



Deaf Parenting UK



Project Manager's Update:

Asif Iqbal, DPUK Project Manager

I am delighted let you know our coordinator Nicole Campbell, who is currently on maternity leave, has given birth to a baby girl weighing in at 8lb8oz. .

We send our heartiest congratulations to Nicole and her partner. You can see a picture of Nicole and her beautiful family in our News section.

Merlin Entertainments Theme Parks

I have fantastic news! Deaf Parenting UK will be in receipt of free tickets to Merlin Entertainment's Theme Parks including Thorpe Park, Chessington World of Adventure, SeaLife, Madame Tussauds and many more at 60 locations. We are very grateful to Tesco Magazine and Merlin who donated the tickets to us. Both have found Deaf Parenting UK to be inspiring and invaluable in supporting deaf parents and were especially interested in our family fun days which provide deaf parents and their children an opportunity to meet up and have a lot of fun!

If you want to get together and have a family fun day in your local area, please let us know so we can arrange tickets to be sent to you.

Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Please contact our coordinator Radha to add your name/ location onto the list. Contact her at info@deafparent.org.uk

The Baby Show, Excel, Feb 2010:

Deaf Parenting UK proudly exhibited at The Baby show event in London Dockland's ExCel Centre – this was a very successful event. Amongst the highlights was a visit to our stand from well known celebrity healthcare specialist, Dr Miriam Stoppard OBE, who is a known all over the world as a



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leading authority on parenting, child care, women's health, and many other crucial health issues. Miriam's books have been translated into over 35 languages and sold over 20 million copies worldwide. She has direct experience of the problems of ordinary people answering readers' letters in a daily double spread in The Daily Mirror, read by 7 million people every day, as well as a regular health page in "Tesco Magazine" and "Top Sante".

Dr Miriam was certainly impressed with the work that we do and was more than happy to have her photo taken with our staff and volunteers.



During the show, Sabina also appeared on the Comfort Pure Stage and Expert Advice Theatre to raise awareness of the work of the charity and was interviewed with Lucy Piper, the show's host. It was a major breakthrough to have a Deaf parent on stage to share her experiences as a deaf mum.

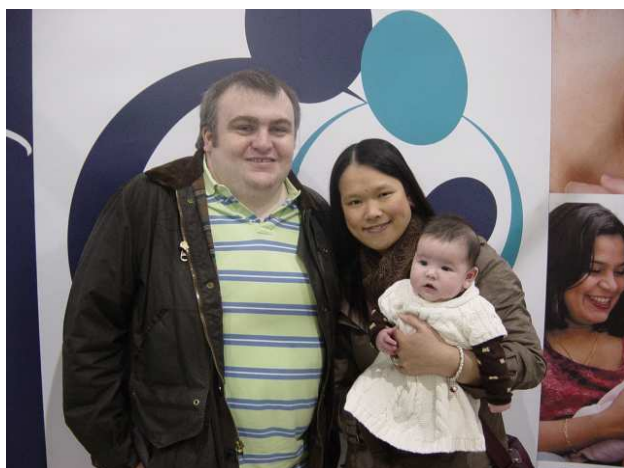


[L-R: Helen (BSL interpreter), Lucy Piper (Show's presenter) interviewing Sabina (Chair)]

We had a great time at the Baby Show and I want to share some photos from the event with you.



[L-R: Maik Todd, Rachel Black and Tansy Todd 6 months old with exhibitors and BSL interpreter.]



Andrew Jordan, his wife and daughter (4mths old).



Radha and young friend

Deaf Parenting UK reaching out to local groups

Recently we have been invited to a number of local events including an invitation from Brent Deaf People Group to give a talk about our work in February this year. Since then we were also invited to the International Women Day event organised by South Gloucestershire Deaf Women Well Being group (Bristol) and Midland Regional Association for Deaf People (Birmingham). Those events were successful and resulted in an increased awareness of what we do and how we support Deaf parents.

Celebrate 10 years of Deaf Parenting UK in 2011

Plans are now underway to celebrate our 10th Anniversary in 2011!! We are keen to hear your ideas/suggestions of how we should celebrate our 10 years anniversary next year. Please let us know how you would like to help us celebrate: media@deafparent.org.uk

From all at Deaf Parenting UK, we wish you and your family a very happy Easter



EDITORIAL



As many of us prepare to celebrate Easter with our friends and family I hope, too, that we will soon be celebrating the arrival of Spring after a long and brutal winter.

Deaf Parenting UK has had much to celebrate this year already. Sabina Iqbal's recognition as Charitable Mum of the Year, at the Tesco Magazine Mum of the Year Awards, is recognition for DPUK as well as a deserved reward for the many hours of hard work and dedication that Sabina gives to the charity and deaf parents each week. It's an opportunity to spread the message of the good work that DPUK does and increase awareness of the needs of Deaf parents across the UK. Public support from high profile figures such as Sarah Brown and Miriam Stoppard is critical in helping us to raise the profile of DPUK.

There is also much to which we look forward too. Plans for this year's conference are finalised and the full conference programme is available in the newsletter. This is wonderful opportunity to hear from an extensive panel of expert speakers. There will be plenty of fun family activities for children of Deaf parents. In addition the conference offers an excellent opportunity to meet with other Deaf parents, families and professionals, in order to work together to ensure Deaf Parents have **equal access to Health, Social Services and to their Children's Education**. We would love to hear about the experiences of conference attendees - I make an advance plea for contributions for our newsletter. It would be wonderful to share your thoughts on the conference, the contributions of the speakers and the contacts you make in a future newsletter. Please do get in touch.

In putting together our newsletter we try to think about what is useful and interesting to you, our readers. I was delighted to receive contributions to this edition of the newsletter from some of you. I was especially touched by the article submitted by Melissa Mostyn-Thomas, in the Features section of this newsletter. Melissa shares her experiences of becoming a mum to Isobel. It's obvious that there were some difficult and challenging times, but what is so clear in Melissa's writing is that the unconditional love that she feels for her daughter increased her determination to overcome whatever barriers she faced - this is also clear in the very joyful picture of Melissa and Isobel that accompanies her article.

I write this editorial as we fast approach the Easter holiday. Whether you are celebrating Easter, or another religious holiday, or just enjoying the long weekend with your family I wish you a happy and restful holiday.

Cerí Hughes, Deaf Parenting UK Newsletter Editor

Introducing Radha—our new DPUK Coordinator

Radha Manjeshwar, who we are delighted to welcome to our team as she covers Nicole Campbell's maternity leave, comes from a Deaf family and has been involved with the Deaf community all her life. She is well known for her role as a presenter on BBC's See Hear programme which she has been doing now for four years. In this role she has researched many issues that concern Deaf people and the Deaf community as well as looking at this history of the British Deaf Community. This linked nicely with her acting role in the See Hear's Deaf drama 'Switch'.



Along with continuing work for See Hear, Radha currently works as an Advocate, Project Manager and Project Coordinator for the RAD (Royal Association of Deaf people). She has been in this post for 2 years now. Here she supports Deaf people within the London area with any issues they may have and helps them to overcome any barriers they may face.



**Deaf Parenting UK Conference
2010: Are we Equal? - Accessing
Health, Social Services &
Children's Education**

Deaf Parenting UK

Deaf Parenting UK are

very pleased to host our next annual conference – **Deaf Parenting UK Conference 2010: Are we Equal?** The Conference will focus on three key areas: Health, Social Services and Children's Education.

The conference will be held on Wednesday 7 July 2010 at The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA.
“Limited places, please book early to avoid disappointment”

The conference offers an exciting programme of speakers and fun family activities for children of Deaf parents. In addition, the conference offers an excellent opportunity to meet with other Deaf parents, families and professionals, in order to work together to ensure Deaf Parents have **equal access to Health, Social Services and to their Children's Education.**

We have an excellent **programme of speakers** including:

- Professor Waqar Ahmad (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Enterprise, Middlesex University & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador)
- Sabina Iqbal (Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK)
- Surinder Sharma (National Director, Equality & Human Rights Department of Health)
- Anne Bristow, (the Joint -Chair of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Physical Disabilities Network/ HIV/ and Sensory Impairment Network)
- Professor Alys Young PhD, CQSW (Professor of Social Work Education and Research University of Manchester University & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador)
- Jeff McWhinney (Managing Director of Significan't (UK) Ltd & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador)
- Dr Lesley Jones (Senior Lecturer in Social Science, Hull York Medical School, University of York & Deaf Parenting UK Ambassador – Chair of Workshops Summary & Closing remark)

- Penny Allsop (Healthy Child Programme Policy Lead, Department of Health – 'Healthy Child Programme – What it Means for Parents')

We also like to thanks to the **tremendous support** of our upcoming conferences from our following partners:

- Middlesex University
- The University of Manchester
- University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) and their International Sign Languages and Deaf Studies Centre (ISLANDS)
- Deafness, Cognition and Language (DCAL) Research Centre, University College London
- University of Sussex
- The Hull York Medical School, University of York
- Department of Health
- Association Directors of Adult Social Services
- London Borough of Barking & Dagenham
- Deaf Empowerment Foundation
- Remark!
- Significan't

To learn more about the conference 2010, see the following information:

<http://www.deafparent.org.uk/services/conference/conference-2010/>

For further information please email info@deafparent.org.uk . Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

Tickets cost: Deaf parents/ families £5, Student £10, Professionals/ service providers £80. Limited places, please book early to avoid disappointment

Exhibitor bookings: If you are interested and wish to book your space for your exhibition – please contact Asif Iqbal:
media@deafparent.org.uk

Please contact us for more information on by email info@deafparent.org.uk or SMS: 07789 027186 (text only) E-Fax: 0871 2643323

Sabina Iqbal named Tesco Magazine Charitable Mum of the Year

Sabina Iqbal, Chair & Founder of pioneering UK charity, Deaf Parenting UK has been named 'Tesco Magazine Charitable Mum of the Year 2010'. Sabina won the award in recognition of her work establishing Deaf Parenting UK, the first ever national charity run by deaf parents for deaf parents, whilst looking after her two small children; daughter Samaira (3 years) and son Areeb (1 year).

This is the fifth year that Tesco Magazine has honoured UK Mums at the Mum of the Year Awards. The awards recognise the achievements of exceptional mums whose love, dedication, bravery or kindness has touched the lives of people around them. Sabina was chosen by a panel including the Prime Minister's wife Sarah Brown. Sabina was presented with the Charitable Mum of the Year award by Natasha Kaplinsky.



© Peter Crane

Her interview in Tesco magazine (March/April 2010 Edition) is now out – to read more, click here (<http://www.deafparent.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Tesco-Magazine-of-Mum-of-the-Year-2010-March-April-2010.pdf>)

Sabina said: "I was delighted especially as I hope the award will help to raise the profile of Deaf Parenting UK and the work we are doing to help deaf parents. This award shows what a deaf person can achieve and I hope it will show others in the UK what they can do."

Sabina is dedicated to providing support for deaf parents and as a result has been recognised within the UK and internationally through the success of her projects. Sabina will also attend a special meeting with Sarah Brown at Number 10 to celebrate her fantastic achievements.

Support for Deaf Parenting UK

Recently DPUK has received support from two high-profile celebrities. Sabina Iqbal met Sarah Brown, wife of the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, at the Tesco Magazine Mum of the Year awards ceremony. Sarah was part of the judging panel. (Sarah and Gordon Brown, pictured left, with all of the winning mums—including Sabina—at the awards ceremony)



Sarah, who is also President of Piggybank Kids, said: "I was very pleased to learn about Deaf Parenting UK through the Tesco Mum of the Year awards and have been incredibly impressed at the services they offer to Mums and Dads in genuine need. As parents we all need support now and then and this charity will help deaf parents and their children get the best out of life." Just a few days before

the awards ceremony, at the Baby Show, Dr Miriam Stoppard OBE, below right, spoke of her support for the charity too, saying: "I found Deaf Parenting UK and the work that they do for deaf parents inspirational. It is vital to ensure that our information/advice are accessible to all and most often, it is the deaf parents who lose out because they can't hear or access any spoken information that we take for granted. I'm keen to support Deaf Parenting UK."



In response to this support Sabina, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK said: "I'm delighted to have the support from two well-known celebrities Sarah Brown, wife of Prime Minister and Dr Miriam Stoppard, OBE who both recognised the uniqueness and vital work that we do".

NEWS

SAFE AT LAST FOR FRANK BARNES SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

Franks Barnes School, a sign bilingual school for Deaf Children, recently announced the good news that its future has now been secured following an agreement between the school and the London Borough of Camden, where the school is based. As part of the agreement, which secures continued support for the school, a new state-of-the-art facility in the King's Cross area is to be built for the start of the 2013/14 academic year. In the meantime the school will move to a temporary home at the Jubilee Waterside Centre.

The school was recently recognised as one of 12 outstanding special schools in the UK and the only Deaf school to be recognised for an award.

Retiring Chair of Governors at the Ofsted-rated *Outstanding* School. Stephen Phillips QC said: "This is a fantastic result for all concerned and guarantees not only the survival of the school and the specialist teaching it offers, but the survival of best practice teaching for Deaf Children across London."



DEAF CAMP TO CLOSE

Deaf Camp is a national outdoor pursuits initiative for deaf children, organised and led by Deaf volunteers. In August 2009 a two week camp was coordinated—the first week in partnership with the NDCS for 8-12 year olds and the second week – Deaf Teen Camp – for 13-15 year olds.

However, at the recent trustees' meeting it was decided for the organisation to wind down to enable the charity to end on a high, with all long-serving volunteers moving on to pastures new.

We would like to thank all these who have contributed to the work of the charity, as well as funders; the National Deaf Children's Society Jack Ashley Millennium Awards, Awards for All, the Big Lottery Fund, Four Acres Trust and the Hedley Foundation. A total of 300 children have attended the camp weeks, and 126 volunteers have been involved in making this happen. A big thank you to all these volunteers – we couldn't have done it without you!

We have a blog full of photos and articles relating to the camp weeks, and this blog will continue until August 2010 – check it out to learn more about the work we did –

www.deafcamp.org.uk

Yours in camping, *Ethel Neal (Chairperson)*

Sabina talks about her experiences in Emel magazine"

Founder and chair of a pioneering charity, author, a full-time worker in social services, winner of "Women of the Future" awards, married with two young children and one of the UK's most powerful Muslim women", *Emel magazine*, the Muslim lifestyle magazine, profiled Deaf Parenting UK founder and chair, Sabina Iqbal in a recent issue

Access the article in Emel magazine on our Deaf Parenting UK website:

<http://www.deafparent.org.uk/2010/01/sabina-featured-in-emel-magazine-feb-2010/>

SIGN LANGUAGE HELPS GIRL COMMUNICATE WITH DEAF PARENTS



Mia Jones has been speaking to her parents since she was eight months old, long before she ever said a word. Instead of her mouth, Mia uses her hands to chatter away with her deaf parents.

Now Mia is 6 and teaching her little brother how to communicate with his hands. Though both children can speak, their parents are deaf, making sign language important for communication. They can chat with friends then switch to signs for their parents, making them little bilingual experts. And they are not the only ones.

Many parents, both deaf and hearing, have found the benefits of teaching sign language to young children. Before they are able to correctly vocalize words, many older infants can use their hands to communicate with their parents. Programs such as [Baby Signs](#) and [Signing Time](#) have flourished as sign language becomes more and more popular.

Mia's parents say they are teaching their children how to live in two cultures, one that is deaf and one that is not. They want their children to see that deafness is not a hindrance, but just another aspect of normal.

Mrs. Jones says, "some deaf parents rely on their children, but I am totally against that, I would never take Mia to the doctor with me and ask her to interpret, it would be totally unfair." – Summer, Staff Writer

(Source: <http://www.growingyourbaby.com/2010/01/19/sign-language-helps-girl-communicate-with-deaf-parents/>)

Birth Announcement

Nicole Campbell gave birth to a second baby daughter on 9th February 2010, DPUK reports.



Nicole went into labour in the early hours of Tuesday 9th February and after a very short labour and fast delivery, brought Marliah Campbell-Archer who weighted 7lbs 10oz, into the world at their home at 5.27am.

Both mum and baby are well and Nicole is blessed to have two delightful daughters.



FEATURES SECTION

Family ties, deaf parents, and the issues that strain them

Melissa Mostyn-Thomas

Nothing transforms your world quite like having a child of your own. Out and about with a 6-month-old baby, suddenly you notice how high pavement kerbs can be, what little space there is for prams on the bus, how ice-cold/windy/hot it really is outside. You find yourself trying to establish what the child's comfort zone is: are those shoes too tight? Coat too warm? Jeans gone too hard from the drying rack?

Explaining to a childless person exactly how much your life has changed (beyond the dishevelled hair, obviously) is impossible. A bit like being deaf in a hearing world, you have to be a parent to understand...and becoming a deaf parent is something else altogether.

Before Isobel arrived last summer, I had absolutely no idea how the communication barriers I experienced on both a personal and professional level could impact my own daughter. I'd been denied access to mainstream opportunities so many times – opportunities to network, gain new knowledge, build contacts - that it was very easy to assume that, being a CODA, she would be immune to such issues. In reality, this is not true. I remember the first time my hearing mother contacted the hospital about Isobel on my behalf. My daughter had been placed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) due to seizures, and I'd returned home after staying with her for twelve nights. (My husband, who is



deaf, was by then already back in London, where he was studying for a PGCE and had to return after reaching his time-off quota.) Isobel's medical situation kept changing throughout my stay and I found it impossible to keep up with the various paediatricians, midwives, registrars and doctors who streamed in and out, despite daily visits from a BSL interpreter. Desperate for more detailed updates, I discharged myself and asked

my mother to call the hospital for me. I had no choice - I was convalescing, and had no access to a minicom and text messaging was pointless as mobiles were not allowed in the NICU, and they didn't have email.

As soon as she spoke on the phone, however, I felt uncomfortable. My mother did not sign, and despite having a deaf child, was still not very deaf-aware. She is not a trained BSL interpreter, so was bound to no impartiality or confidentiality code,

and certainly, was not contractually obliged to explain what was happening to me. Additionally, as Isobel's grandmother she already had an emotional attachment, ensuring that she was free to give her own interpretation of recent events over the phone - even if it did not echo mine. So I was forced to watch her chat away, helpless, as she would not let relay any update to me until she'd finished the conversation.

I consider myself a very capable person. I do not think my deafness impairs my ability to care for and bring up my child in any way: I love Isobel far too much anyway. But I believe that in order

to carry out our responsibilities to the best of our abilities, deaf parents need to identify and address communication issues not just in relation to their children's education and wellbeing, but also their own parents – especially if they are hearing parents who do not sign, do not endorse deaf cultural values, or remain ignorant about deaf issues.

In my case, I was able to resolve the issue by simply avoiding getting myself into that situation again. But I know of first-time deaf mothers like myself whose desire for independence compels them to reject offers of hearing familial support, for fear of not being allowed to prove themselves as responsible parents. However, it is vital to remember that in the early days when you're recovering from childbirth, no-one expects you to suddenly function as you always have. Your body is just as weak from the exertions of labour as the

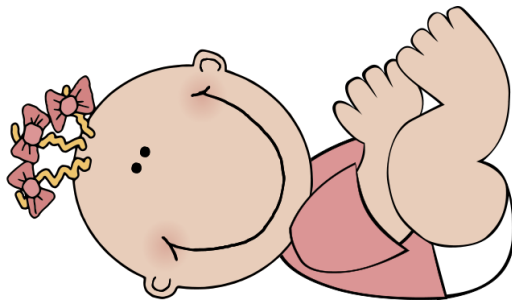
next person, deaf or hearing. How can you possibly cope on your own? In such circumstances it is never the right time for deaf mums to assert themselves. They are, after all, both learning to trust their own parental

instincts and placing their trust in family members to look after them.

Far more important is the recognition that the small wave of anxiety that washes over you

is proof that you are being a responsible parent. Give yourself time. You'll be on your feet again – and once you do, you'll be in a better position to establish how best to address your relationship with your parents for the sake of your child.

(c) Melissa Mostyn-Thomas 2010



April Family Events for all Essex-based deaf young people

Join the Royal Association for Deaf People event on Saturday April 10, 10.30-13.00 at RAD St Melius Centre for Deaf People, Southend.SS2 5DT for a yummy chocolate making event.

Parents can drop young people off at the RAD centre, Southend, SS2 5DT at 10.30a.m and *Pretty Pollies Workshops* will come along and deliver a chocolate making workshop, yum! When parents return, young people will serve a coffee, tea, and chocolate! RAD volunteers and staff will be there to make sure every child is fully included in this fun activity.



Please book your place, all Essex based Deaf young people, brothers or sisters and children of Deaf adults aged 5 - 16 years welcome. The cost is £5.00 per child and this includes chocolates, and free tea and coffee for parents with chocolate to taste.

If you would like a booking form for this event please contact:

Shelley Henderson, Children and Families Service Manager, Royal Association for Deaf people (Voice Phone: 0845 688 2525, Fax: 0845 688 2526, Text Phone: 0845 688 2527 or Shelley.Henderson@royaldeaf.org.uk or email the Deaf Parenting UK Newsletter Editor, Ceri at Ceri.Hughes@kpmg.co.uk

Deaf children 'being failed by local authorities',

(BBC News Website: Thursday, 25 February 2010)

Almost two-thirds of local authorities in England are failing deaf children and their families, research suggests.

The University of Manchester study of 57 authorities found 60% did not view deaf children as "children in need", despite being defined as such in law.

The report, for the National Deaf Children's Society, said deaf children were 3.4 times more likely to be abused and 40% had mental health problems.

It raised major concern over deaf children's protection, the NDCS said.

Expertise

The research found that only about a third of local authorities had specialist teams or arrangements with designated responsibility for deaf children and their families.

Where there were "children's disability teams", they were unlikely to have any specialist expertise in this area.

"The lack of specialist knowledge and expertise was significant because it demonstrably hampered teams from being able appropriately to recognise the seriousness of a presenting problem when it concerned a deaf child," the report said.

Four authorities were found to have no designated services arrangements at all for deaf children and their families.

And in 46% of the authorities assessed, there were no qualified social workers who worked with deaf children and their families either as part or whole of their job remit.

"This research shows widespread lack of awareness among social care services of deaf children's needs"
Brian Gale, National Deaf Children's Society

'Optimum outcomes'



More than 50% said they had no formal referral arrangements between social work and education professionals, and nearly 45% said they had no formal referral arrangements between social work and health professionals.

Only 37% of local authorities surveyed showed evidence of co-working arrangements between child protection teams and specialist social workers, and 18% described a situation in which there was no co-working at all.

"There is clear evidence, on a widespread basis, of poor integrated children's services arrangements in respect of deaf children and their families," the report said.

The report said the findings were of concern because deaf children were at "particular risk of a range of less than optimum outcomes".

"They are 3.4 times more likely than hearing children to experience abuse; 40% will experience mental health problems in childhood; educational attainments lag significantly behind national averages.

"Deaf children, whether using spoken or signed language, face significant challenges in achieving normative linguistic, cognitive and psychosocial development."

Child protection

NDCS policy and campaigns director Brian Gale said the findings raised serious concerns about the protection of deaf children.

"This research shows widespread lack of awareness among social care services of deaf children's needs. In addition to the increased risk of abuse, 40% of deaf children will experience mental health problems.

"It is vital that local safeguarding children boards take heed of this research and improve their child protection arrangements for deaf children before it is too late."

Children's Minister Delyth Morgan said: "We are committed to transforming and improving services and support available to disabled children and their families, and are investing over three-quarters of a billion pounds from 2008 to 2011 through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme.

"We know that disabled children are more vulnerable and need more specialist care which is why last year we published new guidance to help safeguard disabled children.

"This recommends that all those working with deaf children, including social workers should be trained in deaf awareness and disability equality."

Ann Baxter, a spokeswoman for the Association of Directors of Children's Services said: "Every child, whether they have a disability or not, who may require significant support over and above the services provided to all children, should receive an assessment of their needs and receive a package of services that meets those needs.

"Universal services, such as schools, will also strive to be flexible enough to accommodate particular requirements of their pupils, whatever their needs, where necessary referring the child to the specialist support of local authorities or other partners."

The University of Manchester research is published in Every Child Journal.

(source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8534660.stm>)



Dr Arlene Malinowski, actress, shares experiences with deaf parents

As actor and playwright Arlene views her solo work as an artistic extension of the social justice work she has been committed to for the last twenty years. She has been performing her four critically acclaimed solo shows, about her experiences growing up a hearing daughter in a Deaf family & culture, to sold out houses across the country: including St Louis Center, Las Vegas Cultural Center, National Center on Deafness, Ojai Solo Series, HBO Workspace, and colleges nationwide. Her latest solo show "Aiming for Sainthood" was commissioned and produced by 16th Street Theater.

Her solo work has been honored with a Garland Award and nominations for a LA Weekly Award and LA Theatre Ovation award. As an actor she has appeared in the word premiere of "The Music of the Spheres" at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. Favorite roles in LA include "Lovers and Other Strangers", "Chapter Two", "One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest" with Deaf West, and the critically acclaimed "Solos in Harmony" and "In A Different Voice". Most recently her work was named among the 5 best solo shows in Chicago by Windy City.



Arlene is also a writer/performer with the nationally touring, multicultural show "A Slice of Rice, Frijoles & Greens" which was honored with the White House Award for the Initiative on Race. Television credits include guest starring on: CSI, ER, The Practice, The X Files, Any Day Now, The Division, Diagnosis Murder and the CBS movie, Sweet Nothing in My Ear. As a spoken word artist she has performed at Victory Gardens Biograph, 2nd Story in Chicago and Tasty Words, Word-a-Rama, Word Nerd and Sit and Spin in Los Angeles,. She produces a spoken word salon called Speak Easy-Speak Hard,.

(continued overleaf)

(Continued from previous page)

She teaches solo writing/performing in L.A., S.F. and Chicago and privately coaches individual artists. . Her numerous solo students have been honoured with Garland Awards, special recognition at Edinburgh Fringe.

She has been a contributing writer for "Selling Lemonade for Free" and "The Week Behind". She is a resident playwright at Chicago Dramatists and Artist in Residence at the 16th Street Theatre. Her newest play "Anonymous Donor" about sperm banks, technology and a mean girl will have a reading this winter.

February 15, 2009 (CHICAGO) (WLS) -- "What does the sun sound like" is a one-woman play about growing up in two worlds, hearing and deaf, which is something many children of deaf parents struggle with.

For the last six years, Dr Arlene Malinowski, an award-winning actress, playwright and hearing daughter of deaf parents has been traveling across the country sharing her life experiences with her audiences.

"It's about growing up in two cultures about knowing the deaf culture, and then becoming rebellious and escaping from the deaf culture into the hearing world and not connecting the two until I got older and realized that my life is part hearing," Malinowski said.

Growing up with a younger sister who is also hearing, Arlene knew her parents were deaf. "But I didn't know what deaf really meant. I knew that they couldn't hear. I knew that they communicated with sign language but really the impact of that," she said. Arlene feels she lives in two different cultures.

"I know with hearing people, they look at me and they think, 'Wow you're so big,' and in the deaf world, my facial expressions, my body movements are appropriate," Malinowski said. Arlene's gift for storytelling comes from her father and the deaf community. "When I would go to deaf club, I would be fascinated by the storytellers, and when I got older, I started telling the stories about my family, at bars or at kitchen tables, and a director came up to me and said you really need to write that. And I thought, a solo show, a one-woman show is the perfect thing to celebrate that story," said the actress.

Arlene's final performances of "What does the sun sound like?" will be at the Victory Gardens Biograph Theater Sunday and Monday night at 7:30 p.m. The show is part of Access Project's Crip Slam series.

"I'm just going to retire that show. I'm making the show into a memoir, and I have got a new show that I'm going to travel with," she said.

"I have been very lucky with this show. This show has just opened up my acting career, my writing career and really has opened up my heart to my parents," said Malinowski.

"I hope that the audiences leaves knowing my family a little bit and knowing that my parents raised their children the same way that hearing parents raise their kids."

http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=resources/lifestyle_community&id=6657358

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Affordable childcare: great for your kids, great for you

Whether it's learning music, brushing up on their art, mastering karate kicks or just getting on with some quiet study - there's loads of ways that kids can benefit from childcare and out-of-school clubs.

It's a great way for kids of all ages to develop new skills and talents through learning and playing with other children in a well-organised, safe and structured environment. And by freeing up your time, it gives you lots of options too – whether you're working, looking to get back to work, studying or just looking to make life a little less hectic.

More options for you, more fun for them

To help make your life easier, there are lots of affordable childcare options. There's a wide range of pre-schools, nurseries, breakfast clubs, after school clubs, child-minders and holiday play-schemes for you to choose from. Why not talk to your local school about the clubs they offer or check out your local Sure Start Children's Centre?

And remember that when you use childcare that's Ofsted registered, you'll know it's met clear standards designed to provide a safe and secure environment for your children.

Affordable for you, brilliant for them

You may find that formal childcare isn't as expensive as you thought. Many families can receive help with the cost through the childcare element of Working Tax Credit. If you use registered or approved childcare, depending on your income, you could get up to 80 per cent of your childcare costs back. And if you live in London there's extra help

through the Childcare Affordability Programme.

Free early learning for them, more time for you

It's also worth knowing that three and four year olds are entitled to 12 and a half hours free early education per week - available from nurseries, playgroups, pre-schools or child minders - for 38 weeks of the year. And if you're looking for flexible childcare for more than 12 and half hours a week, there are lots of affordable options.

Finding childcare in your area online and over the phone

To find out about childcare providers in your area, click on the link below to go to the childcare finder and enter your postcode.

If you would like to speak to someone about affordable childcare in your area and what it can do for you and your child, call 0800 2346 346 to be put through to your local Families Information Service (FIS).

Alternatively, to get contact details for your local FIS online, click on the link below.

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Childcare/DG_066832

(Source: DirectGov website: www.direct.gov.uk)



If you would like to submit an advert or a feature relating to parenting in the DPUK Newsletter,

Please contact the DPUK Project Manager for details,

e-mail: info@deafparent.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter is 18th June 2010

NOTICE BOARD

Get involved with DCAL's research project

This project aims to look at how deaf children interact with their families. It has been found that deaf children born into hearing families find it more difficult to develop social awareness skills than deaf and hearing children born into Deaf families. Currently this project includes 30 hearing families with deaf children. We are looking for Deaf families who would be happy to be involved in our project to show successful interaction with their children. We hope that the results of our research can help hearing families with deaf children and the professionals who work with them.

The visit involves videoing a parent playing with their child and the researcher playing some games with the child. All identities will be kept strictly confidential. Specifically we are looking for families to be involved who have toddlers aged 2-3years. We will visit families twice over a six month period. Each time we visit they will receive a £10 voucher. More information is available in BSL.

See next page for further details

Family Focus magazine

Do you currently receive Family Focus magazine? It's the newsletter of the Family and Parenting Institute and addresses a whole range of issues that are important to parents. In the most recent issue the range of topics addressed included inequality, paternity leave and information on the review of NHS Children's services. It's easy to subscribe to the free newsletter online at :

<http://www.familyandparenting.org>



CODA UK and Ireland Conference 2010- (Child of Deaf Adults/ Hearing Mother Father Deaf)

Saturday, August 21, 2010 at 10:00am

Sunday, August 22, 2010 at 3:00pm

Location: Brighton

**Launch of the CODA UK
and Ireland Website!!**

**All are welcome including Deaf parents
with hearing children, hearing
individuals with one or both parents
Deaf (CODA/HMFD), Student/Researcher
learning/studying CODAs or anyone who
wants to show support and celebrate
the launch of the website!!!**

Workshops:

**Drama/Arts and Crafts for Kids
CODAs as Interpreters**

**Presentations by Guest Speakers
to be announced:**

CODA Achievements/ Experiences

Ticket: £5 Adults/Kids Free

**Email: codaukandireland@live.co.uk for
more information about the event,
transport and accomodation.**

IS YOUR TODDLER DEAF OR CODA?

Who are we?

Researchers at the Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre, based at University College London.

Who are we looking for?

Deaf and hearing families with young deaf children aged around 1-3 yrs.

What are we trying to find out?

What helps deaf children to develop and understand the social world around them.

What's involved?

Playing fun games and looking at pictures in your own home. Some families might like to visit our research centre to play some computer games.



How will the results of this research be used?

We will share our general results with parents, allied professionals and other researchers. Findings from this project will help to make intervention programmes for deaf children be more effective.

What else do I need to know?

We will always respect your privacy and cultural needs, and maintain complete confidentiality. This research project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

How do I find out more or register an interest in taking part?

Visit our website

http://www.dcal.ucl.ac.uk/Research/Theory_of_mind_project.html



Contact Anneka Starling:
a.starling@ucl.ac.uk

Or Project Leader Gary Morgan:
g.morgan@city.ac.uk



Join a BSL Interpreted and Lipspeaking guided tour at the Official Residences of the Queen during 2010.

Sunday 2 May, 12:00, the precincts of Windsor Castle. Find out about H.M. The Queen's favourite weekend home

Wednesday 12 May, 08 September, 13 October, 18:00, The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. Explore the *Victoria & Albert: Art & Love* exhibition on this series of three tours, (i) 12 May - A Passion for Collecting, (ii) 08 September - The Importance of Family, (iii) 13 October - Cultural Tastes. The *Victoria & Albert: Art & Love* exhibition runs until 31 October 2010. This major exhibition is the first to focus on the unique partnership of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and their shared enthusiasm for art. A series of short BSL video clips highlighting key objects and themes in the exhibition is available. Videos can be viewed online at www.royalcollection.org.uk/microsites/vanda

Saturday 31 July, 12:00, the Great Kitchen at Windsor Castle. See the historic kitchens used today for official entertaining

Saturday 28 August, 13:30, the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace. Visit one of the finest working stables in the world

Saturday 28 August, 16:30, Clarence House. Explore the official residence of HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.



Saturday 04 September, 17:00, The Queen's Year, Buckingham Palace. See this year's Special Exhibition in the State Rooms of Buckingham Palace.

Ticket prices include BSL Interpretation and Lipspeaking Support, and a free souvenir guide (where available), and entry into the site. Booking Essential.

To book email: adulthoodeducation@royalcollection.org.uk or telephone 020 7766 7323. Royal Collection Education Ticket Sales and Information Office, Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA. www.royalcollection.org.uk

Equality & Human Rights Commission inquiry into disability related harassment

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is holding a formal legal inquiry into disability related harassment at:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/formal-inquiries/inquiry-into-disability-related-harassment/consultation-events>

The Commission is really keen to get your views on how the inquiry will be held, so please share your views. You can respond on line at the same link or come along to one of our consultation events to tell us about what you think should be included.

We will later be taking evidence from Deaf and disabled people about their own experiences of disability related harassment so we can hold public bodies to account for their actions (or lack of actions). Please get involved.

Parent Themed Workshop – Safeguarding & Internet

This free session starts at 10.30am and finishes at 12.30pm, refreshments will be provided on arrival.

All sessions parents will have a BSL interpreter - these sessions are for both Deaf and hearing parents.

Safeguarding & Internet– Wednesday, 26th May 2010

Speakers: Karen Simpson/Dani Sive (Frank Barnes School)



Subject Matter:

- Accessing the internet
 - Age appropriate areas
 - Parental Control
 - Inappropriate websites e.g. chat rooms
 - Being safe on the internet
- Children's awareness of the internet

Any queries, please do not hesitate in contacting Catherine Drew,
deafstudies@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk

Drama Sessions with InteGreat Theatre

Drama sessions start in February to create a performance in Sign Language and spoken word and accessible to Deaf & Hearing audiences. Sessions are lead by both Deaf & Hearing drama facilitators. Qualified interpreters will be at every session.

When: Saturday 20th February to Saturday 3rd July 2010
(Rehearsals will take place every Saturday except Easter)

Where: The Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham.

Time: 2pm-4pm

Performance: 10th July

Where: Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Birmingham.

Time: 5.30pm & 7.30pm

If you are interested in joining & want to book a place or if you want more information.. Please contact...

Angela Twigg
Mob: 07515939806

E-mail: angela@wordssignsvibes.co.uk
or for more information about us please look at our website www.wordssignsvibes.co.uk

Deaf pregnant women sought for major research project on birthing experiences and access to BSL interpreters in ante and post natal periods

Kirstie Coxon, a PhD student and researcher at King's College, London, but living in Kent has approval to hold interviews with mothers in East Kent Hospitals NHS trust (i.e. anyone receiving antenatal care through Canterbury, Ashford or Margate hospitals) as well as in King's College hospital and St Thomas', in South London.

Her study involves interviewing women who are pregnant, to find out about the choices they have regarding where to give birth to their babies, and how women and their partners go about deciding where to give birth. Part of Kirstie's study remit is to include as wide and diverse a group of mothers as possible, and particularly to include women who may be excluded from choices for one reason or another. She would really welcome any opportunity to interview women who use sign language interpreters - Kirstie has funding within her project so that she is able to reimburse interpreters for their time.



Here's an extract giving some further information about Kirstie's study: **This three year project will explore the experiences of women and their birth partners in relation to how decisions are made about where to give birth. The study will follow participants from the early antenatal period through to the postnatal period.**

Methods: The research draws on a qualitative, narrative approach. In-depth interviews with women and their partners will take place between September 2009 and March 2011. This is a prospective, longitudinal study, and the same participants will be interviewed in the antenatal and postnatal periods.

Relevance for women and health professionals: Maternity Matters (DH 2007) proposes that by 2010, women with straightforward pregnancies should be offered the choice of having their babies in a range of settings, including obstetric units, midwife-led units or at home. Currently, there is little evidence about how women and their birth partners might choose where to give birth. This study will provide information about how women and their partners think about risk and safety and make decisions about the best place to have their baby. The evidence from this study will be useful to help health professionals in their discussions with women about place of birth. It will also provide evidence about the variety of experiences and concerns that women have, across a range of personal backgrounds and geographical areas. The study will also explore the preferences of women and aims to identify at which points during pregnancy women and their partners prefer to make this decision, and what information might be useful to help them do so. The aim is to contribute to the evidence base which supports care during pregnancy.

If you are interested in this research and would like to be interviewed or if you would like further information, please contact Kirstie Coxon, Research Associate & NIHR Research Training Fellow, Room 708, Department of Public Health and Primary Care Research, King's College, London, Capital House, 42 Weston Street, London, SE1 3QD

We've moved! Our new address is:
DPVK, 49 Gordon Square, LONDON
WC1H 0PD

