



WELCOME!

Welcome to the Winter 2007 edition of Deaf of Deaf Parenting UK Newsletter.

Countdown to Christmas... Hold on to your wallets! Leave the hustle and bustle of the high street with its army of frantic Christmas shoppers behind you and relax with our winter newsletter!

It is Christmas time again. A time for festive fun for families, but it can also come with stresses of all kinds, such as financial pressure. I can't help thinking that the art of enjoying Christmas is a rather tricky one in this day and age, for all I know the magic of the Christmases I had when I was very little wore off surprisingly quickly. Christmas is suddenly more stressful than fun, however, the one thing I do look forward to is the traditional family gathering on Christmas Day.

So friends, families and loves ones...May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas, a relaxing & Prosperous New Year.

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!

Nicole Campbell
DPUK Coordinator

Funded by:



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Deaf Cultural Mela, October 2007

Royal Association for Deaf People hosted a Cultural Mela at Eastbury Comprehensive School in Barking, Essex.



The daytime event consisted of various exhibition stands, workshops, taster sessions, and interactive activities that attracted people of all ages and from a variety of Black, Minority & Ethnic (BME) background.

Deaf Parenting UK set up their own exhibition stall and played a role in facilitating access to information and services.

The evening event provided a vibrant display of various dance, mime and music – performances that took place on the stage. Carole Vincent from Channel 4's Big Brother gave an opening speech to the cheers from the crowd as Carole wowed the audience with her BSL level 2 skills.

The event was a success, which made a huge difference to the BME community. Royal Association for Deaf People will be planning a better and bigger Mela event for next year!



UKCOD Conference, November 2007

The UKCOD's 4th Annual Deafness Conference was an opportunity for all professionals working with deaf people to meet and network with colleagues and to gain a greater understanding of developments taking place across the country.

Deaf Parenting UK gave a supporting presentation to over 90 different sectors that attended the event. An exhibition stall was also set up to provide information and access to DPUK Services.

A great opportunity to network and chat with people from other sectors and a chance to get **Deaf Parenting UK** on the 'map'.

Deaf Parenting UK Seminar, November 2007



Sabina with VIP Carole Vincent in BSL 'Deaf Parenting'

The aim of this seminar was to show service professionals within the Health, Social Services, Education and mainstream parenting organisations on how well DPUK have achieved and highlighting the gaps in services for Deaf parents/deaf parents to be. Around 30 service professionals from different sectors and 12 deaf parents attended the event, held at the Camden Town Hall.



A special guest of honour presented herself at the seminar and gave a positive word of support for **Deaf Parenting UK** - 'Carole Vincent from BB8!' Carole announced that she is raising money for **Deaf Parenting UK** in a Big Brother Charity Event – an online bid for "DINNER DATES with EX-HOUSEMATES" (see below).

WIN A DINNER DATE WITH AN EX BB HOUSEMATE!

Bid to go on a dinner date with an ex housemate from Big Brother - check out the website & follow the instructions on: www.myspace.com/bigbrotherallyearsparty

The dinner dates and tickets are up for grabs in reverse auctions. If you'd like to win it's not how high you go, it's how LOW. The person with the **LOWEST UNIQUE BID** at the end of the competition is the winner!

And not only do you have the chance to win a one-off Big Brother prize, you'll be doing your bit for our charities as 78p from every text bid and £1 for every online transaction will be donated to 5 deserving charities including **Deaf Parenting UK**.

Go on, go online and start bidding for your dream date. Different housemates will then be up for grabs each **week until Christmas**, so make sure you add your profile and they will inform you when new auctions for dinner dates with other housemates go live.

Good Luck!

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

Deaf Parents Denied Interpreters in Custody Case (Wisconsin, USA)

Communication may have cost the parents their children. Two deaf parents fighting to get their children back from the Milwaukee County foster care system could not understand proceedings during court hearings because no sign-language interpreters were present for all or part of the hearings, aimed at determining whether the children could be returned to their care.

Those hearings - in which the parents sat in silence - are among eight held between December 2005 and November 2006 that led to the district attorney's office pursuing efforts to find new permanent homes for the children.

The case is a chilling illustration of how a language barrier can cause people to become lost in the court system with potentially devastating results. As a result, the Children's Court Judge will hold a hearing on whether the court system has been fair to the deaf parents.

The district attorney's office said the parents missed some scheduled visitations, failed to call or write their children in foster care, didn't complete parenting classes and had inconsistent contact with case managers. Their boys, now 2 and 7 years old, were placed in foster care two years ago after their mother left them with her grandmother, who called child welfare authorities.

The Journal Sentinel found a series of communication roadblocks in the case files. And time after time, court guidelines distributed to judges by the state Supreme Court were disregarded or ignored.



The father, Psalms Wagner, 33, wept as he told a reporter of his love for his children and of how alone he felt and how confused he was by the court proceedings.

"We didn't feel like we had a chance," Wagner said through an interpreter. "I just sat, and people just talked. I felt left out. I was lost."

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act requires courts to provide an interpreter or another appropriate communication device for people who otherwise cannot understand the proceedings, said Carmel Capati, an attorney who directs the state courts interpreter program.

"Clearly something bad happened in this case with the interpretation and lack of communication. We have to try to make sure that this doesn't happen again in the future."

Guidelines for interpreters published by the Wisconsin Supreme Court state that interpreters should review the case file and talk with the client "to confirm the ability to communicate" and educate them to the technical language that may be used in court proceedings.

(Extracts from www.jsonline.com)

For full article, enter the link below:
www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=693308

Family Fun Events in London



Fourteen children and Thirteen deaf parents attended the Krazy Kat 'Clownderella' performance on Saturday 27th October, at the Warehouse Theatre, in Croydon.

Deaf Parenting UK grabbed the opportunity to purchase tickets for Deaf Parents and their children.

The children were delighted to join Krazy Kat 'Kinny Gardener' in his clowning silliness, with colourful costumes, sing along tunes from Rossini's opera, puppetry, and even an operatic version of Cinderella!



Kinny Gardener, clown singing with Clownderella puppet

The show turned out to be a colourful stage performance filled with humour, dance and songs that entertained and amused the audience. The hugely popular show included a fully integrated British Sign Language throughout.

For more information about Krazy Kat Theatre and their future performances, across the UK, check out their website on:
www.krazykattheatre.co.uk

DPUK Disco – Kids & Teens

Deaf Parenting UK launched it's first Disco for children and Teens. Both separate events took place at the at the Lewisham Irish Community Centre.

Children at the Lewisham Irish Community Centre, enjoyed a free Disco on Saturday 1st December, courtesy of Deaf Parenting UK.

A DJ was booked to provide discotheque entertainment of games, competitions, prizes, bubble machine, laser lights etc

The disco was a success, with more than 25 children joined in the fun and games, some danced enthusiastically throughout the late afternoon.

The event at the centre, also included hot party food of Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Veggie Burgers and Chips, which went down a storm!

I am really pleased the DPUK's first disco went so well – it was great to see many children and their families enjoying a fun afternoon out.



Children & teens tucking away party food at disco.

The teenagers disco has been hailed as a success, with around 22 teenagers age

between 12 and 17 who danced the night away.



The teenagers were well-behaved and it was nice to see young people out having fun.

"As a local myself I know that we have many young deaf youngsters in our community,"

One of the main ideas behind **Deaf Parenting UK's Children & Teen project** is keeping youngsters entertained. It helps steer them away from trouble and petty crime, and also gives them confidence together with building social skills.

Many thanks for all the hard work put in by the volunteers who made the day enjoyable for the children and teenagers.



Children & Teens mixing and enjoying themselves.

Amby The Award Winning Baby Bed

Let your baby discover his new world with Amby!

The Amby teams are thrilled to announce for the second year running, they have won the Silver Mother and Baby Award held at the London Hilton Hotel on 3rd December 2007.

"This year was particularly rewarding as there was no cot category, the award was for **Best Nursery Product** and we were the only baby bed to be short listed".

Trusted by thousands of parents worldwide the award winning Natures Nest is fast becoming the must have baby bed. Designed to replicate natural movements to give baby optimal reassurance and maximum comfort.

The outstanding design of the Natures Nest gives comfort and security to your baby with its snug tactile environment.



The Natures Nest holds your baby in a cradled position enabling you to place your baby to bed with ease. Suitable from birth to 12 months and totally portable,

creating a relaxed and stress free bedtime wherever you are.

The Amby Natures Nest continues to receive the recognition it deserves from parents and we will be keeping our fingers crossed for a Gold award next year.

www.amby.co.uk

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

Debate: MMR

The MMR vaccine is a three part mixture of live viruses, given by injection, which is to protect (immunise) against Measles, Mumps and German Measles (Rubella). In the UK it is given to children at 12 to 15 months, with a reinforcing dose (a booster) before school, usually between 3 and 5 years.

The combined MMR vaccine was introduced to induce immunity less painfully than three separate injections at the same time, and sooner and more efficiently than three injections given on different dates.

It is known from researches that anything we take into our body can have side effects. Medicines, and in this case MMR vaccine, are no exception, but vaccines are among the safest medicines.

Are you worried about MMR...what did you do?

My son is 7 months and very soon he will be having the MMR injections.

I have been doing some research on the risks of MMR and found that to inject the 3 part MMR vaccine introduces a high risk of autism and possible cause of a brain damage.

My mother, who is a first time a Grandmother, told me that she arranged for my sisters and I to have separate MMR injections. My mother is a highly Qualified Nurse and she knew it was the right thing to do.

The MMR provides one combined injection, but to have them separately means the child will have 3 injections...sounds very painful but I believe it is the best thing to do.

I still have lots of doubts about MMR and when my son is due to have the injections;

I will more likely opt for the separate injections for safety sake.

Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford, Bromley

Nursery/school placement – how did you decide which is best for you & your child?

I have been like a headless chicken for the past few days trying to decide which primary school for my daughter to start next year as I thought we would be living in South Africa. Last year I only applied for one specific nursery school, which was oversubscribed and fortunately my daughter was offered a place at that nursery school.

I now have my eye on a primary school, which is said to be the best in the locality and I am doing all the things I need to do to meet the criteria. At the end of the day, all parents want the best for their child, don't we?

For me, it was an eye-opener to see how some hearing parents at the baby/toddler playgroups discuss and overhear information about applying for nursery/primary school places, which are mostly 'misleading' until they find that their child is not selected to that specific oversubscribed or what we say is a popular local nursery/primary school.

Thankfully Deaf parents do not hear! Once a place has been secured for the child, who is usually around March, the parents revealed how they did it, which came too late for the parents of unsuccessful children. Perhaps it is a blessing in disguise that we are d/Deaf and not to hear misleading information but the

best advise I would give is to ask the school directly i.e. the school head, education adviser, etc.

The head of the best school in the area where I live was pleased that I turned up on my own with my daughter Jovita, to collect an application form and prospectus. I was worried about how I would understand or be understood as the sign language interpreter was held up in traffic.

The school Head 'secretly' arranged for one member of staff who could sign to assist with BSL communication support and but said that I had the courage to come alone, a bonus factor for my application!

Karen Bodamer, Croydon

Expecting more children, how do you manage with first child?

I'm 6mths pregnant with 2nd child and the reaction of my first one at 18mths old was instantly jealous whenever I held someone's baby. I was worried as my pregnancy grew.

But as Deaf parents, we decided the best thing is to get the first child involved from the start, informing her that baby in my tummy and she can see the bump growing, nurturing the bump at times by rubbing, kissing and listening to the bump.

We also told her not to hit the bump and

eventually taught her that mummy is unable to carry her at all times but sharing responsibility with daddy is also important. We also gave her a baby doll to play with, in hope she would get used to having a baby before the new baby comes.

Her nursery has been a fantastic help in preparing for a new baby by ensuring that she has 15-20mins time in the baby room where she learnt to play gently with young babies over 6mths.

It is not easy being a mum 2nd time round as it is exhausting with first child as well as going through 2nd pregnancy but friends and family assured me that as long 1st child is getting the attention she needs by either myself or my husband and being involved of being aware that 2nd baby is coming, it helps to reduce frustration and tantrums.

I have also been advised that it is also important to look after your own health and ensure that your pregnancy goes well as planned. Get someone to look after your first child and give you as much break as possible. We have put our 1st child in nursery and booking extra sessions to give me breaks.

If you have any useful tips of how to deal with 1st child after 2nd baby is born, I would love to hear from you.

Deaf mum, London

Upcoming debates:

- Choosing Secondary Schools - how did you decide which is best for your child
- Schools working with Deaf parents – How deaf aware are your children's school
- Worried about your teens peer pressure...? Sexual Health, Drugs, Alcohol, Anti Social Behaviour.

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

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

DPUK Local Network Fund Family Day Events:

Saturday 26th January 2008 – Arts & Crafts Activity – Greenwich

Saturday 23rd February 2008 – Drama workshop – Southwark

Saturday 29th March – Easter Theme Activity – Bromley

Saturday 26th April 2008 – Day Trip – TBA



Funded by:

local network fund
for children and young people

Look out for further announcements via deaf media

Unicorn 's Integrated BSL Interpreted Performance – "Duck"

Saturday 19 January 2008 at 2:30pm

Unicorn's BSL interpreted performances have the interpreters integrated into the performance. The interpreter will have a costume, move around the stage with the actors and be a central part of the performance.

Thanks to generous subsidy from The McGrath Trust, we have a limited number of tickets for the Integrated BSL Interpreted Performance at just £1 each (adults and children).

For more information and to book your tickets:

Email: boxoffice@unicorntheatre.com

Telephone: 020 7645 0560

Please quote 'BSL £1 offer' when booking.

For further information contact

kate.hladky@unicorntheatre.com

DPUK Website

Deaf Parenting UK has a Forum/Message board on the website that offers free discussion/ debate/ support forum on parenting issues, covering different topics.

This Free Website Forum is for deaf parents, professionals working with deaf parents and services providers.

It is free to register and you can join in the discussions, share your experiences and contribute ideas/support one another as Deaf Parents and for Professionals working with Deaf Parents.

To register, go to:

www.deafparent.org.uk/forums.html

And follow the instructions.

Share your news / details of any forthcoming events.

For next newsletter issue, email your

details to: **info@deafparent.org.uk**

BSL SIGNS FOR SEXUAL HEALTH



FLIP- Book

£25 Plus P/P £2.50



DVD

£35.25 Plus P/P £1.50

FLIP- BOOK & DVD - Pack Price

£55 Plus Postage/Package: £3.00

The aim is to support health care professionals (Nurses, GPs, Midwives), School Teachers and Community Youth Workers communicate more effectively with young deaf people and help foster a better understanding about sexual health issues.

DVD and Flip-Book also available from Forest Bookshops.
For more information, contact Deafax:

No 1 Earley Gate, University of Reading, PO Box 236, Reading, Berks RG6 6AT

Email: info@deafax.org



NOTICE BOARD



Are you expecting a baby or have a baby age up to 12 months?

NEW COURSES:

Deaf Parenting UK is running *Parenting skills course for pregnant mothers and their partners* in South East London Borough of Southwark.

The workshops will run from February / March 2008 for 9 weeks.

For more information about the Deaf Parenting Skills workshops, please contact the DPUK Coordinator:

Email: info@deafparent.co.uk
SMS: 07789 027186 (**text message only**)
Fax: 0871 2643323

DPUK & Parentline Plus Partnership Project

NEW Parenting Skills Course for Deaf Parents with Young Children, living in **Brent Borough**.

5 weeks course on Friday mornings from 11^h January 2008

Want to know more, please contact DPUK Coordinator on Info@deafparent.org.uk

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.

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





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

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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.

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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