanding what happens after parents find out they, have a deaf baby. The University of Manchester and Deafness Cognition and Language Centre (DCAL) in UCL run the study in collaboration with NDCS and Deafness Research UK, funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

The research team is inviting Deaf and hearing families who have deaf babies born since September 2005 and identified within 6 months of birth to get involved in the study.

Parents' participation in the study is very important. By taking part in the study Deaf and hearing parents will have a chance to say what support works best for them. It will help us discover what kinds of support families need to improve their lives and those of their deaf babies. The results of this study will provide research-based information to improve service provision, helping other Deaf and hearing families in the future.

Why not take this opportunity of telling us about your experience as a parent of a deaf baby. If you are interested in taking part please contact Rebecca Lea:



Tel: 0161 275 6924
SMS: 07766 240 014

Email: Rebecca.lea@man.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.positivesupport.info>

Debate: MOTHER versus FATHER

It can be very difficult for parents to agree with each other, and I believe both parents need to communicate as often as possible and agree how we parent our children.

This is often not the case as we do have disagreements, as in my case the situation with stepfamilies. My husband is a stepfather to my son and they both do not have a good relationship - my son is going through a teenage phase and I have to juggle giving support to both, to try and encourage both to come to an understanding.

I feel that 'Mothers' have more emotional bond with children because they tend to be the ones to be around the children the most and knows what is best for them. Father's goes to work, come home feeling exhausted and tend to spend very little or no time with the children.

I feel it is very important to highlight that both parents should be supportive and consistent in parenting children, a positive role model that can project a happy and contented family unit.

Parenting children is a means of giving the child/children love, understanding confidence, communication, protection and social skills. We have a duty as a parent to instill a greater understanding of how to help children thrive within the family and in the society.

Sarah Dobridge
Bromley

Upcoming debates:

- Worried about MMR...what did you do?
- Nursery place – how did you decide which is best for you & your child – findings from Education/Early Years Childcare/Social Services for children under 3 years
- Expecting a 2nd child – worried about how to cope with raising 1st child with 2nd baby on the way?

Do you share similar/ different views? **DPUK** would like to hear from you!

If you would like to respond and have it printed in next issue's newsletter

Email or fax your comments to:

Email: info@deafparent.org.uk

Fax: 0871 2643323

DPUK Announcement *Sharing your news...*

Sarah Dobridge, formerly member of Bromley PCT PPI Forum (Patient Public Involvement) has step down from her role with PPI and taken up a new role as committee member for Bromley Chain. Bromley Chain is a Charity set up by parents of deaf children in Bromley, and is run by deaf and hearing members working together in providing support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people living in Bromley.

For information about Bromley Chain, check out the website on www.bromleychain.org.uk



DPUK hosting **Street Dance**



**FOR 12 TO 16 YEAR OLDS
DEAF/HEARING CHILDREN OF DEAF
PARENTS**

(FROM BEXLEY, BROMLEY, GREENWICH, LEWISHAM &
SOUTHWARK BOROUGHS)

**Learn fantastic world of Hip-Hop & Urban
Dance session With BSL Dance Tutor**

At

**Greenwich West Community & Arts Centre
141 Greenwich High Road, London SE10 8JA**

**Saturday 29th September 2007
2.15pm – 4.45pm**

- Nearest British Rail Station & DLR:
Greenwich (5 mins walk)
- Buses to Greenwich –: 177, 180, 199

Limited spaces - Please book your place

Deadline for application forms:

Friday 21st September 07

**Contact DPUK Coordinator for application
form.**

Email: info@deafparent.org.uk

Fax: 0871 2643323 **SMS:** 07789 027186



local network fund
for children and young people

Funded by:



Deaf Yoga

Discover the health
Benefits of Yoga workouts
meditation exercise & Pilate's.

Benefits of Yoga can help you
achieve a health body and mind
through:

- Flexibility
- Inner Strength
- Release
- Good health

Classes taught in BSL/Voice by
qualified Deaf Yoga tutor.

For more information, check out
the website:

www.deafyoga.co.uk

Share your news/ dates of events to DPUK...

If you would like to have it printed
in next issue's newsletter - please
email your details to:

info@deafparent.org.uk

London Baby Show – Earls Court

The Baby Shows three day events dedicated to pregnancy, birth, babies and toddlers – a great day out with the chance to try and buy all the essentials you need and get expert information and advice.

From 19th - 21st October 2007

Adult - £12.50

Children – Free

If you bring BSL signer with you – entry is free as 'Carers'

www.thebabyshow.co.uk/earls-court-london



Team HaDo, a new BSL/English translation service, are keen to explore whether our services could be of use to Deaf parents and carers in untangling the mountain of paperwork that kids bring home from school. We are NOT an interpreting service, but can quickly translate letters/reports into BSL for you (onto DVD) and you can dictate your reply to us in BSL and we'll write it up in English for you.

This service is not free, but we feel that London Education Authorities should fund this sort of access through their equality budgets, and we would be happy to work with you to persuade them to do so.

Email team@teamhado.com

SMS 07890 148555

www.teamhado.com

**0-5 Early Years
Centre**

**Would you like a BSL rich learning
environment for your baby?**

**If you are interested please contact us
at**

**Frank Barnes School
Harley Road
Camden
NW3 3BN**

Phone: 0207 586 4665

Fax: 0207 7224415

E-mail

admin@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk

Bromley Deaf Social Club

Meets on the 4th Friday of each
month.

At

Labour Party Hall
St Mark's Road
Bromley

Nearest BR: Bromley South Station

(Approximately 3 mins away)

TIME: 7pm to 11pm

ENTRY: £1 Admission fee

OAP & under 16 yrs - FREE

Dates of forthcoming meet:

28th September 2007

26th October 2007

23rd November 2007

21st December 2007



NOTICE BOARD



Free Information Technology Training for deaf parents

IT Level 1 courses available for deaf parents who live in London. There may be some provision for Level 2 courses

Training provided by a deaf tutor at a central London location for one and a half days a week for 9 weeks

Additional one-to-one advice on looking for work with an employment adviser from RNID

IT courses start in September 2007 and January 2008. For more information please contact Yvonne Young:

020 7296 8310 (voice)
0207 294 3702 (minicom)
Email: yvonne.young@rnid.org.uk

Action Deafness Parent & Baby/Toddler Group

Meet deaf/deafened/deafblind/HOH parents with hearing/deaf babies/toddlers. For further information, please contact:

Information & Activities Officer
Action Deafness
135 Welford Road, Leicester LE2 6BE

Tel: 0116 257 4800
Text: 0116 257 4888
Fax: 0116 257 4858
Email: sharonsmith@actiondeafness.org.uk



The Deafness Resource Centre and Sure Start working in partnership to provide a playgroup ' **Happy Hands**' for children Deaf, HOH parents & Hearing parents of deaf HOH children under 5yrs.

The sessions will involve play with multi-sensory toys, story time and healthy snacks.



To attend you must book your place, for more information about session dates, contact: **Deafness Resource Centre**
32-40 Dentons Green Lane
St Helens
WA10 2QB

Tel/text: 01744 238 87
Fax: 01744 611 540
Mobile: 07896934485
Email: deafsociety2003@yahoo.com

DPUK & Parentline Plus Partnership Project

Parenting Skills Course for Deaf Parents with Young Children, living in Croydon Borough.

5 weeks course on Friday mornings from 21st September 2007

For more information about the course, contact DPUK Coordinator.

Info@deafparent.org.uk



Parentline_{plus}

DPUK CONTACTS



Deaf Parenting UK

Deaf Parenting UK
C/O Dering Employment Service
96 Park Lane
Croydon CR9 2NL

SMS: 07789 027186

Fax: 0871 2643323

Email: info@deafparent.org.uk

Website: www.deafparent.org.uk

Want to become a trustee member...?

If you are a deaf parent and have an interest in becoming a trustee board member, please email your CV and covering letter explaining why you want to become a member to: info@deafparent.org.uk

DPUK Board Trustee

The DPUK Board Trustee is a group made up of a Working Party consisting of deaf parents, professionals and service providers working together to identify gaps in information and services and find ways to improve access for deaf parents.

Board of Trustees

Chair – Sabina Iqbal, Deaf Mum & Sensory Team Manager

Vice Chair – Trudi Collier, Deaf Mum & Deaf Counsellor

Treasurer – Jessica Wilde, Deaf Mum & Deaf Employment Advisor

Secretary – Vacant

Board Members

Ramon Woolfe - Deaf Father & Entrepreneur

Yasmin Kovic - Deaf Mum & Specialist in Child Protection

Penny Beschizza - Deaf Mum & Lecturer for Deaf Students

New Board Members

Kevin Buckle - Deaf Father & Mental health support worker with experience of ethnic issues

Shahab Reza - Deaf Father & specialist in Charity accountancy, IT tutorial including ECDL

Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford – Deaf Mum & Teaching Assistant and Play worker for Deaf children

Robin Ash, Deaf Father and Senior Instructor in Deaf School and Jackie Thompson, Deaf mum and social worker, have stepped down from their roles as trustee board members. On behalf of DPUK, a big thank you for their contributions and expertise to Deaf Parenting UK, they will be sorely missed but not be forgotten!