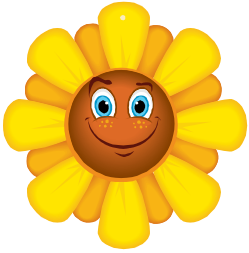




# **Wakefield & District Down's Syndrome Support Group** **Newsletter: September 2010**

## **Saturday Club**



The next Saturday Club will be on Saturday 2 October from 10-12 at Sunbeams as usual. Looking forward to seeing you all!

**Advance notice** of a few changes to Saturday club dates coming up:

**December:** Saturday club will run as usual on 4 December plus the Christmas party will be held the following week.

**January:** Saturday club will not be the first Saturday of the month because that is New Year's Day – it will be on 8 January instead.

## **AGM**

The group's AGM was held on Friday 24 September. The annual reports reflected how successful the group has been, that we are financially sound and that we have lots of enthusiasm for future projects. The current officers (Geoff Tulley – Chair, Andrea Arnold – Secretary and Ruth Noble – Treasurer) were all re-elected. The reports will be posted on the web site in the near future – please have a read and send me any comments or suggestions for the group's future or activities or events you would like to see.

## **Celebration Corner!!**

Well done to Alfie Jukes who appeared in two performances of A Dancer's Tale at the Theatre Royal in Wakefield – a fantastic achievement!!

And well done to all our little ones who have started at big school this term – first steps on a big journey!!

Let me know if you have any news or photos to include in this corner – it's my favourite bit of the newsletter!!

If you have any news to share, contact Andrea on 07814 367594 or [andrea@bignews.co.uk](mailto:andrea@bignews.co.uk)

See our website: [www.downsyndrome-wakefield.co.uk](http://www.downsyndrome-wakefield.co.uk)

## **DCATCH service**



KIDS are running a new service in Wakefield aiming to increase families' confidence in choosing the appropriate childcare for children with disabilities or additional needs aged 3-14

years. They will provide support and information to families, as well as training for childcare providers.

If you would like more information, contact the Co-ordinator, Siobhan O'Connor, on 01924 379015 or via email on [siobhan.o'connor@kids.org.uk](mailto:siobhan.o'connor@kids.org.uk)

## **More information re childcare**

The Daycare Trust has produced 'A guide to childcare for disabled children' which is free to order or download at:

<http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/publications.php?action=publication&id=35>

## **Transition information**

The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities has produced 'My Kind of Future': a great workbook to help young people with learning disabilities prepare for the future. It is free to download from

[http://www.fpld.org.uk/publications/?esct1544701\\_entryid5=33639&p=2&char=M](http://www.fpld.org.uk/publications/?esct1544701_entryid5=33639&p=2&char=M)

They have a range of other interesting publications available on their web site, including 'Prepared for the future?', which has information to prepare families when a young person with a learning disability is leaving school or college.

[http://www.fpld.org.uk/publications/?esct1544701\\_entryid5=33640&char=P](http://www.fpld.org.uk/publications/?esct1544701_entryid5=33640&char=P)



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### **Online advice sessions**

DownsEd have just announced dates for a series of free online advice sessions taking place this autumn and winter. These advice sessions will cover topics including successful inclusion for children with Down's Syndrome, reading and literacy skills, and how to use the See and Learn Language and Reading programme.

### **Nappy limits to be scrapped**

A campaign by Mumsnet and Every Disabled Child Matters has led to the Prime Minister passing on the message to PCTs that 'Pads (nappies) should be provided in quantities appropriate to the individual's continence needs. Arbitrary ceilings are inappropriate'. Some PCTs place blanket restrictions on the supply of nappies - just providing three or four per day - which can be insufficient to meet a child's needs.

### **Worth knowing...**

The RAC have a special response package for blue badge holders, which gives priority cover. Whoever is insuring the car has to ask about the blue badge holder cover and this provides priority response even when the badge holder is not in the car.

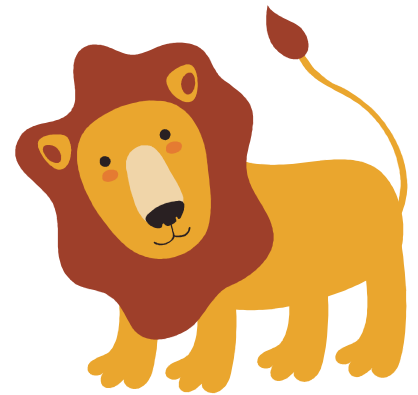
It is worth asking whether companies have similar schemes for blue badges, or for people with disabilities or claiming DLA - you never know!!

### **A roaring success!**

The Yorkshire Wildlife Park in Doncaster has special rates for families with a disabled child.

Children with any disability, including

Down's Syndrome, can get in for £4 and carers go free, which is a substantial saving on the usual entry fee. There is a lion safari, African animals such as lemurs and zebras, a wallaby walk and birds of prey.



### **Home Access Programme**

The Home Access programme has given grants to over 250,000 families to support them with computer equipment and is now focused on providing packages to families with children who have profound disabilities or special educational needs. If you are a low-income family in receipt of certain benefits you could qualify for a Home Access package with Assistive Technology. Find out more at:

<http://www.homeaccess.org.uk> or call the Home Access helpline 0333 200 1004.

### **New to our web site...**

- ★ The information section now has three new articles: Metabolism, Toddlers at the Table, and Stop Wandering - each of which has some practical and useful insights (although I'm not sure it can actually guarantee to stop your child wandering off...!)
- ★ The annual reports for the Group will be uploaded asap.



If you have any news to share, contact Andrea on 07814 367594 or [andrea@bignews.co.uk](mailto:andrea@bignews.co.uk)  
See our website: [www.downsyndrome-wakefield.co.uk](http://www.downsyndrome-wakefield.co.uk)