



OASIS

Oxfordshire Autistic Society for Information and Support

Chair: Voirrey Carr

www.oasionline.org.uk

Dear OASIS Members

We had a busy committee meeting this week, planning our activities for the rest of the year. Thank you to all those who have given us feedback at playdays and meetings-it is much appreciated and enables us to feel confident that we are using OASIS resources to provide the things that you need. We shall shortly start putting our heads together with another charity on how we might try to develop some Social Skills provision-and will keep you posted on this. We shall need a small group of parents to form a working party-let me know if you are interested.

There is some very interesting development going on in the world of education. The government has just released the second phase of the Inclusion Development Programme-a scheme to help all teachers to learn more about SEN. The next phase deals with autism and consists of a DVD resource with lots of information and video clips to explain the condition. It should start to be used in schools in the autumn. We will showcase the materials at one of our meetings in the autumn so that you can see them for yourselves. You can also order a copy from www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications. The code of the resource is 00041-2009BKT-EN

Don't forget our next meeting-May 12th at Cheney Community Hall, Cheney Lane OX3 7QH ,This is always a popular meeting where we will talk about toys which are useful for children with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. Its useful to share ideas about popular toys -you can waste so much money on things that have no interest for our young people! We need your ideas on things that have worked for your child so come along prepared to tell us! We shall also have a small sale of unwanted toys-so please bring along anything you would like to donate. This is our last meeting before the summer holiday so it will also be a BRING and SHARE supper-please bring a plate of food to share. I look forward to seeing you there.

Best Wishes

Voirrey Carr,
Chair,OASIS

Membership Card

We are pleased to enclose your membership card for our group. This is a revision of an old venture for us and we thought it would prove useful again.

It is a handy size for your wallet/purse and can be used at meetings/playdays and now at OXSRAD sports facility in Oxford where we have purchased a group membership.

OXSRAD

Court Place Farm
Marsh Lane
Marston
Oxford OX3 0NQ
Telephone: 01865 741 336
Fax: 01865 308383



www.oxsrad.org

We held our February playday here and it is a lovely sports facility to use and the charge for each activity is minimal. We have listed below all that they currently offer and more information can be found on their website.

Art Group
Under 5's Activity Session
Children's Parties
Keep fit and Gentle moves
Pool, Table, Table Tennis.
Snooker Room
Spa Bath

Integrated Youth Club
Rebound therapy Singing Group
Archery
YouFit
Table Tennis
Sensory Room

Sunningwell Playday Easter 2009



We all had a great playday at Sunningwell. There were 37 children booked onto the day and it was very busy and lively.

The staff had put on 3 workshops for us.

Sue and Anna were in the ceramics hut and we created 'crazy fish'. Many let the imagination run wild and there were sea monsters and sharks bearing extremely sharp

teeth as well. All the creations will be on display at Sunningwell School of Art during the Bank holiday weekend at the end of May as part of Oxfordshire Art Weeks. So some fame for our creative children!!

Gill and Davina had us all designing our own cotton bags to take home and Ali and Becky had set up observation drawing and printing. We had a very fun and productive time.

Artweeks Exhibition

Please come along and see the ceramic work produced on the day during Oxfordshire Artweeks. Sunningwell School of art is open on 23rd/24th/26th of May 10am-5pm and you can view OASIS work as well as that of the pupils that attend Sunningwell.

Your Committee needs you!!!

We have 1 role that needs to be filled as one person is currently juggling this alongside writing newsletters, organising playdays, coffee & chat times and would love some help:

- OASIS Treasurer

This is a behind the scenes roles and does not necessarily mean complete commitment to attend committee meetings. You need not have previous experience, however will need to be well organised. Great role for your CV! If you are interested and would like to find out more please contact Rachel Dennett rjdennett@btinternet.com or 01235 554436.

Dates for your diaries

Next meetings at Cheney School - September 8th, November 3rd and AGM January 12th. Please check our website closer to the time to find out details of the guest speaker. www.oasonline.org.uk.

Committee Meeting - Monday 15th June 7.30pm at Voirrey Carr's house. Please contact a member of the committee via the website if you are interested or call 07900 144493.

Summer Playdays - We are currently organising our summer playdays. Karen Seymour has done a lot of work gathering feedback from regular attendees and we have 3 definite bookings of Shilton (Art, craft and Horse Riding), Blenheim Palace and Henley River and Rowing Museum. We are reviewing other

possibilities for the other 3 slots and booking forms should be with you mid-late June.

Coffee and Chat

We now have 2 committee members running our popular coffee and chat meetings. Please feel free to join either group at their next planned meeting. It is a relaxed, informal time without your children to share thoughts, ideas and let off steam!!

Oxford - Rachel Williamson at rachoxford@hotmail.co.uk

Next meeting dates 19th May and 30th June at 8.30pm

Abingdon - Rachel Dennett at rjdennett@btinternet.com

If you do not have access to the web please leave a message with your details on the OASIS mobile 07900 144493

Useful Weblinks

Diet and Supplements - Please research all supplements and diet suitability with your child's GP before use: www.bio-kult.com, www.gdxuk.net

Interventions - As above please research these well and consult your child's GP first (it pays to get feedback and references from other parents who have participated): www.breakspearmedical.com, www.nutritional-therapy-online.co.uk, www.autism-aspergers.co.uk, www.cenaverade.com, www.metaboics.com, www.autismtrust.org.uk, www.highernature.co.uk, www.brainwave.org.uk, info@peach.org.uk, www.big4autism.com, www.autismpartnership.com/uk, www.ceice.co.uk, www.autismmedical.com

Allergies and sleep: www.safespaces.co.uk, www.healthy-house.co.uk,

Therapy programmes: Signalong is a simple signing system designed to help children communicate who have a wide range of difficulties and disabilities www.signalong.org.uk.

Greppers - Can't tie shoelaces? www.greeper.com sell unique system for laces that look cool!!

Challenging Behaviour - Supporting Change - The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) has produced a new DVD to help families understand challenging behaviour in children with severe learning disabilities. Interviews with families highlight the range of causes and effective strategies to

encourage appropriate behaviour; it is free to family carers.

<http://www.thecbf.org.uk>

Understanding Sensory Sensitivities in ASD - Anna Tulleman's newsletter and more info can be found at www.annatulleman.com

Keen and Zig-Zag

Zig-Zag is a drama, craft, music and games workshop run by Oxford and Oxford Brookes University students for children with special needs. It runs every Friday during the Oxford University term in the St Clement's Family Centre on Cross Street from 5.15pm to 6pm. Each term they have a different theme and at the end of term they put on a performance with all their favourite bits from the term, which parents are welcome to come and watch. This term the theme is 'Children's authors', so they are going to have sessions based on Peter Pan, Winnie the Pooh, Harry Potter, Dr Zeus, Wind in the Willows and Alice in Wonderland. The session is free of charge, and they provide a free transport service to all children living in Oxford.

Zig-Zag is one of 4 sessions run by KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now), a charity run by students from Oxford and Oxford Brookes Universities which provides sporting and recreational activities for children and young people with special needs. The other sessions include AllSorts, a Saturday sports club, KEEN Teens, a Friday social club for 11 to 17 year olds and GrEAT, an over 18s social club. KEEN also runs activities during the holidays, such as swimming parties, rock climbing and discos, as well as special events, such as daytrips, a Christmas Party, a Treasure Hunt and the end of year KEEN Olympics. If you would like more information about Zig-Zag or KEEN or if you would like to register your child you can contact Rhian, the KEEN co-ordinator by phone on 01865 794198, by email at keen@herald.ox.ac.uk, or by post at KEEN, South Oxford Community Centre, Lake Street, Oxford, OX1 4RP.

Information from Shires Spectrum (Autism) Group

The summer is coming and you may be thinking about a holiday or a short break, below is a list of organisations that can be approached for help with funding for holidays:

- ACT Foundation 01753 753900 - respite breaks for children with special needs
- BDF Newlife 0800 902 0095
- Break Provides a range of holidays and short breaks 01263 822161
www.break-charity.org/go/holidays.php

- Cerebra Vallecchia Holiday home. Free large 4 bed dormer bungalow situated in Hook.
www.cerebra.org.uk/parent_support/holiday_home/holiday_home.htm
- Family Fund 0845 1304 542 - grants for numerous things, under 16 years of age must be disabled or terminally ill.
- Happy Days 01582 755804 holidays for individuals and fun days out for groups aged 3-17
- Pearson's Holiday Fund must be via social worker/third party for disadvantaged children between 4-16 years of age, must be by letter to Pearson's Holiday Fund, PO Box 3017, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 9PN
- Family Holiday Association 0207 4363304 aged 3 plus, must not have had a holiday in the last 4 years. Must be referred by social worker.
- Margaret Champney Rest and Holiday Fund 01394 388746 grants given towards cost of carers for children aged between 8 and 18.
- Scout Holidays affordable family holidays specially adapted accommodation. Tel 0845 300 1818 or www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/holhomes
- Tourism for All 0845 1249971 are specialists in providing information regarding suitable venues for children with special needs etc.
www.tourismforall.org.uk

Carer's Forum

Emergency Carers Support Service is provided by:

Oxfordshire Independent Living Service

North Oxford Business Centre

17 Lakesmere Close

Station Field Industrial Estate

Kidlington

Oxon

OX5 1LG

Telephone: 01865 374430

Fax: 01865 379574

In their web page at <http://dpsc.a4e.co.uk/Oxford.aspx>

The Emergency Carers Support Service, is a unique service funded by Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire NHS PCT. The Emergency Carers Support Service offers free emotional support to any adult carer and they are able to provide practical emergency support to registered carers with this service.

Early Support Is Coming To Oxfordshire!

WHAT IS EARLY SUPPORT?

Early Support is a government programme for families with babies or children under five with additional support needs associated with disability or emerging special educational need. It's designed to help families access better co-ordinated services for their children, and is particularly relevant where families are in contact with lots of different people.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT EARLY SUPPORT?

Early Support is relevant to anyone who works with young children and their families. It impacts on the work of front-line professionals working for health, education, social services and voluntary organisations, across universal and specialist services, and also managers and commissioners in local authorities, health services and PCTs.

GENERAL AWARENESS RAISING BRIEFING OF EARLY SUPPORT

DATES AND VENUES:

Wantage: Friday 22nd May 2009, 9.15am-11.00am

Didcot: Monday 1st June 2009, 3.45pm-5.30pm

Wallingford: Friday 22nd May 2009, 9.15am-11.00am

FOR BOOKING AND FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

CATH ASTBURY
EARLY SUPPORT PROJECT OFFICER
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
THE WHEATLEY CENTRE, LITTLEWORTH ROAD, WHEATLEY, OXFORD,
OX33 1PH
01865 456722
Catherine.Astbury@oxfordshire.gov.uk
NATIONAL WEBSITE www.earlysupport.org.uk