



DOWNRIGHT Special Newsletter

Feb 2011

Group News

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2011. Since the last newsletter we have been very busy with a trip to Sundown Adventure Land, soft play at Kinderland and a fantastic Christmas party at the Holiday Inn in Hull. We have also run several of our popular workshops for Teaching Assistants along with a

number of in-school training sessions for staff. The baby group which is run on Mondays at Bodmin Road Church is growing nicely and it has been great to see new parents sharing experiences and getting to know each other. Again, none of this would be possible without the support of our fundraisers, trustees and volunteers whom we cannot thank enough.

DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION-FRIDAYS.....

We run a weekly Friday morning education and play session for pre-school children (dates below).

Remaining Spring Term Dates

Friday Morning Sessions (10am-12noon):

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March

1st, 8th April

PLEASE NOTE: No session on 18th February

Since January we have started a fortnightly education session for older school-age children (yr.1 and above) and their teaching assistants.

Contact Lisa@downrightspecial.co.uk for dates or see the website at

www.downrightspecial.co.uk.

This runs on a Friday afternoon.

Downright Special Babies

We also run an informal fortnightly Monday morning play and learning session for babies aged 0 - 2.

Remaining Baby Group for Spring term (10am-11.30am):

28th February

14th, 28th March

11th April

Half-term holiday 21st - 25th Feb

Contact Janette on 01482 420160 or

e-mail sam@downrightspecial.co.uk



TOP TIP!

Do you ever struggle to get to an out of town hospital for those check-ups and appointments? Well, help is at hand via the Yorkshire Ambulance service! You'll need a referral from your GP or the hospital and then just give them a call on 0845 056 7060. Transport can be by either ambulance or car but it is free.



Did you know?

The telephone numbers for the local Department of Audiology have changed.

The hearing aid repair service can now be contacted on 01482 624734 and

Audiology at the Walker Street Children's Centre is now on

01482 886567.



Tino, Arthur and Lexie have fun at baby group

FUND RAISING NEWS

Want to donate to Downright Special or set up an on-line sponsorship form for an event? You can now find us on www.justgiving.com/downrightspecial

Lots of fabulous people out there have been finding imaginative and exciting ways to help us, a few of whom are listed below:

The Rotary Club (Hull) kindly donated £1000

Swanland Primary school did a sponsored spring walk and raised £500

Karen Atkin and Zoe Loftus of the A&E nurses at Hull Royal Infirmary raised over £1000 by organising a charity auction night
Keith "the Duke" Earle donated £100 from a course he tutored
Eve Lomax and Tracey Skelton raised a marvellous £284 running a baby fair

Tracey Coates kindly donated £50

Sarah Coates-Madden breezed through her marathon and raised a spectacular £1319 from friends and colleagues at Sandersons Solicitors, Hull.

The pupils from Hymers College completed the Humber Bridge Fun (?) Run and raised over £700

Sirius, the Business Advice Centre, organised a Christmas raffle and kindly donated £441

The pupils of Bilton primary raised £87 from the sale of mince pies and drinks at their Nativity play

Steve Gainey of SGS continues his kind support through a generous donation of £344 that we used to pay for the Christmas party

The staff and pupils of Gillshill Primary School raised and donated £138 instead of sending Christmas cards.

Thanks to Mrs Mary Waddingham for knitting some beautiful clothes that were sold at our Santa's grotto at the Outlet Garden Centre at Woodmansey. Thanks also to Janette and the rest of the Waddingham family for organising and running this event. We also really appreciate the support of Lucy and Steve Savage of Lucy's School of Dance and Gosschalk's Solicitors who donated to the Smile Foundation and provided the decorations for our Christmas party.

Thanks also to our donors who wish to remain anonymous. If you are the person who donated to us via www.justgiving.com/downrightspecial at Christmas then please accept our heartfelt thanks. We try to recognise everyone who contributes to Downright Special. Please let us know if we've missed you and we'd be happy to put that right. Thanks again to you all.

Sponsorship by BP Chemicals

Between April 2009 and October 2010, we were lucky enough to be chosen as the BP Chemicals Charity of the Year. The final total raised was an incredible £22,287! Many individuals at the Saltend site helped to raise this money through participating in a number of events such as cake bakes, a flower competition, an Easter raffle, sponsored runs and donations from Christmas dinners. Much of the sponsorship was matched through BP's Matched Giving scheme. Thanks to BP and everyone involved!

Sponsorship by the SMILE Foundation

We have been extremely fortunate to have been one of two chosen charities of the SMILE foundation based at KCFM. Over the past 18 months, we have benefited hugely from the enthusiasm, energy and expertise of their Fundraising Manager, Andy Barber. Andy has guided us in establishing Downright Special as a charity through his various contacts across the region, allowing us to access specialists in many areas ranging from office equipment to graphic design, from telephony to website design and from media exposure to generating our annual report.

In addition to all this, the SMILE foundation has donated a whopping £20,000 to Downright Special through many innovative events including sending one of our trustees to prison for the day!

Thanks to Andy, Bev and the rest of the team!



Santa's Grotto at the Outlet



Sarah Coates-Madden aka Anya's aunty Sarah

NEWSFLASH!!

We have just found out that Downright Special has been chosen as the charity of the year by the Esteem Consortium, the private sector partner of Hull City Council Building Schools for the Future team. The consortium consists of Morgan Sindall Investments Limited, The Sewell Group and Robertsons Capital Projects Limited. We are really excited about working with them over the coming months. Watch this space for further news! In the meantime, more information on the work of the consortium is available at www.esteem.cc.

All the money raised will go a long way towards our goal of improving the education and subsequent life chances of children with Down Syndrome in Hull and East Yorkshire

Just a few of the activities these monies will help to fund are:

- Provide Education packs for schools, containing useful books, information and resources
- Baby packs for new families in hospitals
- Buy specialist resources for our Friday groups and baby groups
- Fund social events for families
- Provide training workshops for TAs and teachers.

Training Round-Up

Downright Special TA workshops

We have two more of our highly popular training workshops during the rest of this academic year. These are:

Monday 7th of March - Using Numicon to develop numeracy across the age range. This will be an all day event led by Dr. Wendy Uttley of Bradford Down Syndrome Training & Support Service. Participants are invited to chose either $\frac{1}{2}$ or a whole day place. This session is particularly recommended for teachers and teaching assistants.

Monday 9th of May - Teaching Phonics and spelling.

The "Letters and Sounds" programme relies heavily on auditory skills which are deficient in children with DS. The session will explore alternative strategies to encourage independent spelling. This session will be led by Lisa Bentley, Specialist Teacher for Down Syndrome.

Both of these courses will be held at Bodmin Road church.

For more details or to book places please contact training@downrightspecial.co.uk or call Lisa on (01482) 820962.

The Downs Syndrome Association (DSA) is also running some events including:

EARLY YEARS FUN (12 May 2011)

A day for families and professionals supporting children with Down's syndrome in Early Years education. The event will be held at Teddington in Middlesex.

FAMILY WEEKEND (6 - 8 May 2011)

A full weekend allowing families (with children under the age of 2) to spend time with other families in a warm and positive environment. 2 days of information and advice for parents with full creche facilities and DSA advisors on hand. The weekend will be held at Ribby Hall, Preston.

More information on these and other training courses is available at www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/training.

Train with the Tigers!!!

The Down Syndrome Association and Hull City Tigers Trust have teamed up to offer a fantastic opportunity for anyone who has Down Syndrome, aged between 5 and 25. Weekly training sessions will aim to develop social skills, develop confidence and physical ability whilst learning football skills.

The launch day took place on Sunday 23rd January 2011. Weekly training sessions which began on Wednesday 2nd February are being held at Warners on Pickering Road, Hull, between 5 and 6pm.

To register, contact the Tigers Trust on 01482 304758 or e-mail trust@hulltigers.com.



Speech and Language Therapy-signing courses:

Introduction to signing-At Hessle Primary Care Centre. 1-3pm. Concentrates on use and understanding of the first 100 signs

Thursday 12th/19th/26th May .

or.. Thursday 30th/7th/14th July

Advanced Signing. At Hessle Primary Care Centre 1-3pm. Looks at the next 150 signs.

Participants **MUST** have done the introductory course in order to attend this one

Participants on both courses **MUST** attend each session. The courses are **FREE** but there will be a charge for failing to attend.

For more details or to book places/receive an application form/discuss other venues please contact Speech and language therapy, 2nd Floor, Beverley Health Centre, Manor Road, Beverley, HU17 7BZ **tel: 01482 347870**



To Neil Findlay, Anya's dad, for taking up the position of social secretary. We look forward to many exciting events! If you have any suggestions for social events, please contact neil@downrightspecial.co.uk

Thanks also to Paul Herriven for taking over the role of Treasurer from Chris Bowlas. Thanks to Chris for his hard work over the last two years and good luck to Paul

facebook

You can now follow us on Facebook at DownRight Special!

If you have any problems finding us please contact

neil@downrightspecial.co.uk. It's set up as a private group so it's a great place to share top tips, upload your favourite photos and to chat with other parents who have beautiful children just like you!

What I wish I'd known....

I wish I'd known that she would learn ballet and take dancing exams!



www.downrightspecial.co.uk

Registered charity 1128178



Affiliated to the DSA