

Sabina Iqbal, Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK: Warm Welcome to the Deaf Parenting UK conference 2009



A warm welcome to Deaf Parenting UK conference 2009!

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

We, at Deaf Parenting UK, are delighted to host their Deaf Parenting Conference 2009. Our theme of conference is Education, education, Education, putting the needs of Deaf parents in UK into the heart of Deaf Parenting UK and the Government's agenda

As we all know, the support for all Deaf Parents are vital for Deaf Parenting UK so all Deaf parents and parents to be know that they are not alone in their experiences/ difficulty in accessing to information about their rights and parenting services.

Although, 90% of Deaf parents are likely to have hearing children, accessing to their child's education (especially in the mainstream) are proving to be one of the huge battles for many parents especially with the primary and secondary school.

Every Parents Matter and *PEAL* confirmed that every parent have the right to be involved in decision making of their children's educational future but how can they if they are unable to access to information and choices? Attitudinal barriers and lack of Deaf awareness among schools and health services are very much widespread and most Deaf parents through our consultation days express their wishes for a easy and straightforward way to communicate with the childcare, nurseries and schools with no barriers at all and that all Deaf parents should be accepted for who they are, not excluded because they are Deaf.

With the Deaf Parenting Conference 2009 on Education, Education, Education, we hope that the Government including Department of Children, School & Families (DCSF), aswell as their partners - National Association of Head teachers, Daycare Trust will take steps to recognise and address the needs of Deaf parents/ parents to be and work closely with Deaf Parenting UK in empowering, enabling and supporting Deaf parents, campaigning for equal access to their children's education without barriers.

This is also a fantastic opportunity for all of us as Deaf parents and professionals to put forward questions, influence and raise issues on the needs of Deaf parents and what can Government do to ensure that Deaf parents/ families have equal access to their children's education without barriers.

The conference provides an exciting programme of speakers and crèche with fun activities for children of Deaf parents. This is also an excellent opportunity for you all to meet with other Deaf parents, families and professionals, to work together of how we can move forward toward empowering, enabling and supporting Deaf parents.

I hope you will have an enjoyable stay at the conference and benefit greatly from the day, take from what you learn at the conference and most of all, this is your opportunity to ensure Deaf parents are empowered, enabled and supported in accessing to services and children's educations without barriers.

Your support counts! Let work together to ensure Deaf parents enjoy their family life and participate to their children's education to the full.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Iqbal".

Sabina Iqbal
Chair/Founder of Deaf Parenting UK