



Norfolk Parent
Partnership

Partnership News *Spring 2005*



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



Norfolk & Norwich
Dyslexia Association



Schools



Norwich
Primary
Care Trust



Norfolk
County Council
Childcare Services



Norfolk Autistic
Society

Norfolk
County Council
Pupil Access &
Support Services

It's the year of the Volunteer!

Nicki, one of our volunteers, is pictured with Emily, a mum she is supporting. Emily is currently at the beginning of statutory assessment for her daughter who has cerebral palsy.




Emily said she had not realised how much paperwork there would be and it was scary. She did not have a clue but Nicki made it sound easy. Emily had no idea her views would make a difference but with Nicki's support has written her own contribution. Emily feels strongly that her daughter should go to her local primary school where she is currently attending nursery. Nicki will continue to support Emily while the statementing process is underway.

Nicki says she gets great satisfaction from volunteering by empowering parents to help their children have an education suited to them. She feels she has been a success when parents have gained the knowledge and confidence to go it alone.

Our volunteers (Independent Parental Supporters) are given accredited training. Their role is to support parents who have a child with special educational needs. They encourage parents to be fully involved in their child's education by explaining choices and procedures and helping them to express their views to the school or the local authority.

If you would like more information on volunteering, please ring Elizabeth on 01603 301901.

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.



INDIGO Dyslexia Services

INDIGO Dyslexia Services has moved to:

INDIGO Dyslexia Centre
Charing Cross Centre
17-19 St John Maddermarket
Norwich NR3 3PF

Tel: 01603 766761
email: indigodyslexia.com.uk
website: www.4dyslexics.com

Indigo provides help for anyone with an interest in dyslexia - parents, children and professionals. It is an informal and confidential service, providing screening, information, and guidance, counselling and coping strategies. Books, research papers, contact with others, volunteers, etc are available.

If you are interested in being involved in a support group for parents please contact Jenny on:
01603 766761

Early Years - Big Ideas

Spaces Available

Children must be accompanied by an adult



FREE! Thursday 10-11.30am 2-5 years

Norfolk and Norwich Scope Association is running a programme of pre-school activity sessions for children with special needs and their parents/families, at NANSA Family Centre, 33 Woodcock Road, Norwich.

The sessions follow National Curriculum Early Learning Goals and involve songs, games, 'messy play,' stories etc and aim to support parents in helping their child to develop basic physical, social, emotional and cognitive skills. Interested parents or professionals are invited to contact Joy Bishop on:
01603 414109 or email: norfolknorwich.scope@virgin.net

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 10 years.

If you would like to be a volunteer, we offer **free accredited training** - the next courses will be held in Mattishall during April/May 2005 and Norwich during Sept/Oct 2005. Book your place now!!

For more information contact
Norfolk Parent Partnership on: 01603 301901

or email: parent.partnership@norfolk.gov.uk
www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk



Booklets for parents and carers of children with special educational needs

- Norfolk Parent Partnership - this book explains who we are and how we can help
- Information and support for parents and carers - finding out what help is available
- The Independent Parental Supporter - who they are and how they can help
- Helping children in pre-school, nursery and playgroup
- Finding out about a school - some suggestions about what to ask
- Helping children in school- explains about SENCOs, School Action and Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- Working together to help your child - who to talk to and preparing for meetings
- Statutory Assessment and Statements - including help with writing your contribution
- Annual Reviews - explains what it is, who may attend and what should be included in the report
- What if we cannot agree - suggests ways forward between parent/carers, schools and local authorities
- Jargon Buster - explains what IEP, LEA, AST, PRU, SENCO etc stand for
- Useful Contacts - advice and information, leisure, education, support groups, health service and much more
- Funding in mainstream school - (presently under review)

If you would like a copy of any of these booklets please contact us at Norfolk Parent Partnership on 01603 301901.

Brainwave

The Brainwave Centre at Somerset was founded as a registered charity in 1982. Its primary objective is to help children with special needs to reach their full potential. The Charity's therapists assess each child's physical, developmental and cognitive abilities, before prescribing a programme of rehabilitation exercises. These are then taught to the child's parents or carers who will practice them in the Charity's therapy rooms until such time as the family feels able to deliver the programme at home. Every family is invited to return to the Centre at intervals for reassessment. The outcome varies in each case and no guarantees can be made. Initial assessment costs £350.

For further information look at the website: www.brainwave.org.uk or ring Natalie Spurdens, the newly appointed Regional Family Co-ordinator covering Norfolk, on 01379 688134.



Musical Keys is a registered charity to enable children with special needs to further their development through action songs and related activities.

Children with special needs covering the full range of disabilities attend small groups from birth and are joined by brothers and sisters together with parents. They perform action songs, respond to puppets, play percussion instruments, listen to a variety of music, and engage in action and movement using materials such as parachutes and stretchy Lycra.

The children gain confidence, increase mobility, gain in self-esteem, develop listening skills and improve dexterity. Families are given the opportunity to learn the Makaton Sign language to assist communication with the children.

Further information can be obtained by contacting 01603 405858.

Any views or opinions are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Norfolk Parent Partnership

CALLING ALL VOLUNTARY GROUPS!

Would your voluntary group like to have a representative on the Norfolk Parent Partnership Management Group? This group is made up of representatives from local statutory and voluntary organisations and meets twice a term to discuss the work of the service and agree how to move

things forward. The Management Group are frequently asked to be part of various working parties discussing issues relating to special educational needs.

For further information please ring either Sarah or Jan on:

01603 301901



Norfolk's leading database of self-help support groups, statutory and voluntary agencies, has been further developed to create a virtual one-stop shop of health information. Heron now includes lots more patient information about a wide range of diseases and conditions, in various languages and formats. Check it out and add to your favourites.

www.heron.nhs.uk.

Norfolk Autistic Society



CARERS WANTED

during Easter and summer school holidays to help families with an autistic child, giving the parents some respite. 8 hours help at Easter required and 24 hours over the six weeks of summer holiday. £5.95 per hour, plus travel paid.

For more information contact Norfolk Autistic Society on

01603 631171



or write to:

17/19 St John Maddermarket,
Norwich. NR2 1DN

Consultation

Parent Partnership is often asked to become involved in consultation on a variety of issues relating to SEN. If you belong to a voluntary organisation or parent support group and would like to be consulted, please ring Sarah or Jan on **01603 301901** for information.

STOP PRESS

**Asperger East Anglia's
Conference 2005**

Keynote speaker: Rita Jordan
from Birmingham University

Wednesday 11th May

venue to be confirmed

to book a place
call **01603 620500**



Fold here



Fold here

