



Downright Special Update – July 2024

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Summer Break 🤓

We can't believe that we are coming to the end of term! Here's hoping the weather improves.

Although Friday sessions are finished until September and our staff will be having a well-deserved break from Friday 19th July, **we will continue to monitor the office emails, phone messages and social media throughout the holidays.**

If you need any information or support, then please do get in touch. There might be a short delay in getting back to you, but we will do our best to help!

Email office@downrightspecial.co.uk, phone 01482 420160 or ask questions in the closed Facebook group for parents/carers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DownRightSpecialNetwork>.

The closed group is also where members can share information about events over the summer run by other organisations that you might be interested in attending. We would also encourage you to use the closed group as a way of perhaps inviting others along to meet up informally over the summer, for example at the park.

We will be back in the office w/c 2nd September, with our first Friday morning session on 6th September.

Surveys

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our families survey or our survey for schools.

We had 20 responses to the families survey and 25 responses to the education survey.

Over the summer we will be having a close look at the results, and what they mean for our future activities.

Don't forget you can give us feedback on anything at anytime throughout the year – you don't need to wait for a formal survey to share your thoughts! We do have a standing agenda item at Trustee meetings on parental feedback so anything gets discussed there.

Downright Special Social Events

Any questions or suggestions for social events? Email social@downrightspecial.co.uk

Since the May newsletter we've had several events covering all ages: Coffee Morning for Families and Friends, Youth Club Mocktails and a wonderful visit to Densholme Farm.

We've continued to send out social stories before events and we've been using the events checklist created from the work of our parents' complex needs group but please do give us a call if you'd like to chat about other adjustments that might be helpful for your child or young person.

New Events available to book soon

Sunday 22nd September 2024 – Monkey Bizness Soft Play Party (0-11 years)

Sunday 29th September 2024, 11.30am-1.30pm – Pizza Making (& Eating!) at Ask Italian (11-25 years)

Saturday 12th October 10.30-12.00pm - Sensory Story Time, Bodmin Rd Church (0-4 years)

CHRISTMAS PARTY DATES

It may be summer but we already well on with planning the event of the year – The Downright Special Christmas Party! This year, because we have more & more families involved with the charity and because the Christmas party always sells out quickly, we have decided to have two different events to suit different ages and needs, so get the dates saved in your calendar as you don't want to miss out!

SUNDAY 8th December 12pm-3pm, Family Party at Lazaat's

- **Entertainer, Santa, buffet, raffle and all the usual fun for families!**

SATURDAY 14TH December 6pm-8pm, Humber Street Gallery, (age 11-25)

- **Mocktails, Food, Music, Dancing and Karaoke**

We haven't put an age range on Lazaat's as we recognise that some of our teenagers and families may still prefer our usual party to a Youth Club one. We will leave it to you to choose which one is best (but please only pick one or the other when the bookings open).

DOWNRIGHT DANCE CLUB for 11-25yrs – NEW START TIME!!!

Our Downright Dance / Performing Arts sessions for young people with Down syndrome aged 11-25 will restart on Monday 9th September at the new time of **6.30pm -7.30pm**.

We are hoping that this new, earlier time will mean a few more can join us!

The first two sessions are free for anyone who'd like to give it a go. After that it is £5 per session, invoiced half-termly.

If you are interested in coming along then please complete a registration form using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/e/A0S9VXzx4K>

Any questions? Email office@downrightspecial.co.uk or give us a call on 01482 420160.

Downright Special Training

INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS / CARERS

Sensory processing and occupational therapy for children with Down syndrome. Wednesday 2nd October 2024, 7-9PM

We are pleased to be able to offer our parents and/or carers the following webinar, to be delivered online via Teams by Lizzie Huxford, senior occupational therapist and clinical director at 'OT4me' in York. Lizzie is an experienced OT with lots of knowledge about working with children with Down syndrome. There will be an opportunity for questions at the end of the session, but please note that Lizzie can only give generalised advice and guidance.

Lizzie will discuss what is sensory processing and sensory awareness, how they can impact our children, and how occupational therapy and sensory integration can help.

Whilst we have managed to secure some funding to enable us to provide this session, we will also require a nominal contribution of £10 per family to cover the remaining costs. To ensure that everyone can ask questions, each session has a maximum capacity of 20 spaces.

Book here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial/t-yakleoe>

TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS AND NURSERIES (PARENTS WELCOME TOO!)

Although many of the Education courses are aimed at school staff, parents are encouraged to attend these too. This year we have changed some of the timings to avoid school pick up times to make it easier for parents to attend. We have had some success with funding so we are able to provide this training free to parents. For school staff there is a small charge per booking with up to 8 from each setting able to attend for the cost of one booking.

All courses and information sessions can be booked here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/downrightspecial

Downright Special Education Training

Thurs 26/09/24 1.00pm-3.00pm	Introduction to Down Syndrome KS2-KS4 - Online
Mon 30/09/24 1.00 pm-3pm	Introduction to Down Syndrome FS-KS1 - Online
Thurs 17/10/24	Curriculum Access and Differentiation for pupils with Down Syndrome- In person at Bodmin Rd Church

Don't forget we also offer INSET training to nurseries and schools. Check out our website for more information. <https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/inset>

Downright Special Fridays

Our last Friday morning session was on 12th July. It was an emotional one as quite a few of our school age children have progressed so well that their time at mornings has come to an end. We don't say goodbye completely of course, as we will continue to support them in school or in an afternoon group.

By now everyone should have had details of their Friday sessions in September. Friday mornings will be similar to this year, although we have created a new group for our 1–2-year-olds, led by Sarah.

Here's the new timetable:

9:30-10:00	Free play time
10:00	Hello song in the big back room then Session 1
10:30	Snack in the big back room
10:45	Session 2
11:15	Magic bag in the main church hall
11:30	Finish

Dates for next term (morning groups):

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th September
 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th October
 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November
 6th, 13th December

Afternoon Groups

If your child attends a monthly afternoon session, you and your child's school will have received a separate email confirming dates and times.

Our team put a lot of time and effort into preparing resources, so please email us on office@downrightspecial.co.uk as soon as you can, or give one of us a call/text if you are unable to attend a session. We do ask that you do try your best to attend every session please. Many of the activities within lessons are repeated and built on from one session to the next, so the children will make more progress and probably enjoy the sessions more if they regularly attend.

Downright Special Early Years Support

Did you know that Laura, our Early Years Advisor can help you when the time comes for you to choose a nursery or school for your little one. She can:

- Give advice on what to look for in a good setting
- Write reports for education health and care plans and assessments
- Review draft EHCPs and help with queries
- Attend meetings with you
- Visit your child at school or nursery to offer advice with inclusion, setting targets and provide resources.
- Give each setting a resource box to get them started
- Offer training, for example on signing.
- Work in partnership with Speech and Language Therapy, and Sensory Teaching Services to ensure a 'joined-up' approach to supporting your child.

All these services are funded by grants we have received and so there is no cost to you.

You can get in touch by emailing laura@downrightspecial.co.uk.

New Website

We are excited that work is underway to replace our rather tired website with a lovely new one! We are hoping to launch it in September so watch this space!

Local Offer

Every local authority must have a 'Local Offer' – a website aimed for those with Special Educational Needs to find out about local services, support and activities.

The Hull local offer has just launched a new website and it can be found here:

<https://hullsendlocaloffer.org.uk/>

The East Riding Local Offer can be found here:

<https://www.eastridinglocaloffer.org.uk/>

The local offer can be a good place to look for activities taking place over the summer.

Lending Library

We have a huge range of books and resources that you can borrow from us.

Our entire catalogue can be viewed online. You can browse for books and resources and then request/reserve the ones you'd like to borrow. Books can be borrowed for up to four weeks.

Email louise@downrightspecial.co.uk to request library login details or to request a pdf version of the catalogue.

Fundraising News and Thank You!

We have received the following donations since May and we'd like to give a huge thank you to:

- Everyone who donated when booking a free event or training - £95.00
- Everyone who shops via Easy Fundraising Shoppers £112.45 was received this quarter
- Delilah's family £188.65 from a collection tin
- Sandhills Bookstall £129.37
- Braham & Dixon - £156 from employee giving
- Family of Sietske Broekhuizen £250 legacy donation
- Regular Giving/Payroll Giving total of £25 per month from two donors
- Funeral Donation in memory of Tony Saunders £100
- Premier Molescroft - Collection Tin £34.65
- Pizza Pie Collection Tin £191.85
- Downright Special coffee morning & Raffle £95.80
- St Andrews Primary Kirkella £100 from their helpers' club who made and sold items
- Kerry Farmery Line Dance and Raffles £500
- St Andrews Primary Kirkella Awareness Week Activities £223.67
- Zenith Developments Ltd £2759 from Total Warrior event
- Andy Harness – Abseil from top of Anfield £878.75
- Gillian Bowlas – Humber Bridge Sportive £403
- The Little Yorkshire Dance Academy & Other Local Dance Schools – 'Dance Your Odd Socks Off' £724.02
- Newland School for Girls -Organised a Met Gala £178.01
- Judy Sugden £250 from Easington Coffee Morning
- Lisa Chandler £20 from a birthday Facebook Fundraiser

We are also delighted to have received the following grants since May, after successful applications for funding:

- Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation £850
- STA15 £10,000
- Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust £5,000
- Masonic Charitable Foundation £5,000
- Ideal Boilers £458

Thank you all so much!

Suggestions and Ideas

If you wish to chat about anything in this update, have suggestions or ideas for events, training or support you would like, or you'd like to pass on any tips, please do get in touch.

We hope you have a lovely summer. See you in September!