



## WELCOME!!

### Deaf Parenting UK Awards 2011

Deaf Parenting UK celebrates an important milestone this year – the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our charity. To mark this we will be hosting an Awards Event to recognise people for their contribution to Deaf Parenting. We encourage everyone to make a nomination of individual/professionals who have worked hard in supporting Deaf parents.



All finalists will be invited to the Awards ceremony which will take place in Central London on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

So, my plea to you is— please make sure to spread the words to your network of staff, colleagues, service users, families and friends and encourage them to make their nomination of someone worthy of the awards.

To find out more about the event and how to nominate, have a look at pages 5-6 of this newsletter. The deadline for nomination is 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

There will be plenty of surprises for people attending the award ceremony! To learn more about the Awards or to make your nomination or find out about tickets please see our **Awards website:** [www.deafparent.org.uk/awards2011](http://www.deafparent.org.uk/awards2011)

Tickets are currently priced at £10 (early bird discount price) and will increase to £15 after 15 July– so don't delay. We very much hope to see you at the Awards ceremony, marking this very special event for us.

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### Department of Health

DPUK were recently invited by the Department of Health to give a presentation on the gaps in services for Deaf parents and the wider issues faced in accessing to health. This was a great opportunity to raise awareness with DoH professionals on the needs of Deaf parents.

### Deaf Safe Conference

DPUK have supported and worked with Deaf4Justice in promoting the Deaf Safe Conference. The conference was an excellent forum for Deaf women and professionals to consider how to support Deaf Women Survivors / Victims of DSV in overcoming access and communications barriers. DPUK had their information stall at their conference.

### Sabina on Sahar TV programme: Muslim Families in Europe

Our Chair, Sabina, was interviewed by with Sahar TV, for an exclusive TV programme 'Muslim Families in Europe' which is broadcasted to viewers across Europe, Middle East and worldwide. It was their first experience of meeting Deaf parents and hearing about their experiences. Sabina was interviewed for the whole of programme (45mins) to share her experiences as Deaf mum as well as explaining about the work of Deaf Parenting UK The programme is being broadcast in April 2011.

## National Family Week

We are working closely with the National Family Week, which is due to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> May - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2011. To celebrate National Family Week and Deaf Parenting UK's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are organising two family fun days. The first will be on Tuesday 31 May 2011. We feel that these events are a great way for Deaf Parent families to have fun and network, together. Also, Children of Deaf Parents will benefit by interacting with others from the Deaf community, whilst enjoying the chance to enjoy quality time together and take part in fun activities.

The trip on May 31 is a day trip to LEGOLAND! See the notice board, at the end of this newsletter for further information. The second event, on Saturday 23 July 2011, will be to Thorpe Park—more details to follow.

If you are interested, please contact Nicole Campbell, DPUK coordinator on [info@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:info@deafparent.org.uk)

## Ceri as DPUK Editor

Ceri Hughes has been our faithful editor since Summer 2009 and have decided to step down due to her personal circumstances. We at Deaf Parenting UK want to express our thanks and appreciation to Ceri for all her support as Editor. We are currently looking for someone to take her place so if you have what it takes to be an Editor, please email with your expression of interest and CV to Asif on [media@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:media@deafparent.org.uk)

Here's to a delightful Spring and wishing you all a happy Easter!

## Asif Iqbal

## Welcome Back Nicole!

We are delighted to welcome Nicole back from her recent maternity leave and are very excited to have back in her role as DPUK Coordinator.



## Update from Nicole

I'm delighted to be back at Deaf Parenting UK following my maternity leave and to resume my role with the coordination of London Deaf Families Project.

## Family Days Events

I am pleased to announce that we have an exciting 2011 lined up for you all and I am currently working on a Parenting Programme of Family Days events in London for the coming year. Details will be announced via the emailing system from time to time and via our DPUK Newsletters - so WATCH THIS SPACE!

Deaf Parenting UK feels that these events are a great way for Deaf families to attend and network, and to enjoy quality time together and spend a day taking part in fun activities.

It would be good to see many of you attend with your children and make these events a success. I would also welcome any ideas you may have which we may consider incorporate in our programme of events- your views does count so please do not hesitate to share them with me!

**The next planned event is a day trip to LEGOLAND! Please see our Notice Board at the end of this newsletter for more information.**

This trip is booked for 31st May 2011 (school holiday) and we only have a limited number of FREE Tickets. The following conditions apply:

- You must live in one of the catchment areas: **South West, West, North, North West, and East London** only

- Apply tickets for a maximum of up to 4 people per family and no more than 2 adults per family.

Must travel on the coach - free on courtesy of DPUK  
For more information and to obtain a booking form, please email on: [info@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:info@deafparent.org.uk).

## Parenting Support Group/Parent & Toddler Group Meet

We have two Deaf Parenting Support Groups, one in Hackney which is open to all in Hackney and in neighbouring borough and one in Newham, both at Sure Start Centres.

## Hackney Deaf Parenting Support Group

I am pleased to announce the Deaf Parenting Support Group will commence in June and will run 3rd Mondays every month at 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

DPUK is working in partnership with Hackney Sure Start Centre to provide information, advice and support to deaf parents/deaf parents to be, reduce social isolation and many more. The aim is to encourage deaf parents/deaf parents to be primarily from Hackney but also some from neighbouring boroughs to attend with their pre-school age children.

Please see the poster for your information.

### **Newham Deaf Parenting Support Group**

Are you a Deaf Parent/Deaf Parent to be?

Live in London Borough of Newham?

Want to mix with other Deaf Parents and Young Children in a family friendly environment?

If yes to all, then please contact me.

Deaf Parenting UK is currently working with Start Start Centres in Newham to set up a Parenting Peer Support Group for Deaf Families. Deaf Parenting UK are looking for Deaf Parents to join this new venture. If you are interested - then contact us!

Nicole Campbell,  
DPUK Coordinator  
Email: [info@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:info@deafparent.org.uk)  
Fax: 0871 2643323  
SMS: 07928 842 529

### **Nicole**

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## **EDITORIAL**



As I write this editorial the weather has suddenly got much warmer and the days seem longer – spring is in the air!

As we approach the summer there is much to look forward to. As DP UK recognises National Family Week, there will be two fun-filled family trips. One, during National Family Week, to Legoland and one later in the summer to Thorpe Park. There's also voting for the various awards to be made in the upcoming DPUK Awards ceremony in October to celebrate the Charity's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Birthdays are important events for children and adults alike – they represent important milestones in our lives. Children look forward to celebrations and presents, adults are sometimes less keen to remember the passing of another year but perhaps look back at what has changed or been achieved

and families is a wonderful achievement .

With the maturity of adults the Charity can look back to 2001 when the Deaf Parenting Project, established by Sabine Iqbal, became Deaf Parenting UK and set out to begin its work in supporting Deaf Parents and highlighting (and addressing) the gaps in service provision in the UK. With so much achieved since 2001, and so many awards and accolades, there is much to be proud of.

With the excitement of children, DPUK, looks forward to the Awards event to be held in London. This event will celebrate the Charity, its achievements and those worthy of recognition – nominated by you. Come and join us in our birthday celebrations!

Our next newsletter will be my last as Editor. After a couple of years in the role I am stepping down. It's been a privilege to be in this role and I've learned a lot - in fact I've learned a ton! I'm not a Parent, and until I met Asif nearly three years ago, I knew very few Deaf people. However, I was so moved by his commitment to the charity and the passion with which he spoke about the work that he, Sabina and others do, I was excited to get involved. I hope that a new Editor can be found soon so that I can hand over the reins over the course of the Summer and work on the Autumn newsletter can begin. If you would like to find out more, or would be interested in thinking about this role, please get in touch with me – [Cerihughes@whellock.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Cerihughes@whellock.freeserve.co.uk)

### **Ceri Hughes**



# NEWS

## Deaf Parenting UK Awards – a Blog by Darron Chapman, Managing Director TFPL Intelligent Resources



[Deaf Parenting UK](#) celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 and is marking the occasion by hosting its own awards event, the [Deaf Parenting UK Awards](#).

I hadn't heard of this charity until it applied for, and won, [TFPL's Social Impact Award in 2008](#) at that year's [ebic](#) conference. This award was open to organisations that could demonstrate that the innovative use of knowledge and information management had tangibly contributed to the success of an organisation meeting its goals.

The finalists came to Berlin to present their cases and many of us became aware for the first time of the challenges that deaf parents face. Watching their story unfold, through

signing interpreters, showing how they had harnessed knowledge and information to make a real difference to parents and children was really inspiring.

TFPL has been a supporter of the charity ever since and are pleased to note from their web site that we have been joined by Trevor Phillips and Samantha Cameron. It is certainly worth taking time out to look at the web site of Deaf Parenting UK to see what a small charity has achieved in 10 years and how they support people who have to face some really difficult challenges every day.

(23 March 2011) (source: <http://blog.tfpl.com/tfpl/2011/03/deaf-parenting-uk-awards.html>)

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### **Thorpe Park is the place to get your adrenaline pumping...!!**

A DPUK Day Trip for Deaf Parents and children to Thorpe Park is planned for this summer! Free Tickets - inclusive of Coach travel and Theme Park Entrance will be available. Tickets will be available to Deaf Parents living in London and surrounding area but only those who have not attended the Legoland Trip will be eligible for tickets.

**Watch this space for forthcoming announcements!**

don't miss it!



Deaf Parenting UK  
**AWARDS** 2011

**FRIDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2011**  
**10.30am until 1.30pm**

at

**The Princess Alexandra Hall**

Royal Over Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place  
St James's Street, London, SW1A 1LR

For ticket and info please go to  
[www.deafparent.org.uk/awards2011](http://www.deafparent.org.uk/awards2011)

Nomination online NOW and to go to our website for more information

it is a brand new event  
not to be missed

Early Bird Discount until 15th July 2011 £10 per person  
Full price 1st August - 16th September 2011 £15 per person



shush & think!  
MINDSPACE



HERRING

# Why not nominate yourself or someone you know who is worthy of the award??

Do you know of:

**Deaf parents or professionals who work hard to improve the lives of Deaf parents?**

**Someone in the community supporting Deaf parents?**

**A neighbour or friend who supported your Deaf parents through difficult times?**

**Best practices or new services accessible to Deaf parents?**

**Other examples of support to the Deaf parent community?**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!**

Nominations are now open to individuals (including Deaf Parents, families, friends, neighbours, good Samaritans) and Organisations (including Health, Social Services, Education, voluntary organisations & community groups). [Deadline for Nomination is 15th July 2011](#)

**There are 7 nomination categories to choose from. Please use one nomination form for each nomination you wish to make.**

**Positive Deaf Parent Award** - For a Deaf parent, who has made a difference and is a positive role model to others as well as making positive contribution.

**Community of Deaf Parents Award** - For individual/ groups who have been working towards improving the Community, supporting Deaf Parents and enabling Deaf Parents to participate in Community activities.

**Professional Support of Deaf Parents Award** - For a professional who has made a difference to the life of Deaf Parents.

**Friend of Deaf Parents Award** - a personal recognition of friendship, for an individual such as a friend, family or even a neighbor or good Samaritan who has supported a Deaf parent through a difficult time . Nominations are also encouraged from children of Deaf parents or their families who have found an individual worthy of this award.

**Best Practice of Working with Deaf Parents Award** - For Service Providers who have made difference and delivered above and beyond the call of duty, an innovative or new practice from which we all could learn.

**Campaigner of Deaf Parents Award** – For an individual who has fought against all odds for the benefit of Deaf Parents, fighting for the right of access to services of Deaf Parents and for their children.

**Lifetime Achievement Award** - For individual's lifetime work and success in improving the quality of lives of Deaf parents.

**Nominate now, either on PAPER or on our WEBSITE, both available from**  
[www.deafparent.org.uk/awards2011/nomination.html](http://www.deafparent.org.uk/awards2011/nomination.html).

**Please remember, only one nomination form for each person you wish to nominate.**

1) Download the **DPUK Nomination Form**, complete it then send it by email to [awards@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:awards@deafparent.org.uk)

OR

2) Complete the **Nomination Form online**, follow instruction on the form to submit it online.

**Thanks and Good luck with your nomination!!**

## London 2012 announces wide range of Olympic Games ticket products for disabled people

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) today announced a wide range of Olympic Games ticket products to ensure that disabled people have a great Games-time experience. These products meet a variety of accessibility requirements and tickets will be available at every venue, in every session and across all price categories. LOCOG's ticketing process is inclusive and accessible and will allow disabled people to apply for tickets in the same way as non-disabled people, either online or using the paper application form.

When applying for a ticket, spectators will be able to indicate an additional accessibility requirement, such as a seat down fewest steps for those who find stairs difficult; a seat on the end of a row for those who need extra room; a seat with a direct view of video information screens for people who are Deaf or hearing impaired; or a seat close to the action for visually impaired people. Spectators who need a wheelchair space will be able to apply for one online. If their application is successful, they will be provided with a space wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair or mobility scooter and an adjacent seat for a companion. They can also use their application form to apply for tickets for accompanying family or friends, all of whom will be seated next to or as close as possible to the wheelchair space and companion seat.

LOCOG today also announced 'Ticketcare', a scheme only available for those disabled people who do not need a wheelchair space but cannot come to the Games without a carer or Personal Assistant (PA). Through the scheme, they apply for tickets through the normal application process. If their application is successful, they can then apply for a free additional carer or PA ticket by contacting the Ticketing Customer Services team.

To ensure everyone has an enjoyable Games-time

experience, London 2012 will provide a number of additional services for disabled people. These will include free blue badge parking spaces at all venues; accessible shuttle bus options; a free mobility service to loan out manual wheelchairs and scooters; facilities for assistance dogs, audio description, induction loops; an adult changing toilet which includes a hoist at all venues; and spectator information in accessible formats.



Lord Coe, Chair of LOCOG said: 'Our aim has always been to provide a wide range of services and ticket products for disabled people tailored to their needs, rather than a 'one size fits all' approach. We want to ensure that disabled spectators have as great a Games experience as anyone else and we are committed to providing services and facilities that meet all accessibility requirements.'

The London 2012 ticketing website, [www.tickets.london2012.com](http://www.tickets.london2012.com) <<http://www.tickets.london2012.com>>, has been designed to make the application process as simple and accessible as possible. It offers BSL videos to help Deaf people navigate through the website and an Easy Read document is available to help simplify the process. Screen Reader technology is also available online, without having to make a phone call. There are dedicated pages on the London 2012 website and the ticketing website for disabled people to find the information they need.



People can also apply for tickets using the paper ticket application form contained in the Official Ticketing Guide, which can be collected from a local Lloyds TSB branch (or Bank of Scotland in Scotland only) and local libraries in Northern Ireland. Alternative formats of the Ticketing Guide can be supplied upon request, please contact the Ticketing customer service team on 0844 847 2012 to request a copy in Braille or large print.

## Family Justice Review Panel – initial steps towards recommending shared parenting.

Families Need Fathers (FNF) has announced that The Family Justice Review Panel has recommended enhancing “the regard given to the status of shared parental responsibility” and introducing a statement into the Children Act 1989, reinforcing the importance of the child continuing to have a meaningful relationship with both parents.

FNF is a registered charity providing information and support on shared parenting issues arising from family breakdown, and support to divorced and separated parents, irrespective of gender or marital status.



Craig Pickering, CEO of Families Need Fathers, said, “The report contains a lot of good ideas, for example on judicial continuity and fast-tracking at least some cases. If it had gone further – especially on a presumption of shared parenting (not the same as a 50/50 split of time spent with each parent) – we would have a family law system that genuinely encourages both parents to play a significant role in their child’s life following separation or divorce.”

FNF believe there is still some way to go to a full understanding how these proposals, if implemented, would work in practice and whether they would achieve an environment where post separation parenting is shared. For example, this week it has been reported that a significant relationship with a father could be maintained over thousands of miles via Skype. Enshrining a presumption of shared parenting in UK law would be a more certain way to achieve the aim of the reforms proposed by the Review Panel.

## BSL Interpreted and Lipspeaking Guided Tour at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle

Join the BSL Interpreted and Lipspeaking Guided Tour at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on Saturday 21 May 2011 at 1.30pm.

The tour, the first at St George's Chapel, will give visitors an insight into this remarkable, historic building which is still used daily for services.

The ticket price (£16.50 for adults, £15.00 for students/over 60s) includes entry to the rest of Windsor Castle: the Dolls' House, the Drawings Gallery - where there is currently an exhibition celebrating the 90th Birthday of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh - and the State Apartments.

To book contact 020 7766 7323 or email: [adultlearning@royalcollection.org.uk](mailto:adultlearning@royalcollection.org.uk) - pre-booking is essential.

BSL Interpretation is provided by Stephen Hudson, and lipspeaking support from Linda Croton.

For details of current and forthcoming exhibitions please visit <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions>



HAPPY  
EASTER



## Professionals working in bilingual and bicultural working environment - Facing the Challenge

For professionals working in bilingual and bicultural working environment – facing the challenge, a training course seminar to be held at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, 16-17 May 2011

How to get the best out of Deaf staff and managers ? How can Deaf People succeed in management? A new course aimed at breaking down the barriers faced by Deaf people in management.

Essential lessons in management for:

- \* Deaf/hearing Managers and Executives working in bilingual and bicultural working environment.
- \* CEO/Directors/Managers responsible for Deaf /hearing Staff, including Deaf /hearing Managers
- \* Aspiring Deaf Managers

Run by management experts from Heriot-Watt University and experienced Deaf/hearing guest lecturers with experience in Deaf management from the UK and other countries, including Finland.

A draft programme (which will be finalized soon) is shown on the webpage: <http://www.sml.hw.ac.uk/business/cpd/deaf-managers-facing-the-challenge.htm>

To enrol: <http://www.eventelephant.com/thedeafmanagerfacingthechallenges>

## Codadiva show - one woman's story of being hearing raised by Deaf parents

In Milwaukee, USA recently Liysa Callsen staged her original one-woman show that is an evening of storytelling chronicling her experiences as a hearing child of Deaf adults.

“Imagine, sitting in the doctor’s exam room. The doctor tells you, please sign to your mom and tell her she needs to have brain surgery. You are 12 years old”. Liysa Callsen is an intriguing, dynamic and energetic speaker delivering an inspirational message. As a hearing child of Deaf parents, she identifies with being a Coda (children of deaf adults). Her passion and desire to share the journey of living in a Deaf household while struggling to learn the hearing culture. She is bi-lingual and bi-cultural. Her first language is American Sign Language. The story will not only educate but will empower you to embrace your own identity! Engaging stories highlight her “love/hate relationship” with the phone, interpreting gigs as a minor child and how she embraces her struggles making her the dynamic woman she is today. Keith Wann, ASL American Sign Language performer and comedian says “raw, emotional, honest and passionate are the definition of coda stories when told by Liysa” after performing with her in the performance for CODA365.org “Our Stories; a Journey of Three CODAs” which debuted in Oklahoma City last December.

Liysa Callsen remarks, it is a privilege to have been raised in a Deaf household. As a child growing up with Deaf parents before the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was passed, Deaf awareness was non-existent. She struggled to figure out how to balance two worlds, Deaf and hearing. She answered uncountable questions as well as interpreted for teachers, physicians, lawyers, insurance agents and other adults. During this time there were no laws to protect those with disabilities and frankly there was no interest to understand another community of diversity. The love and beauty of this culture is with her every day. Her husband is Deaf and they have three children who are codas as well.

Her mission began as she sought opportunities to educate people on the rights of Deaf individuals, she also discovered she has a voice for coda (children of deaf adults), leadership and positive positioning. All things critical on her new found journey. Find more about her story and video clips at [www.codadiva.com](http://www.codadiva.com)

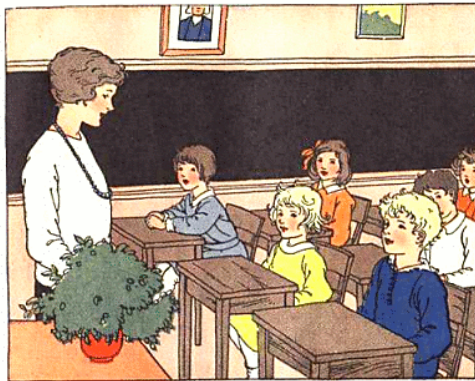
(Source: <http://www.free-press-release.com/news-codadiva-show-one-woman-s-story-of-being-hearing-raised-by-deaf-parents-1299728977.html> [accessed 10 April 2011])

# FEATURES

## Teachers working with Deaf Parents - Information for Schools

**Fact: 90% of children born to deaf parents are hearing children. This means that any school can come into contact with deaf parents, not just those with a unit for deaf children.**

For Deaf parents, working with teachers and support staff in schools can be a huge challenge. Deaf parents are just as interested in their children's education as anyone else. They want to be involved with schoolwork, outings, homework and assemblies but this can be very difficult if access is poor. The range of support available varies hugely and stories from parents include some fantastic experiences but many frustrating and far from satisfactory incidents. This list of tips and strategies to help teachers and support staff work effectively with deaf parents and their children is not exhaustive but is aimed at providing some guidance to schools, teachers and support staff on how to ensure education services and general school life are accessible to Deaf parents.



### 1. Sending information home

- Do not expect children to relate information to their parents if you would not generally expect children of hearing parents to do so. Communicate directly with the parents.
- This is particularly important if it is information about a child's behaviour or academic performance. Children are not always the most reliable messengers if the message is likely to get them into trouble!
- If you send written information home make sure that it is in plain English, avoiding the use of jargon. This is important for deaf parents to whom sign is the first language. This also benefits other parents i.e. those from non-English speaking communities and those with learning difficulties.
- Many schools use home-school books to aid parent-school communication. These can be a

useful way of keeping deaf parents informed about their children's progress.

- If you have to let parents know about something at short notice i.e. school closure due to snow, flooding etc. you can send a fax or text message (SMS).
- You can also use [Type Talk](#), which is a phone/operator/text phone relay service.
- Or consider installing a [textphone](#) (commonly known as a minicom). A basic model is no more expensive than a decent telephone. A family may use your school for many years so it would be a worthwhile investment.

### 2. Parents' Evenings

- Parent's evenings can be very difficult if appropriate communication support is not provided. Children and family members sometimes act as interpreters but it is not fair to assume this will be acceptable.

- Not all deaf people use British Sign Language (BSL) so it is important to ask the parent what kind of support will be required. If you are working with a sign language interpreter (SLI)

it is important to use the time effectively. A RAD quick guide is also available:

### [Communicating with Deaf People](#)

There are other ways you can make communication easier i.e.:

- Make sure the room is quiet with no background noise or interruptions.
- Communicating through an interpreter or using other methods (writing things down etc) takes time. And you will need to allow for this.
- Speak clearly directly to the parent, not the child or the interpreter.
- Give parents time to look through their child's work. Do not try to talk to them about it and show them at the same time. This makes lipreading impossible!

- Make sure there is good lighting in the room and you are not sitting in front of a window. This will make it easier for your face to be seen and allow for easier lipreading.

- At the end of the session be prepared to go over things again if needed.

- Use your normal voice. DO NOT SHOUT!

### 3. Assemblies, plays and other activities

- It is good practice to provide interpreters for any important event at your school.

- Making scripts available will make it easier for parents to follow the action.

- If you are taking a class on a trip, find out if communication support is available at the venue. Many museums and galleries run sessions with interpreters present. This will enable parents accompanying their children to participate fully and encourage involvement with the school.

### 4. General information

- Many schools now have intercom entry systems. Although these provide extra security, they are difficult for many deaf people to use. Systems should include a light to alert visitors that the door has been unlocked. If you have arranged to meet a parent, make sure reception staff are aware that they may not be able to hear the intercom.

- Make sure parents can contact you if they need to. Make your fax and email details available. If you have a text phone it is

important that everyone is confident in using it as there is no point having one if no one will answer it!

- If a child is having emotional, behavioural or language problems it is unhelpful to assume this is because of their parents' deafness. Focusing on deafness can mean that other potential causes are missed. It may also alienate the parents instead of engaging them.

- Schools need parents to be involved and many have difficulties recruiting to Parent Teacher Associations and to be governors. If you do not make your school accessible you are missing out on a valuable resource.

- Providing communication support is very important but being Deaf aware is equally so. Many of organisations working for deaf people can provide deaf awareness training and Signature [previously known as The Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People (CACDP)] can provide you with a list of registered freelance trainers.

- Be aware that bullies may target children with deaf or disabled parents. A way to minimise the chance of this happening is to introduce deaf and disability awareness into the curriculum. This should be done in a way that does not single out children of deaf and disabled parents. The British Deaf Association (BDA) has an annual Sign Language Week. Your school could get involved in this.

Source: <http://www.royaldeaf.org.uk/about-rad/52-rad-about/78-fact-sheets.html> [accessed 10 April 2011]

If you or your school need information/ advice on working with Deaf parents, please contact Deaf Parenting UK on [info@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:info@deafparent.org.uk)

**Deadline for next newsletter is Friday June 10th 2011**



## Baby monitors are a true help for deaf parents

One of the last things a parent would think about when they are woken up by their newborn, is that their crying is special. The situation is very different for any deaf parent out there. When you are not able to hear your baby then it can be a very discouraging experience. One concern is that it also puts your child's safety at risk. The good thing is that technology has advanced so far that there are baby monitors for deaf parents.



When a baby will need attention the parents are able to monitor it with a baby monitor. When a noise is detected in the baby's room the transmitter send the signal to the receiver, which is a mobile hand held device carried by the parents.

Even if the parents are at the opposite side of the house they should not have any trouble to hear the monitor. Baby monitors act as an extension of a parent's hearing or visual range. Any parent with hearing difficulties can also rest assured that their child is properly monitored. These devices are made to allow it to be done.

### Special Features

When caring for an infant, parents which are hearing impaired are faced with more difficult challenges than hearing parents. Given that they have to cater to all the child's needs they still have to deal with the fact that they are not able to hear their own baby's cries.

Mostly of the baby monitors that are made for parents with hearing difficulties are made with a vibrating alarm and/or a flashing light alarm. These extra features alert the parent every time the baby requires

A few monitors also have the capability to alert the parents when the baby is crying. A certain model has a receiver that has two main parts, which is a clock and a small sound sensor. It is the work of the main clock to work as the sound alarm and it is connected to a vibrating rod. The rod is then placed underneath the mattress of the parents. Every time the child cries the alarm's system activates, the rod then vibrates and wakes up the parents.

Many of the baby monitors even have LCD screens that allow you to watch your baby. This is very valuable to deaf parents as this allows them to monitor the baby with no trouble at all.

### Aspects To Consider Before Buying A Baby Monitor

Jumping out and grabbing the most expensive baby monitor is not always the best idea. You should first figure out what features you really want your baby monitor to have and then buy the one which best fits those needs. Some people might consider buying a baby monitor a grudge purchase, but remember that you cannot put a price on your child's safety.

When buying a baby monitor you should also consider portability. If you are a parent that is busy around the house the whole day then it would be best to choose a baby monitor that you can carry around with you.

Baby monitors are there to give deaf parents the same security as any other parent. There are a huge selection of baby monitors on the market that you could choose from. There are more than enough reviews online that can help you to make an informed choice. It is one of the best purchases I ever made.

(Source: <http://www.articlesbase.com/parenting-articles/baby-monitors-are-a-true-help-for-deaf-parents-3610056.html>, [accessed April 10 2011])

## First UK midwives trained in sign language to support deaf women in labour

The Daily Mail recently reported that a UK university has become the first to train midwives in sign language so they can better support pregnant, Deaf women in labour. The midwifery students at De Montfort University, Leicester, are being taught basic sign language so they can communicate with deaf women without an interpreter. Most mothers will testify to the importance of strong communications with their midwife. For Deaf mothers this can be difficult if the midwife does not have the appropriate skills to communicate. This initiative is a positive step forward in improving the experience for Deaf mothers.



For further information, read the article in full: [www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1358212/Sign-language\\_training-student-midwives-UK-first.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1358212/Sign-language_training-student-midwives-UK-first.html)

## Review: Teach Yourself British Sign Language by Paul Redfern and Deafworks

As a BSL student I was pleased that DP UK were asked to review a new self-directed learning guide for students of BSL. Describing itself as an “innovative book” I was excited to give it a shot.

Having been a student of BSL in recent years and purchased a number of books to aid my study I was initially sceptical that this book would be any different to the others which had all been interesting but too one dimensional to really enhance my studies and supplement the weekly classes that I was taking. However, this book was different, mainly because it is accompanied by a DVD of clips (entirely in BSL) that are to be viewed in conjunction with the use of the book to demonstrate signs shown in the text and bring the guidance to life. This was very effective and I was able to play individual clips over time and again to help me revise them, reinforce what I was learning and spend more time on those that I did not immediately understand.

True to its promise, this book does innovate. The structure and positioning of the material it covers was different to anything that I had seen previously. The course work is not arranged in traditional modules like “Introducing yourself” or “Finding directions” like many other similar books (although all of this is covered well), this book is more a guide to understanding more about Deaf people, Deaf society, etiquette of signing and finger spelling, the importance of facial expressions, when and how to mouth words and much more relating to the cultural and social elements of BSL.

I attended evening classes at The City Lit, in London, and whilst I would not say that “Teach Yourself British Sign Language” was as effective as those courses – nothing replaces being able to practice and get feedback from a Deaf tutor and try out new signs with fellow students, but this was the next best thing and certainly would act as a great complement to that type of learning. The text is peppered with additional “Insights” to help provide further guidance – the type of pearls of wisdom that a tutor would pass on in a class that help increase fluency.

In order to review this book I spent a few hours working through a large chunk of it and enjoyed the time invested, and moreover felt that it was a valuable investment. This is an excellent accompaniment to any student of BSL and provides important and authentic guidance on using BSL in Deaf society. For Deaf parents and families of Deaf children with family members or friends who may be students of BSL I would recommend this book, and accompanying DVD, as an excellent learning tool that will make a real difference to the fluency and confidence with which BSL is studied and subsequently used.

### Ceri Hughes, Editor Deaf Parenting UK Newsletter

Teach Yourself British Sign Language by Paul Redfern and Deafworks, published by Hodder Education, 2010. £24.99 (ISBN: 978-0-340-99132-9)

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### **CODA 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Berlin, July 28-31 2011.**

CODA will be hosting their International Conference at the Pentahotel, Berlin in July. Registration for the conference and more details are available at <http://www.facebook.com/l/2fd9fcjH87-r5rbSIJATkDy5JPg/www.coberlinda.com>

There are pre-conference activities including The Wild East Trabi Safari and the Post-conference activity is BBQ and Swimming at The Zentralvereins für das Wohl der Taubstummen 1849 the oldest Deaf-club in Germany.

If you need any help or advice email: [marie@codaukireland.co.uk](mailto:marie@codaukireland.co.uk)

Our address is:

DPUK, 49 Gordon Square,  
LONDON WC1H 0PD

# DPUK Family Day Trip



**LEGOLAND is a theme park with over 55 Rides and attractions, providing a fun packed day for children up to 15 years old.**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011**

**Travel by coach, courtesy of DPUK**

**Meeting point for coach pick up:**

**Opposite London's Dungeon at London Bridge BR Station at 8.30AM SHARP**



**Return to London Bridge at 6pm**

**FREE Tickets inclusive of coach and theme park entrance:**

Children under 3 years - FREE

(Maximum ticket requests - 4 people per family)

**Places will be given on first come first serve basis for Deaf Families living in South West, West, North, North West, and East London Boroughs only**

**Limited TICKETS – book quickly to avoid disappointment!**

**DEADLINE FOR TICKET BOOKING REQUESTS: FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011**



Deaf Parenting UK

Email: [info@deafparent.org.uk](mailto:info@deafparent.org.uk)

Fax: 0871 264 3323

SMS: 07928 842529



30 May - 5 June 2011

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