



WELCOME!

Welcome to the Spring 2008 edition DPUK Newsletter.

I hope you all had a peaceful start to the New Year and may 2008 be professionally and personally rewarding. I also hope the cold wet winter is leaving us behind, spring is around the corner and we can all look forward to the blossoming of the warmer weathers!

One of my favourite times of the year is Spring time, the trees are beginning their annual wake up call and the spring flowers sprout up offering their wonderful colours in stark contrast to the grey and dull climate of the winter months.

The bright light in the sky is showing more now that the clocks have gone forward, making daylight longer. It feels better knowing that we have more time to venture outside with families and friends. For this is a positive change over for many of us and brings a renewed sense of optimism.

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 and joyous spring!

Nicole Campbell
DPUK Coordinator

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DPUK hailed its First Social Evening - A BSL Comedy Show

The BSL Comedy Show, courtesy of Deaf Parenting UK, took place at the Community House Centre in Bromley, Kent on Saturday 16th March 2008. The evening was a success with 75 deaf parents, adults and sign language users who attended from all over London and surrounding. Tickets was a sell out and stand up Deaf Comedian, John Smith, provided the entertainment to the audience, engaging them in hours of laughter, amusements, a fascination insight of being Deaf and the world of British Sign Language.



To the delight of the audience, Raffle prizes also took place after the show ended. Prizes consisted of a Harrods Hamper, Gift vouchers from Marks & Spencer & John Lewis, wristband voucher from Adventure Island, together with small prizes to add to the equation. Light buffet and tea/coffee refreshment was also provided.



Deaf Parents/Adults and Sign Language users – during the interval

A jolly fun night out for all, which goes to show how important is for deaf parents, deaf adults and sign language users to interact within the deaf community.

Many thanks to Nicole Campbell, DPUK Coordinator and a handful of volunteers for their hard work and support in making the event successful!

Deaf Parenting UK & Parentline Plus – Joint Parenting Together Course, January 2008



Deaf parents were invited to parenting skills workshops hosted by DPUK at Brent Council's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Team.

The provision of the workshops looked at issues such as challenging children's behaviour; co-operation and negotiating skills; family agreements and discipline. The Parent Together programme was developed by Parentline Plus, as part of the joint partnership with DPUK.

The workshops were held every Friday morning for 5 weeks and 7 parents attended. Throughout the workshops, the deaf parents met with other deaf parents and found out about help and support available.



Brent Councillor Reg Colwill, Lead member for Adults, Health and Social Care paid a visit on the 1st session and commented *"This is an excellent opportunity for deaf parents to pick up extra expertise in parenting. Deaf parents have varying needs; they can be a single mother or father, with hearing or deaf children, have step children or be a foster carer"*

The parents were saddened when the course came to an end, but they have benefited a great deal and it is hoped that they continue to put the use of the skills learnt into practice with their family.

Espanol Christmas Festival

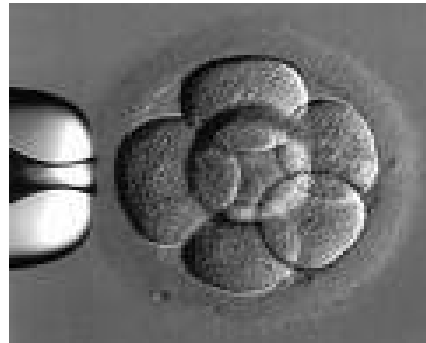
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL ASOCH 2007



At 16:30 hours, the Christmas Asoch 2007 festival was held for deaf children and families from the Partners deaf children Foundation. There were several surprises, including inflatable game slides, gifts from Santa Clause. The joy was among children, youth and adults. It is a custom that ASOCH did this kind of event in advance so that deaf people can celebrate a festive Christmas with families and friends.



No to 'Deaf' Embryo's



A deaf couple in London are trying for another baby, but trying for this baby has put them in an unusual fight. Both parents were born deaf and their first child is deaf.

The possibility that the mother in question may possibly have to have IVF and both parents want their second child to be deaf as well. Thanks to the modern genetic testing in IVF, this is a possibility but it has sparked a national debate over embryo selection.

A new fertility bill going through The House of Parliament scheduled to take place this spring could mean it would be illegal for deaf Briton to choose deaf embryo, in other words - embryos used in IVF treatment would be rejected if the child would be born deaf.

The Londoners are determined to challenge the House of Lords on the traditional concept of disability.

Should deaf parents be allowed to select an embryo that has a deafness gene in favour of an embryo with a hearing gene?

Send in your views/comments to DPUK.

Family Fun Events in London

Seventeen children attend the Arts and Craft event – January 2008. A fantastic opportunity for the children to express their creative side, whilst exercising their imagination. Children between the ages of 3 – 10 years were encouraged to participate in the creative and fun Arts and Crafts session, held at Mycenae House, Blackheath on Saturday 26th January 2008.



The session involved in using materials such as painting, colouring, laces and strings, plasticines, beads and things etc. With the combination of these materials, the children were able to let their imagination run wild and produce some pieces of artwork.

The children had such an enjoyable time and it is fantastic to see their immense satisfaction with the finished article.



A Work of Art...

Drama Workshop, February 2008

Seven children enjoyed BSL Drama workshop led by Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford, a qualified Drama Tutor who particularly specialises in working with deaf people with mental health, young people with learning difficulties and children with additional needs.

The workshop was full of fun and engaged in various activities throughout the afternoon with warm-ups, games, creative time etc.



Mary-Jayne entertaining the children

Easter Tea Party, March 2008.

17 children at the Azelia Hall in Beckenham, Kent, enjoyed a free Tea Party on Saturday 29th March, courtesy of Deaf Parenting UK.

The children participated in making fancy Easter baskets, using arts and craft materials decorated with yellow chicks and topped up with mini chocolate eggs.

After the Easter baskets were completed, a children's light buffet consisting of raw vegetable such as sliced carrots, celery and cucumber, fresh fruits, teacakes and orange squash was provided for the children and their parents.



Children tucking away tea party food

Mums and Dads stayed and chatted with others and volunteers helped make tea & coffee for other deaf parents.

To the delight of the children, a traditional Easter egg hunt was set up with the eggs hidden in and around the hall. The children were already fast on the trail to hunt for their Easter eggs!

The hunt was a great success as it took over half an hour for all the kids to find their eggs and all had a good time.



Children raring to go on their Easter egg hunt



The 'Bromley Deaf Families' self-run group has gone under the Deaf Access umbrella, now renamed as Deaf Access Families. The change has enabled the self-run group to obtain more support from Deaf Access, Family activities are now co-ordinated with Parents & Toddlers and other events organised through Deaf Access. Events now seem to be available for all Deaf Families in South East London and beyond, not limiting to those living within the Bromley borough.

Deaf Parents take turns to host each month's event (either a Saturday or a Sunday). For more details, check Deaf Access' online calendar at www.deaf-access.co.uk (Scroll to 'Upcoming Events'). Or send an E-mail to deafaccessfamilies@yahoo.co.uk



Bras4mums is a specialist maternity and nursing bra stockist, offering a wide range of attractive and supportive maternity and nursing bras for your pregnancy and breastfeeding, as well as maternity and nursing swimsuits etc.

Free help and bra fitting advice from Nursing and Bra fitting specialist.

For more information, check out their website on www.bras4mums.co.uk

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

Debate: MMR, (December 2007)

We respect each parent to his or her choice on this hotly debatable MMR vaccine (or separate single vaccines). However I would like to say that all our three children have been given MMR and there has been no problem, apart from the usual 'fever tiredness' bouts that may follow any vaccination. Our young son is growing well. Before giving our first child the MMR shots, we spent a lot of time checking various sources on the Internet as well as medical articles. And strongly believe that there is no link between MMR vaccines and autism. Due to this MMR controversy, the number of measles and mumps cases has gone high in UK. Which is sad for all those families involved as these are quite nasty to have.

A London hospital announced further details of no linkage (Feb 2008). For details, click on the link

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7226763.stm>

Andrew Niklaus, Bromley

Let your baby discover his new world with Amby! (December 2007)

We were thrilled to see an advertisement in your newsletter's last issue - about 'Amby Natures Nest'. We can highly recommend this to other Deaf Parents, having used this baby hammock successfully for all our three young children. What we really like about it is that we had no fear of 'sudden cots death syndrome' due to the hammock design -

making it impossible for babies to sleep on their fronts. Another benefit to us, being "so tired" parents of a new baby, was that whenever our baby was restless - their baby feet kicking would rock themselves to sleep. We hardly ever take our baby out at the middle of the night for comfort! We are now selling

our used 'Amby Natures Nest' for a low price - contact niklaus@auslan.plus.com or text 07747 771 040 if you're interested in buying it.

Andrew & Sandra Niklaus, Bromley

Choosing Secondary schools – how did you decide which is best for your child?

Primary and Secondary school is an important time for education for all children. Not knowing where to find the information you need can be very frustrating and the process of choosing secondary school is daunting and time consuming. I found that starting my preparation and planning early helped me make a well informed choice.

I also felt the need to do my own research and finding out information from other parents in order to feel comfortable about making a decision.

Having done my 'homework', I selected 3 different secondary schools in order of preference and was thrilled to find out that my child was offered a place of 1st choice of school that I had selected, I feel really lucky as I understand the school is one of the most reputable schools in the locality.

Following the transition, my child has settled in nicely and so far, doing well in his schoolwork.

Names have been withheld on request

Tips on choosing schools:

Gather information as early as possible, with the help of other parents, friends and families, professionals working with schools

etc so that you can plan school visits and make applications on time.

Contact your local authority for information about schools in your local area and surrounding.

Do some research - read individual school prospectuses, achievement, attainment data and Ofsted reports. Check out the websites – Dfes (Department for Children, Schools & Families) and Directgov, which has a wide range of information relating to education.

Ask yourself which of the schools would best meet your child's needs and plan a visit to the school with your child, to get a feel of the place and meet with children, teachers and staff etc.

How Deaf Aware are your children's School?

I am a deaf single mother, who attended one of the parenting skills workshops arranged by Deaf Parenting UK in late 2006.

I expressed my concerned about the situation with my daughter's school exclusion to the facilitator of the workshop. My child had not been in school for almost 4 months, whilst awaiting placement at another school, but after several times of trying to contact the school to find out what was happening, I was left frustrated at not being able to get through to either schools.

I was not fully clear why my child was excluded from school, my eldest daughter who also attended the same school as her young sister informed me that the school told her to tell me the news verbally about the exclusion – no letter or other way of communication to inform me of this directly!

I have to admit that I did not have a good school/parent relationship with this school as I felt that they did not know what or how to deal with me as a deaf parent. I have very little concept of English and my first language is BSL, the school did nothing to encourage me and to top it all, the school was using my young daughter for communication support, which I realised by rights should not have taken place because my child was only 13 years old and traumatised by the whole situation surrounding the exclusion.

Following the advice and support of DPUK, I then contacted the Exclusions Officer at the local council and made a formal complaint. As a result of an investigation, it was clear that the exclusion officer was horrified and that the school had failed to meet all regulations and guidance of the exclusion policy.

My daughter has since been reinstated at the same school. The school has also been issued with a copy of the guide ' Schools working with Deaf Parents' for education professionals, aimed at helping teachers and staff in education to work effectively with deaf parents and their children. To this date, the parent-school relationship has somewhat improved and I feel more encouraged to be involved in my child's education.

Deaf Mum, NW London

The 'Schools working with Deaf Parents' guide is available in large and standard print; it is deaf-led and endorsed by Deaf Parenting UK

The guide can be purchased online via DPPI; www.dppi.org.uk

Worried about your teens peer pressure?

As a parent, I frequently wonder what I can do to keep my teenagers from being influenced by peers but that can be difficult as teenagers tend to experiment, which helps them gain access to certain social privileges.

I am a parent with three teenage children, two of whom are boys of 19 years and 15 years.

I am not perfect but I did my very best to bring them up in a stable environment – however, both my boys have been influenced by peers; the eldest through drugs and the youngest with Anti Social Behaviour issues.

Being a successful parent to teenagers is not as easy as you think, especially associated with adolescence, but the fact remains to try instil a good, healthy relationship and great communication.

My eldest boy has just left home, and is to become a father for the 1st time, I pray everyday that he will turn the corner and be a positive role model for his newborn child.

My youngest son is a force to be reckon with, he was a model child up until he started 2nd year of secondary school and then completely changed. My confidence hit rock bottom, as there was a lot of tension and hostile

atmosphere in our home.

My son's continuous trouble with the police has sent me into a spiral depression, but I am fortunate to have the support of the children's father – who has been actively involved in their lives. I have wondered time and time again whether I could have done more in minimising their time spent with their peers in youth clubs, hanging out on the streets etc.

Having said that, with the support of various parenting organisations, I have since learnt to regain control by dealing with my son's feelings in order to support him and build an awareness of what teenagers need from a parent and what we can do to help meet those needs.

I have a close relationship with my young daughter who is about to turn 13 years old. I would be lying if said that I have no cause for concern about her future well-being – there is so much pressure about image today, which goes through teenagers and adding to their anxieties. I just have to deal with things one step at a time.

L. White, Torquay

Upcoming debates:

- IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation) – What are your views on House of Lords decision on rejecting deaf embryos in favour of hearing embryos?
- Concerns about the difficulty in helping your child with homework?
- Concerns about your teenage social network such as Bebo, Facebook, Tagged, the dangers and risks of their profiles being exploited?

We would welcome your views...please feel free to share them with **DPUK**

Email or fax your comments to: **Email: info@deafparent.org.uk or Fax: 0871 2643323**

DPUK Announcement *...Sharing your news...*

Deaf Visions: A Place in Time and Space

Saturday 10 May 2008
2-6.30pm, free admission

Practical Art and Art History Events in
British Sign Language (BSL).

This event is design for deaf and hard of hearing people and their families. A portable hearing loop is available and a BSL interpreter will aid communication for hearing visitors.

As part of museums and galleries month discover how innovative 18th century craftsmen were in designing timepieces. Solar time, signs of the zodiac, the time at any place in the northern hemisphere, the phases of the moon or the position of the sun in the sky can all be discovered at the Wallace Collection!

2-4pm - family art workshop
4.30-6.30pm - gallery talks, wine and nibbles

For more information please email community@wallacecollection.org or telephone 020 7563 9577

The Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, London, W1U 3BN. Nearest tube Bond Street, Baker Street, Marble Arch, and Oxford Circus.

NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION BSL HELPLINE PROVIDED BY SIGN VIDEO



SignVideo
Putting People in Vision

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and are worried about a child or need advice, contact our NSPCC Child Protection BSL Helpline, through qualified British Sign Language interpreters:

Call via ISDN videophone on:
020 84631148

Online via IP videophone or webcam to:
nspcc.signvideo.tv

Service Opening Hours: Monday to Friday,
9am – 5pm

Confidentiality and the NSPCC Helpline

NSPCC cannot trace your phone number and you do not have to give your name and address. You can find out more about the NSPCC's confidentiality policy and what happens to the information you give them from their website on www.nspcc.org.uk.

DPUK LNF Family Day Events:

Saturday 26th April 2008

Day Trip to Gulliver's Theme Park, Milton Keynes

A fun packed day for children age 2yrs-12yrs

For more information and booking form, please contact the DPUK Coordinator

Alternative Parenting...

Pregnancy and Parenting is not easy – fact!
There is a whole world of complimentary therapies, advice and medical help at our fingertips.

If it's not bad enough getting through the initial stages of baby blues we encounter terrible two's, terrifying threesomes, school, spots, bullying, ill health, Teens... & exams!

There are tools and techniques that could reduce the stress of teething or colds and there was a technique you could use to build up self-confidence...Interested, please read on!

Joanne Frost, a complimentary therapist for the practices of Reiki, Crystal Healing, Emotional Freedom Technique (tapping) and EmoTrance.

Joanne has extensive knowledge of being a mum to an 8-year-old challenging child and worked in Norfolk social services for over 4 years. She offers courses to groups of parents in BSL or spoken word giving advice and teaching methods to help with stress levels and promotion of well being that you can use on your own or with your family & friends.

Joanne can teach you to learn the basics of Reiki, promoting positive contact and touch between yourself and others and possibly learn the basic of meditation techniques.

For more information about this alternative therapy, visit the website on website on www.tranquiljourney.co.uk

E-mail: yourtranquiljourney@yahoo.co.uk
Telephone 01603 789387
SMS: 07874014681

Drama workshops for deaf children and young people

Drama Workshops available for deaf children and young people.

Mary-Jayne is a deaf qualified drama tutor, with a degree in Theatre Arts, Education and Deaf Studies. She has presented many drama workshops over the past 3 years with various of age groups consisting of people with mental health, young people with learning difficulties and children with additional needs.

Provision of workshops includes 'Drama in Education' and 'Theatre in Education', using drama educational structure. This can be from the school National Curriculum and also any themes from a Playscheme, Youth Club, or any other clubs.

Mary can provide workshops across the UK and would consult the concept you want from the drama workshops.

For more information, please contact Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford on:

Email: maryrdec@hotmail.com
SMS Mobile: 07749 114775

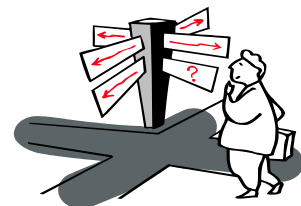


If you would like to submit an advert or a feature relating to parenting in the DPUK Newsletter – Free of charge, Please contact the DPUK Coordinator for details.





NOTICE BOARD



Parent & Toddler Groups:

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

Deaf Access Parent & Toddler Group

Meets on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month.

Time: 12.30 to 2.30pm

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

For more information about Deaf Access Parent & Toddler Group, please contact Jonathan Nelson on:

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 working in partnership to provide a playgroup ' **Happy Hands**' for children Deaf, HOH parents & Hearing parents of deaf HOH children under 5yrs.

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



Adverts:



JOIN PART TIME COURSES LEADING TO NATIONALLY RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS:

European Computer Driving Licence Level One

10am- 4pm at the Learning Centre, 38 Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate, London, E7 0QH

Starting from Monday 21st April 2008.

For more information, Contact Shahab Reza on: Email: shahab15@btinternet.com

SMS Mobile : 07961926887



Deaf Parenting UK

Enabling Confidence, Empowering and Supporting Deaf Parents & Deaf Parents to be



Deaf Parenting UK is a unique organisation with a pool of Deaf Parenting Skills Trainers and we can offer the following services for Deaf Parents and Deaf Parents to be:

Services:

- Parenting Skills Courses
- Befriender Services
- 1:1 Parenting Skills Support
- Tailor-made services to meet your needs.

Want to know more about us, we can offer those services by:

- Providing 2 hours workshops to a group of maximum 12 parents at a hired venue or a one to one support at private home at own discretion.
- Provide information, support and advice on positive parenting, talk about own experience of parenting and sharing ideas with one another
- Learn new skills to develop better relationship within your family.
- Courses can be tailor-made to meet your specific needs e.g.: length of course, BSL friendly handouts, one to one support etc

Our Services/ courses can be held across the UK, at hired venues, or private homes. To learn more, please contact us for further discussion/ information:

Email: info@deafparent.org.uk

E Fax: 0871 2643323 SMS: 07789 027186

Web: www.deafparent.org.uk

DPUK CONTACTS



Deaf Parenting UK

Deaf Parenting UK

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

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.

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

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.



IMPORTANT: Useful information for Service Professionals

If you are a service provider of Health or Social Services and want to know more information on Deaf Parenting Skill Course or our services, please contact DPUK Coordinator