



# Partnership News

Summer 2004



The newsletter for parents and carers of children with special educational needs



Norfolk & Norwich  
Dyslexia Association



Schools



Norwich  
Primary  
Care Trust



Norfolk  
County Council  
Social Services



Norfolk Autistic  
Society

Norfolk  
County Council  
Education

## Information Pack is Updated

Look out for the updated and improved Parent Partnership information pack, full of helpful and useful information. The pack includes leaflets about:

- **Norfolk Parent Partnership**
- **Information and support for parents and carers**
- **The Independent Parental Supporter**
- **Helping children in pre-school, nursery and playgroup**
- **Finding out about a school**
- **Helping children in school**
- **Working together to help your child**
- **Statutory Assessment and Statements**
- **Annual Reviews**
- **What if we cannot agree?**
- **Jargon Buster**
- **Useful Contacts**
- **Funding in mainstream school**

If you would like one of these leaflets, or the whole pack - then ring Parent Partnership on:

**01603 301901**

or email us on: [parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk)

You can also view all these leaflets on our website:

[www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk)

**Come and visit our stand at the Royal Norfolk Show on  
Wednesday 30th June and Thursday 1st July 2004.**

**Please let us know if you would like large print copies  
or if translations would be useful.**

Norfolk Parent Partnership is funded by  **Norfolk** County Council  
working with the voluntary sector and other professionals to support parents and  
carers of children with special educational needs.

## Book Reviews by Dorne Fraser, Senior Librarian, Young People's Services

### 'Noah's Bed' by Lis and Jim Cooplestone

It's cold and stormy outside Noah's Ark and little Eber climbs in with Grandma and Grandpa Noah so that he feels safe from the thunder and lightning. But when Noah wakes up he finds that plenty of others wanted to feel safe and secure as well.

### 'Tiger Tom' by Mary Green

A beautiful bedtime story about a mysterious tiger in the night time. No surprises as to who the tiger becomes once the sun is in the sky.



### 'No More Teasing'

by Emma Chichester-Clarke

Mimi's cousin Momo is always teasing her but Mimi and her Grandma teach him a lesson that he won't forget.

### 'My Art Class' by Nellie Shepherd

This is one in a series of art books. Very simple projects well presented and fun for all the family. Look out as well for 'My Animal Art Class,' 'My Puppet Art Class' and 'My Picture Art Class.'

## Exclusions ————— by Nicki, Independent Parental Supporter

If your child is either 'fixed term excluded' which means they will be away from school for anything from one day to 45 days, or 'permanently excluded' which means the school does not want them to return, it is a very difficult and worrying time for you and your child.

Usually a school does not suddenly decide to exclude, and you will probably be aware that there are some problems with your child and their education. You may have had telephone conversations or meetings with the school to talk about your child's behaviour in class or other issues. Try to keep discussions going with the school, if there is a teacher you feel understands your child and their problems, ask if they can be involved.

Sometimes children with Special Needs, especially those with emotional and behavioural difficulties such as ADHD, Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Tourettes are excluded. A child may be struggling with schoolwork, and their behaviour can worsen because they are not coping. If your child has a Statement, the school needs to hold an Interim Statement Review, with a representative of the Local Education Authority and the parents before the child is permanently excluded. A child who is at risk of permanent exclusion should have a Pastoral Support Programme (PSP). You, as parents, and the Local Education Authority Representative should have been asked to meet and

discuss the PSP, which will detail the areas of concern and strategies, which can help the child to overcome these difficulties, and a teacher who is responsible for the PSP.



If you have to go to a meeting at the school to discuss an exclusion issue, it is sometimes a good idea to take a friend with you who can take notes and support you. When a child is excluded the Headteacher should arrange for school work to be done at home.

If you feel that the Head teacher is not going to change their mind about an exclusion, you have the right to write to the Chairman of Governors' at the school and ask to discuss the matter at a Governors' Meeting. If the Exclusion is permanent you also have the right to go to an Independent Appeal Panel who can return your child to school.

Exclusions are more common than people think and are emotionally draining for parents. Many parents feel a sense of failure and responsibility. Help can be obtained from:

### ACE Exclusion Helpline:

 020 7704 9822

### Norfolk Exclusions Helpline:

 01603 224011

### Norfolk Parent Partnership:

 01603 301901

## INDIGO Dyslexia Services

This is a new not for profit organisation based in Norwich. It aims to help with all matters about dyslexia.

We work on a voluntary and confidential basis.

***'If dyslexia is mentioned - then we are here to help'***

We offer to adults in the area:

- Screening by appointment
- Advice/guidance by telephone or appointment
- Help and support by telephone or appointment and in groups
- Literature and information for individuals or groups and professionals



TinyTalk (UK) is "helping babies to communicate before they can talk". Parents know that the hardest time is when our baby cries and that we cannot understand what they are trying to tell us. Are they hungry, thirsty, in pain, or may just need a cuddle? From as early as 7 months old babies can start to communicate through sign language. Just as you can teach them to wave bye-bye and to play peek-a-boo, you can also teach them to sign, well before their vocal cords allow them to talk. The terrible two's can also be a difficult time, but not nearly so terrible when they can communicate with baby signing. Practice shows that babies who sign, can often start to communicate verbally at an earlier age. This is because with babysigning you emphasis the word with the sign.

This highly recommended system of teaching babies to communicate before they can talk, is endorsed and accredited by Sure Start, the government's programme which recommends sign language, music, action songs and social interaction for birth to 3 year olds. The British Literacy trust is dedicated to building a literate nation and fully support and endorses the work of TinyTalk (UK).

- Computing and IT information for dyslexics
- Mentoring
- Training and consultancy to agencies and employers
- Working with supporting agencies

We are always pleased to help people experiencing difficulties and to bring about real change in the lives of dyslexic people.

*'Supporting dyslexic people can benefit everyone'*

We can be contacted on:

**01603 486541**

email: **MAParsonage@aol.com**

**Martin Parsonage**

TinyTalk (UK) is for all babies from birth to young toddlers. The classes include 30 minutes of signing and singing to familiar nursery rhymes and action songs. We believe music enriches children's lives. Through singing and having fun, language skills can be developed. Then 30 minutes of playtime for the little ones, and time for the parents to socialise and compare experiences over refreshments.



Baby signing is predominately based on BSL but its signs have been adapted to make them easier for babies. We also use a couple of American Signs, like Milk and More as these are easier for babies to co-ordinate.

**I have classes in Wymondham Central Hall, Back lane, Wymondham. Tuesdays: 10am-11am or 11.30-12-30pm. Eaton Park Community Centre which is situated on South Park Ave, Eaton, Norwich (access from Bluebell Rd & Colman Rd A140) from Monday the 10th of May. Times: 10am-11am or 11.15-12.15pm (Term time only) Classes are run on a drop in basis, so there is no need to book. The cost is £3.50 per family.**

Please visit our website at  
**www.tinytalkuk.com**

**Maria**  
Maria Holloway



## Can You Help?

**Do you have some free time and an interest in special educational needs?** Our volunteer Independent Parental Supporters have helped hundreds of parents over the last 9 years.

If you would like to be a volunteer, we offer **free accredited training** - the next course will be held in Norwich during September/ October 2004. Book your place now!!

**For more information contact  
Norfolk Parent Partnership on: 01603 301901**

or email: [parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk)  
[www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk)



### Have your say!

**Come and meet other parents  
and members of the Pupil  
Access and Support Team.**

- Spread good news
- Share information
- Raise concerns

**21st September, 2004.**

**10.30am - 12.30pm**

**Refreshments provided**

**Smart Kids OK,  
7 Enterprise Court,  
Gapton Hall Road, Gt Yarmouth.**

**For further information ring:  
Kim Barber, Disability Co-ordinator  
Tel: 01603 259952**

### **Summer Activities in Norfolk!**



Wondering what you're going to do over the summer holidays? How about taking part in some outdoor activities like ski-ing, sailing and canoeing?

**For more information contact:**

**Jen White,  
Disability Sports Co-ordinator  
Tel: 01603 727888**



### **SPECIAL NEEDS NORFOLK 2004** **The 9th SEN Conference and Exhibition**

**Tuesday 12 October 2004**

**Norwich Sport Village  
Drayton High Road (next to ASDA)  
Norwich**

**9:00am ~ 5:00pm**

#### **Breaking Through the Barriers**

This open event is an opportunity to:

- ☒ view and purchase specialist resources
- ☒ try ICT programs
- ☒ meet representatives from the professional and voluntary organisations
- ☒ find out more about how schools and the LEA can, and do, support learners with additional needs.

If you require more information about the day please contact Irene on **01603 458191**

**We look forward to welcoming all young people, parents, carers and educational professionals.**



# PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

**Has Norfolk Parent Partnership helped you?**

**YES/NO**

If YES, how did we help you?

**Have you used our website?**

**YES/NO**

**[www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk)**

If YES, did you find it helpful, if so, how?

**Have you seen our Information Pack?**

**YES/NO**

If YES, who sent it/gave it to you?

**What do you find most helpful in your school?**

Your SENCO/Class Teacher/Secretary/IEPs/Reports/letters/reviews/Parent evenings/  
Partnership News

Other .....

.....

**Do you know what help is available  
for your child?**

**YES/NO**

If NO, what do you need to know about?

*Please write any other comments you may have on the back page and return in an envelope to the address below.*

**Young People's Corner**



**What I like best about school is:**

.....

.....

**Send in a picture (no bigger than A4) of the school activity you enjoy most. There is a prize for the best entry. Remember to put your name, age, address and school on the back of your picture.**

**Please return this questionnaire to: Norfolk Parent Partnership,  
267 Reepham Road, Norwich. NR6 5QH by 1st September, 2004.**

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