



Coordinator's News

Welcome to the Summer 2009 edition DPUK Newsletter.

The summer holiday is just around the corner and what could be better than a great day out with the kids? These days there are lots of exciting places to choose from - zoos and science centres, castles and museums, country parks and stately homes - but even with so many outings on offer, there's little that has as much potential for fun and enjoyment . . . or as much potential for disaster and disappointment . . . as a family day out.

Remember, small children have loads of energy to burn up so you need to choose a trip that offers plenty of running around opportunities. The big trick of a good day out is to choose somewhere that meets the needs of the children (animals or adventure playground) but has plenty to offer the grown-ups (a beautiful house, even a quiet cup of tea!).

Don't forget, we would love to hear from you, if you have a story to tell us or tips to share...get in touch!

With my very best wishes to all of you for a wonderful Summer!

Nicole Campbell
DPUK Coordinator

CONTENTS

<i>WELCOME</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>PROJECT MANAGER'S UPDATE</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>INTERVIEW WITH SPECIAL GUEST</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>DPUK FAMILY EVENT</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>YOUR FEEDBACK</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>DPUK NEWSROUND</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>YOUR RIGHTS</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>NOTICEBOARD</i>	<i>19</i>

New DPUK Treasurer!

Welcome aboard Simeon Hart who has taken up the role as the new treasurer following the former Treasurer, Jessica Wilde who has stepped down.

Simeon Hart has vast skills and experiences working with a number of deaf organisations. He has lots to offer and will be an asset to Deaf Parenting UK!

A big thank you to Jessica for her contribution and support on the financial side for DPUK and we wish her every success in her new venture.

Newsflash...

Deaf Parenting UK is delighted announce that our Media/Project Manager, Asif Iqbal had been appointed as Board Member of Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) for Department for Transport as well as Board of Trustee for RADAR (Royal Association and Disability and Rehabilitation).

Project Manager's Update: **Asif Iqbal, DPUK Project Manager**



The last few months have been busy for Deaf Parenting UK.

We have been liaising closely with Department for Children's Schools and Families (DCSF) about the needs of Deaf parents and they were invited to speak at our recent conference on Education, Education, and Education.

Speaking of the conference 2009, it was a great turnout. Many Deaf parents reported that they have never seen such a big event and it made a huge impact on both Deaf parents and professionals – more on page 3

We are also looking for people to write articles for our newsletter (see page 20).

If there is anything you wish to see Deaf Parenting UK lobby, please do let us know.

DCSF's DVD with Deaf parents

DCSF have just informed us that they have made DVDs, specifically for deaf parents (in BSL) in conjunction with Central Office of Information (COI) and produced by Mutt Jeff Pictures.

The DVD has two short films with Deaf parents involved and both are really engaging. They've been made to show parents how they can get involved in their children's education and to give them some information on the extended services that schools offer.

The films were showed at the Deaf Parenting UK conference – feedback from Deaf parents confirmed that those DVD is excellent opportunity for deaf parents to have full access to information about how Deaf parents can be

involved in their children's school and to learn more about the extended school services eg: after school clubs/ activities.

To view those two films online, please see the link as follow:

My Favourite Day: Lending a Hand: Deaf parents Louis and Paula get involved in their children's school life:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUsNzrILKx0>

Moving on Up: Two Deaf families find that after school clubs have allowed them to find new jobs and make the most of existing ones:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhSNy3UsFcc>

However there are still many more DVDs from DCSF's website that are not accessible for Deaf parents. We will continue to liase with DCSF to ensure Deaf parents have full access all information video/DVDs including BSL and English subtitles.

Charity Award 2009: 11th June 2009



We are delighted that although Deaf Parenting UK was nominated as one of the 3 out of many charities across UK for Research, Advice & Support category and

was awarded with High Commended.

Deaf Parenting UK Conference 2009, 12th June 2009:

Deaf Parenting UK held the biggest ever Conference for Deaf parents focusing on Education, Education, Education at City Hall, London. It attended by 200 people, mostly Deaf Parents aswell as professionals/ services providers working with Deaf parents

Key speakers from National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), Department of Children, School and Families (DCSF), Daycare Trust, Sign for Success, Deafness Cognition and Language (DCAL) Research Centre and Equality and Human Right Commission (EHRC) as well as two Deaf

parents gave presentations on Education, enabling Deaf Parents to access to their children's education of which many experienced numerous of barriers.

The theme of the conference on Education have touched the core issues in many Deaf parents and bringing them from across UK as well as Deaf parents from Italy, Belgium, Cyprus and Greece who challenged the Government and representatives from NAHT, DCSF, Daycare Trust on the needs of Deaf parents in accessing to their children's education without barriers.

Mark Harper MP, Shadow Minister for Disabled people: *"It was a pleasure to speak at the Deaf Parenting UK conference. There is still a lot further to go in removing the barriers which deaf parents face on a daily basis, particularly with education."*



(L-R): Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor of London; Carolyn Denmark, Deaf parent, Sabina, Chair, Mark Harper, Shadow Minister of Disabled people, Clarissa William, President of NAHT, Ceri Hughes of KMPG



(L-R): Joanne of EHRC; Zem Rodaway, Senior Solicitor of EHRC; Sandra & Cedric Moon, Deaf parents; Sabina, Chair; Prof. Gary Morgan of DCAL; Kathy Robinson of Sign for Success & DPUK Ambassador.



(L-R): Susan Daniel (Deaf parent & DPUK Ambassador); Sarah Robinson & Charlie Swinborne (Deaf parents) and Kathy Robinson (DPUK Ambassador)



Deaf parents from Belgium with Sabina.



Deaf parents from Greece & Cyprus with Sabina.



Child's Play exhibition with BSL books and signing cards



Delegates watching Mark Harper (Shadow Minister) speaking with BSL and international sign language interpreters



Deaf parents from Italy with Sabina.



Deaf parents at Signed Stories exhibition stand.



(L-R): Emma Knight, Chief Exec of Daycare Trust, Sabina and Julia Gault, Head of Families Engagement of DCSF.



Deaf parent with Mark Harper & BSL interpreter



Deaf Parents asking questions...



Deaf Parents at NSPCC's exhibition stand.

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK: *"It was fantastic opportunity to see a largest numbers of delegates at the Deaf Parenting UK conference and the theme of Education, Education, and Education is the hottest topic for many Deaf parents."*

Although this is the first time that the issues have been highlighted, enabling Deaf parents to share their experiences of frustrations in accessing to their children's education, all delegates are willing for the Government especially DCSF, National Association of Headteachers (who have links with all heads of schools across the UK), Daycare Trust and EHRC to consult with Deaf parents on parenting strategy as to date, Deaf parents have been excluded from the whole process.

To date, Deaf parents have had no input as such to influence to their children's education and the conference gave them opportunity to learn more about their rights under Disability Discrimination Act and Human Right Act but also highlighted the gaps in the system which fails to address the needs of Deaf parents. Deaf Parenting UK hopes that the Government and all representatives from DCSF, NAHT, Daycare Trust and EHRC will work closely with Deaf parents and to commission some work from Deaf Parenting UK to find ways to address those gaps."

Julia Gault, Head of Families Unit, Families Engagement Division, Department Children, Schools and Families (DCSF): *"The conference provided an important opportunity for deaf parents to bring their issues directly to those like myself working on the future direction of national policy. I appreciated the frankness with which they spoke of their experiences and how they would like to see things change. This has given renewed vigour to my work towards the Government 2020 Goal that all parents will be satisfied with the information and support they receive."*

Cedric Moon, Deaf Parent: *"It was very clear from the comments of the deaf delegates that there are wide variations in the standard of*

access to schools for deaf parents and information about schooling is routinely unavailable to them. What each deaf parent should have is a Government backed charter setting out what minimum services can be expected from schools as a statutory right. This would help schools face up to their responsibilities."

Catherine Florry, Deaf Advocate: *"Deaf Parenting UK is a positive support network. Education services provider should involve + value Deaf parents's input in EVERY aspect of their service delivery. With rights comes as responsibility. Deaf parents / Foster carers would need information + support to understand this concept".*

Clarissa Williams, Former Head teacher and President of National Association of Head teachers (NAHT): *"It was both a privilege and an experience to have been invited to attend and contribute to the Deaf Parenting UK conference. Listening to the delegates and speakers I realised that the world of education still has some way to go to enact the principles as enshrined in law in order to ensure that deaf parents are allowed and indeed welcomed to join in the learning partnership that they so rightly desire for their children."*

It was very salutary for me to observe how effectively the deaf community communicates using sign language and this brought home to me the importance of expanding the use of sign language to make communication real and effective amongst all parties.

I was occasionally saddened and ashamed to hear examples of prejudice that so often comes from ignorance and understand the need to work together with other agencies to reduce inequality through strong advocacy, challenge and support.

Deaf Parenting UK are to be congratulated in the assertive and professional manner in which they are leading in raising our awareness of the key issues affecting deaf parents and their children. As a former Head teacher I salute

their determination and commitment and will do what I can to disseminate their message to the educational world."

Kathy Robinson, Sign for Success and a Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador: *"The Conference was an eye opener. Excellent speakers and a real feeling of moving forward to address the needs of Deaf Parents. Deaf Parenting UK is keeping Deaf Parents high on the government's agenda. A hugely informative, supportive successful day!"*

Ceri Hughes, Director of KMPG LLP who did the closing remark of the conference: *"Many congratulations to Deaf Parenting UK on excellent conference. I very enjoyed attending the conference and meeting lots of different people and found the presentations very interesting."*

Italian Deaf Press:

Italy's National Association of Deaf people have written a feature about our conference and it is now on their website: <http://www.ens.it/articolo.asp?ID=2179>

Events with British Sign Language at the Science Museum.



Come along and experience fun free family events with British Sign Language interpreters on the first Saturday of every month.

To find out more about these events and overnight opportunities with a BSL Interpreter, check out the Science Museum website

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/bsl

Deaf Muslim UK, Regent Park Mosque, London, 16th May 2009

Deaf Muslim UK invited our Chair of Deaf Parenting UK to give presentation about Deaf Parenting UK and the work we do.



There were lots of interests from Muslim Deaf parents, who found Sabina even more inspiring especially as being named as one of the 20 most powerful Muslim women in Britain.

Many had the opportunity to stand up and shared their experiences, putting forward questions to Sabina about their parenting experiences and how Deaf Parenting UK can offer advice and support.



Deaf men at Muslim Deaf UK event.



Sabina with Deaf women at Muslim Deaf UK event.

Parliamentary Questions *Questions to the Government...*

Deaf Parenting UK has been lobbying to the Government about the needs of Deaf parents in accessing to their children's education & health in our parenting roles. On 26th March 2009, prior to our recent conference, our Ambassador, Annette Brooke has put forward the 3 main questions to Beverley Hughes, Minister of Children & Families and on 1st April 09, a question to Phil Hope, Minister of Health on our behalf and here are the extract and the responses:

House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 26 March, 2009.

Parliament: Deaf Parents Access to their Children's Education

Annette Brooke (Mid Dorset & North Poole, Liberal Democrat)

To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

(1) What support is available from his Department to deaf parents and their families?

(2) What support is available from his Department to encourage deaf parents to participate in their children's education?

(3) What recent assessment he has made of his Department's performance against the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in respect of deaf parents and the education of their children?

Beverley Hughes, Minister of State (Children, Young People and Families; Minister for the North West), Department for Children, Schools and Families; Stretford & Urmston, Labour) replied:

"The Government acknowledges the difficulties disabled parents, including deaf parents, face. The most recent assessment made by the Secretary of State on the Department for Children, Schools and Families' report on

progress towards disability equality under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, was published in December 2008. It describes both what is happening within the DCSF to promote disability equality and what the entire sector is doing and how we are working together to achieve this.

In December 2008 DCSF published its first Secretary of State report on progress towards disability equality across the children's and education sector. Although there is no specific reference to deafness, or indeed other impairments with the exception of learning difficulties, this impairment is part of this report in as much as it is about disability and this of course comes within that definition.

In 2006 we asked each local authority to develop a parenting strategy within their children and young people's plan—these set out how the authority and its partners will make sure that parents get the services they need, including parents with disabilities. Most local authorities have developed strategies and have now moved into implementation.

To further support successful implementation of these strategies our parenting implementation project is working with 18 local authorities to test and develop new and innovative approaches to effective delivery of support services to parents and families. One of the project's work streams is considering the needs of parents with disabilities. The learning from the project will be shared with all local authorities in summer 2009.

We will continue to engage with stakeholders, including examining wider research relating to disabled parents' involvement in their children's education, to identify barriers to their effective engagement.

The Secretary of State's report on disability equality can be found at the Department's website: www.dcsf.gov.uk/des/sosreport.shtml

DCSF's Single Equality Scheme can be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/des/docs/single_equalityscheme.doc.

With regard to services for parents, our Parent Know How Programme provides funding to a range of third sector partners to provide information and advice services for all parents. Within this ParentlinePlus provides a confidential textphone service for parents and carers who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech impairment. It is available on 0800 783 6783 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As part of the ParentCast project we are preparing two videos targeted specifically at deaf parents—both are in British sign language (with an option for subtitles in English) which emphasise the need for deaf parents to have access to the same services as all other parents. The first video is about how two deaf parents got engaged in school activities and the second promotes the use of extended schools to deaf parents.

We encourage schools to use a range of ways to enhance the partnership with parents and carers, including advising schools to find out from parents what they would find helpful and what would encourage them to come into the school and participate at parents' evenings.

The Children's Plan, 2007, highlighted a partnership with parents as a 'unifying theme' across the whole plan and promised action on three fronts:

- an enhanced dialogue between the school and parents;
- parental involvement in school governance;
- and an expansion of family learning opportunities.

We have promoted parental engagement in learning in other ways—for example, through encouraging parents and children to read together by providing free books to all families with young children through Bookstart, by improving access to information through Parent Know How, and by putting parent support advisers in place in many schools.

These measures have made a difference. Evidence shows that mothers and fathers now feel more involved in their child's school life—

up from 29 per cent in 2001 to 51 per cent in 2007— and have an increasing appetite for involvement. But these figures also show that more can be done to bring parents centre stage in their child's learning.

To drive this forward, we proposed in The Children's Plan: Progress Report, published in December 2008, an approach which both empowers parents to engage and places parental engagement more centrally in the school and early years system. We made it clear that we will issue guidance to schools on working in partnership with parents and that that this guidance will cover how schools work with disabled, including deaf, parents.

House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 1 April, 2009.

Annette Brooke (Mid Dorset & North Poole, Liberal Democrat)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support is available from his Department to deaf parents and their families.

Phil Hope (Minister of State (Care Services; Minister for the East Midlands), Department of Health; Corby, Labour)

Deaf parents and their families are recognised as requiring support, as are all disabled parents and families. Local health bodies are responsible for commissioning health and social services to meet the needs of their local population and adult social services have an ongoing duty to support disabled parents, including deaf parents in carrying out their parenting role, ensuring that all disabled people have the same rights of access to social care and support as non-disabled parents.

The Government have a significant programme of work aimed at supporting parents in general, and a range of initiatives aimed at supporting groups of parents experiencing particular difficulties, such as deaf parents. The Parenting Implementation Project for example is developing good practice in relation to commissioning and implementing parenting and family support services.

Special Guest: *Interview with Marlee Matlin – Deaf Mother, Actress, Writer and producer*

Mention Marlee Matlin to anyone, deaf or hearing, and they most likely will immediately say they know who she is.

That is a strong indicator of how successful her career as an actress, writer, and producer has been. As busy

as she is, Matlin took the time to sit down for an interview with *About.com2: Deafness*.



Photo © Marlee Matlin

As a deaf parent of hearing children, what are some of your greatest challenges?

Being a parent who is deaf does not present any more challenges than if I can hear only because I don't let it. That's been my mantra my whole life -- that the real "handicap" of deafness does not lie in the ear, it lies in the mind. Instead, my challenges are making sure that they are safe, well taken care of and most of all loved. Obviously, there are challenges for me because I have four children, but I am fortunate in that I have a great husband and extended family and we all support each other. This is a household that speaks and signs so there are NO barriers.

Did your children learn to sign early? Did it make parenting easier or harder?

My oldest daughter, Sarah, "spoke" her first sign when she was 6 months old -- it was the sign for "telephone." Just like all children, each one learned to "speak" in sign at different stages, depending when they were ready to learn but in each case, it was before they were able to speak. I later found out that it is true that a child will communicate with you in sign, if taught, before they are able to speak. It's the way that children develop. I think signing is a great tool to communicate with your children, hearing or deaf and it certainly makes it easier if you know your child is hungry or wants more

because they're telling you in sign instead of just screaming or crying because they don't have the words to speak and tell you.

How do you and your husband communicate with your children? Speaking or sign?



We use both sign and speech. I've been speaking since I was 2 and signing since I was 5.

Though they speak more than they sign because mom speaks a great deal at home, they are comfortable with learning new signs when I teach them. My husband is a fluent signer and uses both.

Have your children had social/emotional issues related to having a deaf parent?

None that I am aware of. But if they did, I would sit down with them and talk about it. I would encourage them to always feel free to tell me what's going on in their lives and if there was a problem they were encountering, we could work it out together. It's all about communicating.

What challenges do you face when communicating with your children's teacher?

I communicate with them via computer, email, and video. In person, I speak. There are times when we have large meetings at school, and I bring in a sign language interpreter because I want to understand 100% of what's going on, but in general there are no real challenges in communicating with teachers, friends' parents. Technology and attitudes have evolved to the point where there are virtually no barriers.

What are the challenges of raising children in the limelight?

We have made sure that they were raised out

of the limelight and purposely chose to live in a city outside of Hollywood. My husband and I have chosen very carefully how much our kids are exposed to it all though we don't keep them completely sheltered. They are fully aware of what I do for a living and that I often have to walk the red carpet and get photographed. But I never take them with me on that carpet. We just don't think it's a place for children.

Would you say your kids feel part of the deaf world, hearing world or both?

I've raised them to see the world as one world that has all kinds of people in it, Deaf and hearing. There is still inequality and discrimination against deaf and hard of hearing people but I think the first step towards equality and respect is to recognize they are part of the larger world rather than look at it as "us versus them."

How do/did you help your child understand your personal limitations?



Who said I have limitations? I can do ANYTHING except hear. Yes, I can't be a singer, or a telephone operator or piano tuner but there's a whole heck [of a lot] in life I can do. Why dwell on my perceived "disability" or "limitations" when I can show them that life is full of possibilities for EVERYONE.

Some kids of deaf parents may have less self-confidence and lower self-esteem?



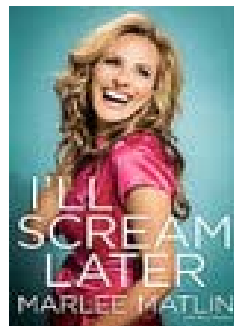
I have never experienced this with my children. I think that if this was the situation, it would be

up to the parent to encourage children to have a strong sense of self confidence and self-esteem. A child only learns what you give them so if they need something in any way, it's up to

the parent to help them.

Why did you decide to publish your autobiography?

At some point in everyone's life, we all have to deal with the truth. For me, it was doing a TV series called *Dancing with the Stars* where I found people were eager to know who I was other than just Marlee Matlin the Oscar-winning actress who was in "The L Word" "The West Wing," "Seinfeld" or "Children of a Lesser God." So much of my life has been about more than being Deaf and I wanted people to know that. Also, having had four children, I had a chance to reflect on my own childhood and the barriers I faced and wanted to come clean and tell my truth and share that even though no one is perfect, we can overcome barriers of any kind, if we just follow our hearts. I'm here today as a mother, actress, activist, and author to prove it.



What projects are you working on now or do you want to work on in the future?



I am working on developing another TV series and hopefully soon you can read about it when all the elements have come into place! I also have my biography coming out in 2009. It's called "I'll

Scream Later," being published by Simon and Schuster.

[Guide note: Matlin is also the honorary chairperson of an international deaf cinema festival at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC in November, 2009, the World Deaf Cinema Festival.]

Extract from:

http://deafness.about.com/od/deafpeople/tp/Marlee_Matlin_Interview.htm

If you have any inspirational stories as Deaf parents that you wish to share or know of someone that we should interview, please let us know or email to info@deafparent.org.uk

DPUK Family Events *Events around UK...*

DPUK Deaf Families Event

London Wetlands Centre



Saving wetlands
for wildlife & people

A family day out on courtesy of DPUK took place at London Wetland Centre on Saturday 18th April, which has numerous lakes, lagoons, ponds, marshes and even an artificial deep water reef. The centre also has a number of marsh frogs, foxes, butterflies, highland cattle, ducks and the endangered water vole.

As well as ducks, we saw many ducklings, teal, not to mention coots, moorhens, geese, swans, a few other wading birds and a brief glimpse of a heron which were suitably 'ooh-ed' and 'ahh-ed' over!

Deaf families had an enjoyable day at the Wetlands Centre, with plenty of open spaces and areas for kids to roam around. The families were split into two groups to allow for 2 tours with BSL Interpreter giving an insight of the centre's wildlife experience



Group of Deaf parents on day out.

The cafe was also excellent, serving healthy foods and proved to be really good value for



money and there was also some great picnic spots in pleasant surroundings.



An overall fascinating and a pleasant day trip!

Krazy Kat Drama Session

Krazy Kat Theatre Company



The children enjoyed the Drama workshop led by Krazy Kat Theatre on Saturday 9th May 2009.

The workshop was full of fun and engaged in various activities throughout the afternoon with warm-ups, games, creative time etc The Drama Session turned out to be highly visual, physical, knows no language barriers and entertaining.

Drama is thirsty work, which is why the coordinator for Deaf Parenting UK was fortunate to be on hand to hand out soft drinks to quench the little one's thirst together with provision of a light snack!



Crèche Activities for Children of Deaf Parents at the DPUK Annual Conference – 12th June 2009



Deaf Parenting UK held its 2nd conference at London City Hall and incorporated free crèche facility for young children of Deaf parents. The provision of the crèche facility included a children's entertainer providing clowning entertainment, fun and games and an army of crèche workers with provision of arts and craft and free play activities. Children who attended this facility aged ranging from 3 months to 7 years old.



Oak Lodge School Work Related Learning Day – Thursday 18th June 2009

Oak Lodge School hosted their Work Related



Learning Day for Year 11 Pupils and invited

Nicole Campbell, DPUK Coordinator to give a talk about her path to employment at DPUK.

The set up of the Work Related Learning Day was to enable the students to start thinking about their future which is an important time as they begin their transition to adult lives.



Giving a talk about my path to employment gave them a great opportunity to see how I got to where I am at today. All eleven students were interested in my field of work and three of the students had an interest in working with children – they had a good opportunity to ask me questions about my occupation as part of their assignments.

Deaf Carers and Deaf Parents Information Day – Saturday 20th June 2009

RAD hosted their Deaf Carers and Deaf Parents Information Day on 20th June at Broomfield Evangelical Church in Chelmsford.

The event provided an opportunity for Deaf parents and carers to get together and share their experiences. Deaf Parenting UK, along with other organisations such as Maldon Young Carers, and Chelmsford Children's Service set up own stalls and were on hand offering valuable information and advice.

Nicole Campbell, DPUK Coordinator also gave a supporting presentation about Deaf Parenting UK Service Provision.



Nicole doing a presentation

Your Feedback *Sharing your thoughts...*

Sabina as Most Powerful Muslim Women in Britain:

"We loved the article about Sabina in the Times." Best Louis Neethling (Executive Producer/ Director, Mutt & Jeff Pictures)

"I would like to say well done Sabina for appearing in "Powerful Muslim Women" in Saturday's The Times magazine! It is good to know that the work are being credited especially the fact that more Deaf parent able to access to Deaf Parent UK's network and its publicity today enabling them to receive full access service like other hearing parent to any services." Carolyn Demark

"We were delighted to see Sabina listed in The Times magazine as one of the most powerful Muslim women in Britain. Warmest congratulations, this recognition is well deserved." Ruth and David Myers

"Wow congratulation" Mobashar Shehzad

"CONGRATULATIONS" on your membership of the Muslim Women Power List. Great news!" Alix Pryde, Chief Adviser to the COO, BBC

"Congratulations to Sabina – I saw the article about her in a magazine – the Sunday Times I think it was. Very impressive!" All the best Susan Daniels, OBE, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador

"I just wanted to congratulate her on her massive success, I am neither deaf or a parent. But I have just watched a short documentary on her service on the BBC and found it inspiring. Sabina truly is an inspiration to deaf people and non-deaf people alike. Mashallah! What an amazing example for young women everywhere." Aisha.x

Sabina on front cover of NCT:

"Fabulous article - well done!" Vanessa Addison, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador

"Wow what a beautiful image, Sabina looks amazing on the front cover – exactly the kind of positive image we need to see more of." Reedah El-Saie, Founder, Islamic Arts Design

"It's wonderful to read what you have achieved with Deaf parenting." Well done! Karli Dettman, Australia

"Well done. Lovely feature and beautiful children." Kathy Robinson, Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador

"Well done in getting the cover of a magazine! The article is good, I had it copied for my British Sign Language classes and the response that Deaf parents could cope was very good." Penny Beschizza, DPUK Trustee

"Congratulations Sabina!!" Dr Gulnur Aybet, Department of Politics and International Relations, Kent University

"Lots and lots of applauses and praises to Sabina!" Mary-Jayne, DPUK Trustee

Charity Awards 2009 – Highly Commended

"What an honour to be nominated and such fabulous recognition for you. Many congratulations to you." Ceri Hughes, Director of KMPG LLP

"Wow that's great. Keep up the good work!" Best, Ulrike Zeshan, Deaf parenting UK Ambassador

"Congratulations well done all of you!" Lesley Jones, Deaf parenting UK Ambassador

"Well done both! You are doing fabulous work and your PR is amazing! "Dr Paddy Ladd, Bristol University

"Congratulations on achieving your goals!" Kibra Tayes

Deaf Parenting UK at Deaf Professional Network

"Fantastic! I met her last week at the Deaf Professional Network, she was excellent. Very inspirational and I hope all this DPUK will continue, as each one kid - even if it's only one - is very important, and any improvement to its life is going to be quite a huge achievement."
My very best wishes Ben Fletcher

"Just to say a big thank you to Sabina, I thought it went brilliantly." Cathy Woolley, Chair of Deaf Professional Network



The Baby Show, NEC Birmingham, 15-17 May 2009

Deaf Parenting UK was delighted to work with the baby show at Birmingham NEC which was a great success.



We have had lots of Deaf parents who attended the Baby Show as well as celebrities

including Mylees Klass.

Word of support from the one of the parent who attended the show:

"I want to say a Big Thank you to Deaf Parenting UK for the complimentary tickets I received for me and my mother to attend the Baby show at Birmingham NEC. We both deeply enjoyed our day there!"

There were lots of mothers with their husband, boyfriends etc and the exhibition was full of prams and stuff but with plenty of space to



Deaf couple asking about a pram via BSL interpreter

*room about!
Again thanks to Deaf Parenting UK who provided sign language interpreters to help me*

choose from 30 different prams! With the help from the sign language interpreters and sales people we found a pram that suited me!

It will be delivered 2 weeks before the baby due date and I look forward to using it. Additionally we bought a baby sling, re-usable nappies and a rocking chair!!!

There was a lot of useful information that you could pick up across the exhibitions. I would recommend to anyone who is expecting a baby or already has a baby to go and have a fun day at The Baby Show! "

From a Deaf Mum-to-be, Oxfordshire

Deaf Parenting UK endorsed Child's Play Signing Cards:

Deaf Parenting UK have worked in partnership with www.childs-play.com company, advising them on the BSL usage for their child's play signing cards and encouraging them to market it to Deaf parents as well as Deaf children.

Beth Cox, Educational Sales and Liaison Coordinator said: *"It was great to meet Deaf Parenting UK for the first time at the Baby Show 2008. Although Child's Play aim to develop resources that are suitable for ALL children, we are particularly aware of the lack of books that include British Sign Language so are actively expanding our range in this area. I hope that we can work together to promote our existing sign language resources to Deaf parents and work together to create more valuable resources in the future."*

DPUK NEWSROUND *Deaf Parenting News in UK/Worldwide...*

Raising profile of Deaf Parenting UK (International):

Greece:

A Greek student in University of Patras was had contacted Deaf Parenting UK and wrote: *"I admire the Deaf Parenting UK website and writing of pregnancy and birth a guide for deaf women book written by Sabina Iqbal and her dissertation. I intent to proceed in a research similar to Sabina's research concerning Deaf parenting issues in my country."*

There are only a few studies/research on this issue worldwide and it would be a great opportunity to try investigating this subject in Greece - a European country."

We have replied, encouraging her to do the research in Greece and let us know outcome.

If you are researching on the subject of Deaf parenting in your area/country, please do let us know so we can support one another and share information. You can also find our website useful. In return, we would appreciate copy of your research to be available from our Deaf Parenting UK website:

www.deafparent.org.uk/research for other students/ professionals interested in Deaf Parenting issues.

Australia:

We have been in communication with Deaf parents in Australia, looking at Deaf Parenting UK as an excellent model to set up their group in Australia. We encourage them to work with Deaf parents and Deaf organisation to set up an Deaf Parenting organisation like us in Australia and asked them to keep us posted of how they are getting on.

Belgium:

Deaf Parenting UK have been invited by Belgium's Deaf Association to speak at their Deaf World Day conference in Sept 2009 to

explain how we works and how Deaf parents in Belgium can benefits from our model.

UK - Hampshire:

Hampshire Deaf Association has invited Deaf Parenting UK to speak at their Deaf World 2009: New Beginnings Conference in Southampton on 1st October 2009.

Deaf Parenting UK continue to raise the issues of Deaf parenting in UK and are delighted to work with partners local, nationally and internationally and support one-another to reach out as many Deaf parents as possible.

Deaf Parenting UK Parenting Support Workshops



Want to join FREE workshops run by Deaf Parent Trainer to help you 'Understand Your Child Better',



having fun meeting with other Deaf Parents & share own experience and information?

Deaf Parenting UK is looking to set up Parenting Support Workshops from Autumn 2009 – Dates to be advised.

Are you a Deaf Parent with young children and/or teenaged children, live in Bristol, South Gloucestershire or North Somerset?

If you are interested in attending the workshops, please contact the DPUK Coordinator for more information and get an application form.

Email: info@deafparent.org.uk

SMS: 07789 027186 (text messaging only)

Fax: 0871 2643323

Deaf Carers for Deaf Children

As part of Bristol's Children and Young People's Services, there is a scheme called Short Breaks for disabled children. These children are linked to an individual or couple that has them to stay overnight, usually once per month. This gives the children a break from their normal routine and gives the parents a break as well.

We have 8 deaf children who are cared for by 7 deaf short break carers. The short break carers also run a club called the Deaf Fun House that meets once a month in Bristol. They plan activities in and around the city as well as using a base in Bristol. Some of the 8 deaf children also have overnight stays with some of the deaf carers.

This is seen to be an invaluable service for the deaf children who often feel isolated and frustrated in their homes. Very often the parents do not sign and the children cannot communicate with their parents and siblings. When they see deaf carers, they can express themselves and discuss their frustrations/achievements and their wishes.

The carers are offered training like every other short break carer and we meet them on a monthly basis in order to support them with their duties.

This is a successful part of the larger role of the short break team and i would hope it could be promoted in other areas of the country.

For more information about this service, please contact –:

Sue D'Rozario – sue.d'rozario@bristol.gov.uk

Typetalk: 18001 0117 3534084

Joan Roome – joan.roome@bristol.gov.uk

Typetalk: 18001 0117 3534082

NSPCC BSL Helpline Provided by Sign Video



If you are worried about a child who is at risk of abuse or in need of help, the NSPCC Helpline is here to help.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can access the service in the following ways (Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm):

- Textphone: 0800 056 0566
- Via video phone: 020 8463 1148
- Via IP videophone or webcam: nspcc.signvideo.tv

For more information, please visit the link:- http://www.nspcc.org.uk/helpandadvice/NSPCCHelpline/signvideo_wda56039.html

The Child's Voice Appeal - Let no cry go unheard

When a child needs help, ChildLine and the NSPCC Helpline may be their only hope. Make sure their cries are heard by giving whatever you can to the Child's Voice Appeal.

If you have any concerns about a child or young person, you can call the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000. Children and young people can call ChildLine confidentially on 0800 1111 to find out more about how to seek help.

To support the Child's Voice Appeal, please visit www.childsvoiceappeal.org.uk

Your Views to Deaf Parenting UK

Got something to say...? DPUK wants to know! Please send in your comments, news or anything you think we would like to publish in our newsletter.

Your Rights *Information that you needs to know...*

More Mums and Dads to benefit from new flexible working rights

Issued on behalf of the Government Equalities Office

From Monday 6th April 2009 an extra 4.5million parents of children aged 16 and under will be able to request flexible working from their employer. This is in addition to the six million parents and carers who already have the right. New research shows half of working parents (51 per cent) say their relationship with their child would improve if they could work flexibly.

The survey, commissioned by the Government Equalities Office, shows that two-thirds of working parents state it would be helpful to work flexibly as their children get older. Half of parents of 11-16 year olds said that they would help with homework if they could find the time. More than half (53 per cent) feel their job prevents them spending the amount of time they would like with their children.

Talking to parents at Sainsbury's in Dulwich, Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality, said:

"Children don't stop needing their parents' time when they reach their sixth birthday. We have already built a strong foundation of support for families through the right for parents with children under six to request flexible work. But, as any parent knows, older children going through the teenage years need just as much support and guidance.

"Families are the framework of our lives and matter not just to individuals but to our communities, the economy, and society as a whole. Mothers often tear their hair out trying to balance earning a living with bringing up their children and need more flexibility at work. And fathers want to be able to play a bigger part in bringing up their children.

"This is why we have changed the law to extend flexible working rights to parents of older children. We will continue to work with

business to ensure that families continue to have real choices about how they live their lives, at the same time as making the economy strong and competitive."

The survey shows that parents see the business benefits of flexible working, with three in five (59 per cent) saying it would improve staff morale, two in five (40 per cent) working mums believing flexible working would reduce absenteeism, and more than a quarter saying it would improve staff retention and attract talented staff. Recognised business benefits of flexible working also include increased productivity and recruitment savings.

However the 'fear factor' still needs to be tackled - the survey shows two thirds of parents were concerned about putting in a request to work flexibly, with a third (32 per cent) thinking it may mark them as uncommitted to their job, and nearly a quarter (23 per cent) concerned it may affect their promotion prospects.

Damion Queva, publisher of FQ (Fathers Quarterly) magazine and father of two, said: "As a dad it's so important to get as much time with the family as you can and that doesn't change as your children get older. As an employer running a small business, I find that allowing staff to work flexibly increases morale and enhances productivity. It also means I can hold on to my best people and not lose them just because they've become a parent. For me, flexible working is a win-win situation."

Fathers offer vital support to their children, not just homework, but on emotional matters such as bullying or avoiding bad behaviour. Requesting flexible working builds in father's ability to provide this support when their children need it most.

Children with more closely involved dads develop better friendships, more empathy, and higher levels of educational achievement and

self-esteem. And dads who are able to work flexibly and spend more time with their children are more likely to be happier, have a stronger family life, and consequently be more productive.

Flexible working by both parents can also allow the mother to return to the workplace and reduce the imbalance in the split of labour in the home. Nearly half (46 per cent) of working mums say that working flexibly would reduce stress for them, compared with 33 per cent of dads.

Sarah Jackson, CEO of Working Families said: "It is great that parents of older children will have the opportunity to request flexible working. The conflict that often seems to exist between family and work is so unnecessary and counterproductive. I would particularly encourage men to consider working flexibly as that has the potential to create stronger families and go some way to addressing the inequalities that still exist in the home".

The right to request flexible working has been a success since it was introduced in 2003, helping many people to balance work and family life, and allowing businesses to benefit from improved morale, increased productivity, and reduced absence and staff turnover.

Last year an independent review by Sainsbury's Human Resources Director Imelda Walsh recommended that the right to request should be extended to parents of children aged 16 and under.

For advice on particular circumstances, parents can call the Working Families free advice line on 0800 013 0313, email advice@workingfamilies.org.uk or download free fact sheets from <http://www.workingfamilies.org.uk>

The new law explained:

- From 6 April 2009, all parents of children aged 16 and under will have the right to ask their employer for flexible working arrangements. Employees need to have worked for their employer for 26 weeks.

- A total of around 10 million people will now be entitled to request flexible working
- This new rule is an extension of the current right to request flexible working which applies to parents of children up to six, parents of disabled children up to 18, as well as carers of adults.
- Under the law employers must seriously consider all applications made, and only reject it if there is a good business reasons for doing so.
- This does not give employees the right to work flexibly - just the right to ask.
- Flexible working is any working pattern that is adapted for the benefit of the individual and that also suits their employer. Examples include: part-time, flexi-time, compressed hours, staggered hours, job sharing, and working from home.

A step by step guide on how to request flexible working:

- Fill in an application form. Your employer may provide one, there's a standard form available at <http://www.direct.gov.uk>, or all required information can be put in a letter or email.
- Your employer should then arrange a meeting with you within 28 days to discuss your application.
- Within 14 days, you should receive written notification of your employer's decision.
- If your request is accepted you will need to meet with your employer to agree the new working arrangements.
- If your request is rejected you may appeal in writing.

Extract from Cabinet Office

The survey showed that nearly half (45 per cent) of people who put in a request to work flexibly did not seek advice first.

Direct.gov is one of the best resources, providing a one stop shop with information on flexible working and the law, plus advice on building a case and standard application forms: <http://www.direct.gov.uk> - click on 'employment' then 'parental leave and flexible working'.



Notice Board



Parent& Toddler Groups:



Action Deafness Parent & Baby/Toddler Group

Deaf/deafened/deafblind/HOH parents with hearing/deaf babies/toddlers.

For further information, 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

Deaf Access Parent & Toddler Group

Meet on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month.
Time: 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Deaf Access, Community House
South Street,
Bromley,
Kent, BR1 1RH

For more information please contact
Jonathan Nelson:

E-mail: advocate@deaf-access.co.uk
SMS: 07751244853
Voice: 020 8315 2550
Minicom: 020 8315 2552
Fax: 020 8315 2554

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

For more information, 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



Writer/ Columnist Wanted for Deaf Parenting UK Newsletter

Deaf Parenting UK is unique as the first ever charity and small national organisation, run by Deaf parents for Deaf parents, representing the needs of all Deaf parents in the UK.

We are looking for writer/ columnist who can write on the following issues for our quarterly newsletter, reaching out to our members of Deaf parents, parents to be and professionals working with Deaf parents.

It can be one-off or regular features. We are open to ideas/ suggestion to work with you.

- Children of Deaf Adult (CODA)'s perspective
- Midwife's perspective
- Deaf Parent's perspective
- Education perspective
- Agony Aunt/uncle to give out advices
- Healthy eating
- Bringing up children (any ages including toddler/children & teens)_
- Parenting skills/useful tips including parent's diary
- Parents-to be and their partner – pregnancy diary
- Work/ life balance
- Fostering/ Adoption experiences
- Consumer advices (comparing products for parents and advising on best buy – similar to 'Which?')
- Research on parenting/ families
- And many more, we welcome ideas on topics that you want us to cover!

If you are interested and would like to write regular article/ column for us, we want to hear from you.

Please send us a letter with ideas/ areas of what you like to offer us by email to info@deafparent.org.uk.

To learn more about us, please see our website: www.deafparent.org.uk

DPUK CONTACTS



Deaf Parenting UK

SMS: 07789 027186 (text message only)

Fax : 0871 2643323

Email : info@deafparent.org.uk

Web: 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.

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