

This Is News!

The **FREE** termly newsletter for families with a disabled child



**Aiming High for Disabled Children!
see page 3 for details**

Photo courtesy of Parent Partnership Service
Back left - Jennifer McHale, Student
Back right - Jane Midgley, Learning Mentor
Front right - Brittany Boyes
Front left - Carly Wright

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High Street vouchers....
Think of a catchy name for the
newsletter (together with a logo) and
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winning £50 worth of vouchers.**

**Send your entries to The Family Hub
Leeds City Council, Early Years Service, 6th
Floor East, Merrion House,
FREEPOST, NEA 4600, Leeds LS2 3YY**



Hello and welcome

to the very first issue of this newsletter.

This newsletter is a new magazine from the Family Hub Leeds, a service helping signpost and inform families and carers of any child who has a learning difficulty or disability.

Our aim is to produce this newsletter termly (three times a year), to inform parents/carers of upcoming events, things to do for the family during the school holidays and local and national changes in government legislation and how it affects you.

This newsletter is for families and we want families to be part of this newsletter. As part of the launch of this newsletter we're asking children and families to come up with ideas for a name for the newsletter and a logo.

There will be a prize for the winner of the best name and logo.

(See the back page for details).

We want this newsletter to be one that gives you the information, help and support available in the Leeds Area and we welcome reader recommendations of places to go, which we'll share with other families to help spread the word.

Also if you know of any upcoming events, news or updates then please let us know.

To receive further issues of this magazine direct to your door or by email please fill in the questionnaire on the back page.

Enjoy this Publication

The Editorial Team

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competition

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The Family Hub gives families advice on childcare, services for families, sport and leisure activities.

Contact them at:-

0800 731 0640

0113 247 4386

email:- **family.hub@leeds.gov.uk**

www.thefamilyhubleeds.org

Local and National News

Aiming High For Disabled Children

In May 2007, the government published "Aiming High for Disabled Children" which sets out how services should be working together to improve outcomes for disabled children by providing better and timely support to families. The agenda is specifically looking at improving the following areas; better and more short breaks, access to childcare for working parents of disabled children, participation through parents groups and forums and improved transition for disabled young people to adult services. To support improvement in these areas, there is additional funding of £340 million across the country, and the majority of this is to go into funding more and better short break services. More information on "Aiming High for Disabled Children" can be found on the "Every Disabled Child Matters" website which helps keep parents and professionals up to date with news in respect of services for disabled children, www.edcm.org.uk

Chris Finnigan was appointed to Leeds City Council in July 2007 to support the development of services for disabled children in the city and she will lead on implementing the Aiming High agenda. The short break funding will be available from April 2009 and will be used to support children with additional needs to access play and leisure services in their communities this also provides parents with a break, as well as for more specialist short breaks which are usually provided through Health and Social Care. In order to use this money as well as we can, we have to make sure we are doing what parents, children and young people need. Chris has already consulted with a number of parents and parents groups and will continue to do so but if you would like to get in touch with her directly she can be contacted by email; chris.finnigan@leeds.gov.uk, phone on; **0113 247 8667**

One of the other areas that Chris is working on is developing a family link which will be used to send information, like this newsletter, out to families with a disabled child and enable services to consult with families more effectively. If you would like to be part of the family link please fill in the feedback form on the back of this newsletter.

We will continue to update you in respect of the "Aiming High" agenda through future issues of this newsletter.



Ed Balls MP with Robyn

Ed Balls is the MP for Normanton, West Yorkshire and the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families, one of his key aims is the promotion of Every Disabled Child Matters and the Aiming High agenda. Read more about this next issue.

Remember, think of a catchy name for our new newsletter (together with a logo) and you could be in with a chance of winning £50 worth of High Street vouchers.

**Send your entries to
The Family Hub
Leeds City Council,
Early Years Service, 6th Floor East,
Merrion House, FREEPOST,
NEA 4600,
Leeds LS2 3YY**



Early Support

Early Support is about improving multi-agency service delivery so that families with young disabled children get a better deal.

Parents say:

- Getting an assessment of a child's situation is difficult and confusing.
- They find it difficult to get hold of the information they need about a child's condition and the services that are available to help.
- Where services are provided, they are often 'not joined up'.
- They keep having to say the same thing to different people.
- Services are focused on their child and the disability, rather than on the child considered as a whole and in the context of their family.

Early Support is the central government recommended programme for achieving better co-ordinated, family-focused services for young disabled children aged 0 – 5 and their families across England.

It is developing at a time of significant change, as part of the restructuring of children's services in response to the Government green paper, Every Child Matters, and alongside new integrated assessment, information and inspection frameworks for children's services.

Early Support builds on existing good practice. It works alongside current developments for all children which helps all agencies such as Education, Social Care and Health as well as the private and voluntary sector to work more closely in partnership with families who use the services.

The main aims of Early Support are:

- Better initial assessment of need.
- Better co-ordination of multi-agency support.

- Better information and access for families.
- Improved professional knowledge and skill.
- Service review and development.
- Partnership across agencies and geographical boundaries.

The programme uses a team around the child approach with a key worker as required, plus materials that were designed in partnership with parents and various specialised organisations such as Contact a Family, Scope and Mencap.

The Early Support materials provide:

- Information about particular conditions or disabilities which have been identified or diagnosed.
- The Early Support Family Pack - a guide to the 'system' and a family file to help you get the best out of the services you receive.
- 'Developmental journals' to help families track progress in children who have Down syndrome, sight impairments or deafness.
- Advice on 'informed choice' for parents of deaf children.
- Signposts to other useful sources of information.

Further information plus all the materials available to order on line are at **www.earlysupport.org.uk**

In each issue of the newsletter we will focus in detail on individual aspects of Early Support to explain the principles and processes and dispel the myths. The next issue will examine the developments and progress of Early Support in Leeds.

Louise Snowden
Early Support Coordinator
(Louise Snowden is currently on maternity leave at the moment but is due to return later this year)

Libraries Love Families!

Every family can enjoy books and their benefits from a very early age. Sharing books with your children for even a few minutes every day can help develop their confidence with books and their personal development.

What can my Library offer?

- Variety of books to suit different needs including:
Touch and feel books, which feature different fabrics, surfaces and textures.
Lift the flap books, with doors to open, flaps to lift and holes to explore.

'Clearvision' children's books with traditional and Braille text can be requested, ask at your local library.

- Story CD's and Tapes

- Story and Rhyme Times for Under 5's

- Events for children and young people of all ages

- Bookstart Booktouch Packs

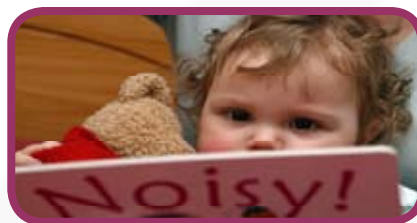
Booktouch is a free pack of books and guidance materials that aims to give a love of books to blind and partially sighted children of 0-4 years.

- Bookstart Bookshine Packs

Bookshine is a free pack of books and guidance materials that aims to give a love of books to deaf and hearing impaired children of 0-4 years.

- Assistive Technology

Including desks that can be raised and lowered, accessibility software on computers, trackerballs and big keyboards. Contact any library to find out what assistive technology is available.



Our friendly staff can help with enquiries, identify books to suit different needs and support your child's learning.

For more information contact enquiry express on
0113 247 6016

Places to visit / things to do

One of the most frustrating thing for any parents or carers are school holidays. Having to keep the kids entertained while on a budget, or finding places to go that have easy access or facilities can be a real struggle.

Please remember we invite you to share with us any positive experiences you've had, in the local area. This could be a restaurant, museum, leisure activity or a service you have uses and let us know. In the next issue we'll feature your reader recommendations. (See back page for further information).

Tropical World



Tropical World is one of the UK's most popular garden tourist attractions and home to the largest collection of tropical plants outside Kew Gardens. Tropical World is open all year around apart from Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Contact details:

Tel: **0113 214 5715**

Website: **www.leeds.gov.uk/tropicalworld**

Admission details:

Adults: £3.00

Children (8 – 15yrs) £2.00

Under 8's: Free

Leeds/Breeze card holders free

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Access:

Tropical World is accessible, with wheelchairs and scooters. Blue Badge parking is available outside Tropical World on Princes Avenue.

Temple Newsam

Temple Newsam is one of the great historic estates in England. Set within 1500 acres of parkland, woodland and farmland.

Contact details:

Tel: **0113 264 5535 (Estate)**

0113 264 7321 (House)

Website:

www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam

Admission details

Tuesday to Sunday

and bank holidays all year round

Adults from £3.00

Children from £2.00

Children under 5 go free

Leeds Card/Breeze card holders go free

Car Parking starts from £3.00



Access:

The gardens and woodlands are fully accessible. Home Farm is uneven and cobbled but has some trails with cobbles filled in and most displays are accessible to wheelchair users.



Thackray Medical Museum

The award-winning Thackray Medical Museum is one of the UK's leading museums, telling the story of medicines and explaining how advances in medicines have changed our lives.

Contact details:

The museum is situated next to St James Hospital

Tel: 0113 244 4343

www.thackraymuseum.org

Admission details:

Adults: £5.50

Children (5-16) £4.00

Concessions: £4.50

Family ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children) £18.00

Access

Normal admission charges apply, but essential carers are admitted free of charge. The museum has a car park with reserved space for blue badge holders.

All areas of the museum and almost all exhibits are accessible to wheelchair users. A wheelchair is available on request please telephone to book.



For a full range of activities and places to go visit **www.thefamilyhubleeds.org** or call free on **0800 731 0640** or email **family.hub@leeds.gov.uk**

Childcare/Holiday Playschemes

Playschemes are both registered and non-registered providers of childcare, offering full day care and sessional care and play opportunities for children. Some operate on a part-time basis, please ask for details of opening times when ringing.

They take place in various venues, ranging from church halls to schools. Please also remember to check for access if needed.

We encourage all playschemes to be fully inclusive but sometimes they also need a little help.

If your playscheme needs support in caring for your child, then you may wish to contact Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme (LISS), they can help with training and support in making the playscheme more accessible for your child. LISS is based with the Pres-school Learning Alliance you can contact LISS direct on **0113 224 3927**.

Easter 2008

Below is a list of playschemes available during the Easter holidays. For more details on the dates, times and costs of each scheme please contact the individual scheme or the Family Hub Leeds on **0800 731 0640** for more details. The schemes have been sorted by areas to enable you to locate the nearest to you.

South Leeds Area

Bright Beginnings Childcare

University of Leeds
Off Mount Preston Street LS2 9NQ
0113 343 1818

Little Learners Playscheme

Leeds College of Technology
Cookridge Street
LS2 8BL
0113 297 6320

Play Pals

Windmill Primary School, Windmill Road
Middleton LS10 3HQ
0113 270 6903

St.Luke's Carers

Various Schools LS11 6AW
0113 217 9393

Asha Neighbourhood Playscheme

The Building Blocks Centre, Maud Avenue
Beeston LS11 7DD
0113 270 4600

Kaleidoscope Gildersome

Gildersome Primary School
Morley LS27 7AB
0113 253 4968

Butterfly's Day Nursery

Melbourne Street
Morley LS27 8BG
0113 218 9283

Kaleidoscope Koosh Club

Kaleidoscope Nursery, Albert Road
Morley LS27 8RT
0113 289 7118

Basement Buddies

Morley Victoria Primary School
Victoria Road
Morley LS27 9NW
0113 252 7300

Play @ Asquith

Asquith Primary School, Horsfall Street
Morley LS27 9QY
07986 295 247

Hilltop KOOSH Club

West Ardsley Community Centre
Batley Road
West Ardsley WF3 1HD
0113 253 4968

The Fun Zone @ Carlton Primary

New Road
Carlton WF3 3RE
0113 282 5228

East Leeds Area

The Fun Zone @ Meadowfield

Halton Moor Avenue
Halton Moor LS9 0EZ
0113 282 5228 / 07841 584 468

Swarcliffe and St Gregory's Scheme

St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre
Stanks Gardens
Whinmoor LS14 5LS
07892 70967/0113 293 5563

Halton Moor 8-13 Playscheme

Halton Moor Community Centre
Neville Road
Osmondthorpe LS15 0NW
0113 214 1340

WYSIWYG Playscheme

Crossgates Primary School Poole Crescent
Crossgates LS15 7NB
0113 264 2107/07809 879 010

SKIN (Special Kids In Need)

St Wilfrids Church Hall, Selby Road
LS15 7NP
0113 305 0314

The Fun Zone @Great & Little Preston

Great and Little Preston Junior School
Great Preston LS26 8AR
0113 214 6816

The Fun Zone @ Woodlesford

Woodlesford Primary School
Church Street
Woodlesford LS26 8RD
0113 282 5228/07841 584 468

ABC Daycare & O-Zone Out of School

The Old School, Vicars Terrace
Allerton Bywater WF10 2DJ
01977 559 781

North East Leeds Area

Meanwood Junior Playscheme (8yrs+)

Meanwood Community Centre
Stainbeck Avenue LS7 2QU
07891 271 019

Prince Phillip Playscheme

Prince Phillip Community Centre
Scott Hall Avenue
Scott Hall LS7 2HJ
07799 002 838

Best Family Childcare Ltd @ Chapel Allerton

Chapel Allerton Primary School
21 Harrogate Road
Chapel Allerton LS7 3PD
07782 476 533

Space@Hillcrest

Hillcrest Primary School, Cowper Street
Chapelton LS7 4DR
0113 253 2973 / 07990 892 681

Milun Playscheme

Milun Womens Centre, 31 Hilton Road
Roundhay LS8 4HB
0113 237 4150 / 0113 262 0502

Early Birds After School Club

Harehills Lane Baptist Church Hall
13 Hilton Place
Harehills LS8 4HF
07960 185 769

Kashmir Social & Welfare Scheme

Bankside Primary School
Markham Avenue LS8 4LE
0113 262 0605

Shantona Woman's Centre Scheme

Shantona Womens's Centre Roundhay
LS8 5AN
0113 249 7120

Lingfield Holiday Activities

Open House Community Centre
79/81 Lingfield Drive
Moortown LS17 7HF
0113 269 8260 / 07799 714 789

Budz Out of School Care

Archbishop C of E Primary School
Lingfield Approach
Moortown LS17 7HL
0113 293 0699

Best Family Childcare @ Highfield

Highfield Primary School
 Sandringham Green LS17 8DJ
 07782 476 533

Groovy Kidz Playscheme

Bardsey Primary School, Woodacre Lane
 Bardsey LS17 9DG
 07966 571 224

Northcall@Moortown

Moortown Methodist Hall
 53-55 Cranmer Bank
 Moortown LS17 5JD
 0113 268 9993

Burley KOOSH Club

Burley Children's Centre
 St. Matthias Street
 Burley LS4 2DZ
 07891 687 292

Hawksworth Wood YMCA Playscheme

Hawksworth Wood YMCA, Lea Farm Mount
 Kirkstall LS5 3PX
 2162970
 Burley Lodge Centre
 42-46 Burley Lodge Road
 Burley LS6 1QF
 0113 275 0526 / 07906 269 473

Twinkles Day Nurseries & Oos Club

Clifford Road
 Boston Spa LS23 6DB
 01937 849 588

North West Leeds Area**Childrens Corner - Moorlands**

Moorlands School, Foxhill Drive
 Weetwood LS16 5PF
 0113 203 3196

Ireland Wood Childrens Centre

Raynel Gardens
 Weetwood LS16 6BW
 0113 281 7829

Cliffe House Day Nursery Playscheme

Trinity & All Saints College
 Brownberrie Lane
 Horsforth LS18 5HD
 0113 258 5522

Krayola Kids Ltd @ Rawdon St Peters

Rawdon St Peters Primary School
 Town Street
 Rawdon LS19 6PP
 0113 204 7799/07918 075 203

Eye Spy Club @ St Oswalds

St Oswalds C of E Junior School
 The Green
 Guiseley LS20 9BT
 01943 873 570

Eye Spy Playscheme

Guiseley Infant School Annexe 1,
 Oxford Road LS20 9DA
 07879 810 434

All Saints Out Of School Club

Cross Green Youth Centre, Pool Road
 Otley LS21 1HD
 0194 346 2137

West Leeds Area**Twiglets and Branches**

Ryecroft Primary School
 Stonebridge Grove
 Farnley LS12 5AW
 0113 263 2433

Copper Beech Out of School Club

137 Broad Lane
 Bramley LS13 2JJ
 07884 110 485

St Peter's Out of School Club

Bramley St Peters C of E Primary School
 Hough Lane
 Bramley LS13 3NE
 0113 256 8711

Krayola Kiddies @ Swinnow

Swinnow Primary School, Swinnow Road
 Bramley LS13 4PG
 0113 204 7799

Childrens Corner (Farsley) Ltd

Springbank Primary School, Wesley Street
 Farsley LS28 5LE
 0113 257 7868

Greenside Care Club Oos Club
Greenside Primary School, South Parade
Pudsey LS28 8NZ
01132 562 322

**Best Family Childcare Ltd @
Pudsey Lowtown**
Pudsey Lowtown Primary, Kent Road
Pudsey Lowtown LS28 9BB
07782 476 533

Remember!

Please remember playschemes can be very popular and run during the school holidays, so book as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

There are also alternative childcare providers such as childminders who will be able to care for your child.

For a list of full up-to-date childcare providers in your area contact The Family Hub

Freephone 0800 731 0640

or 0113 247 4386

email:family.hub@leeds.gov.uk

or visit the website at www.thefamilyhubleeds.org



Aireborough Summer Activities Scheme

Registered Charity No: 1078651

Easter Activity Days will be taking place on Thursday 27th March & Friday 28th March, at Green Meadows School, Bradford Road, Guiseley.

The scheme is open to all children, 4-19 years old, who have moderate to severe learning and/or physical disabilities and live in the Aireborough area (LS5, LS16, LS18, LS19, LS20, LS21)

The cost will be £8 per child per day, this includes transport where necessary.

If you would like your child to attend or for more information please contact:-

Jo Galasso on **07764 432 933** or
email **joanne.galasso@leeds.gov.uk**

Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme

Have you heard of Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme, (LISS) ?

Do you know what we do?, and how we might help?

The Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme's (LISS) aims are to promote the inclusion of children with disabilities/SEN within their local Pre-school, or Out of School and play provision; to enable a child with disabilities/SEN to benefit fully from that provision; to improve inclusive practice and to increase leisure opportunities for children with disabilities/SEN (Special Educational Needs).

Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme is managed by the Pre-school Learning Alliance and offers support to preschools, private day nurseries, early year's centres, Children's Centres, out of school and play providers. It has a 'virtual' team that spans the Alliance and Leeds Play Network.

This partnership is an important and valuable part of how Leeds Inclusion Support Scheme works. It also works closely with the various statutory services. The scheme provides; grants to assist providers to employ extra staff to support the inclusion of children with impairments; access to specialist equipment, training and advice; and a toy library.

The Early Years part is linked to Education Leeds and the Early Years Funding for Inclusion. This means that families can choose the right type of setting that meets both their childcare needs and meets the needs of their child.

Applications are made to Education Leeds and are then passed on to LISS so that support can be accessed to meet your child's needs.

The scheme also supports after school and holiday settings/groups this can be accessed via the Pre-school Learning Alliance and Leeds Play Network. Advice and support on including children with support needs in out of school provision, is mainly provided by the Inclusion Support Workers at Leeds Play Network. They also provide training on inclusion. Grants to enhance staffing, if required are accessed via the Special Needs Development Worker at the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

We have also supported children and young people with disabilities to access some varied 'play' provision and hope to continue this work in the future. If you find an activity that your child would like to attend, it could be a drama group, sports activity or uniformed group, please start with a trial visit. This will give you and your child the opportunity to make a considered and informed decision whether it is an activity that they wish to join. Be clear what needs your child has and tell the group that there is support and advice available.

If you would like more information about the scheme, then please contact the Special Needs Development Worker based at the Pre-school Learning Alliance on 0113 224 3927.

Remember to enter our 'design a name and logo competition' for the newsletter and you could win shopping vouchers, send your entries to
**The Family Hub Leeds City Council,
Early Years Service,
6th Floor East, Merrion House,
FREEPOST, NEA 4600, Leeds LS2 3YY**

**Keys To Inclusion:-
A training event for parents and
practitioners**



This workshop/training day is both a values primer and a practical guide to successful strategies for developing inclusive practice.

This is a 'hearts and minds' day in which participants can expect to both laugh and cry in equal measure!
The day gives those present, opportunities to reflect on their attitudes and practice in relation to the inclusion of young people who are different.

There will be three different opportunities to attend this workshop

**Monday 10th March 2008 at East
Leeds Children's Centre**

or

**Tuesday 11th March 2008 at Burley
Lodge Community Centre**

or

**Wednesday 16th April 2008 at Belle
Isle Family Centre**

All will be run from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm

Past Testimonials from East Leeds 14th
December

'Brilliant. Thank you so much'

'An excellent day'

'A fun day where an important and deep
message was passed on in such a way as
to allow learning without preaching '

'What a fun, informative up lifting day, no
pressure all involved'

'This must be a training for all those that
work with children and young people'

'Amazing, inspirational, reflective,
refreshing.....'

This training is generic and is suitable for early years, play, youth and extended services. The same workshop will be held in three different locations on different dates so please make it clear which one you wish to attend.

Tuesday 11th March 2008 / Wednesday
16th April 2008.

9.30am to 3pm ; there is a £10 booking
fee per delegate to cover lunch and
conference pack (cheques to made
payable to Pre-school Learning Alliance).
There will be no charge for parents of a
disabled child and I am happy to discuss
other fee waivers. This is important
training and I am keen to enable anyone
to attend.

Lunch will be provided, please tell us of
any special requirements:

Please let us know if you have any access
requirements:

For details of booking a place contact

Pat Baldwinson
East Leeds Children's Centre
Brooklands View
Leeds LS14 6SA
Tel: 0113 224 3927
Fax: 0113 395 0472
e-mail
pat.baldwinson@pre-school.org.uk



Leeds Parent Partnership Service



Information and advice for parents and carers of children with individual educational needs

If you have a child with special educational needs, trying to get the best advice and help may seem like a confusing and frightening experience. The thought of approaching school, Education Leeds and other professionals can be intimidating.

The Parent Partnership Service is designed to help you as parent/carers of children with special education needs (SEN) receive the advice, information and guidance necessary to make the right choices for your child.

The Blenheim Centre,
General enquiries: **0113 395 1222**

E-mail: **education.pps@educationleeds.co.uk**

Helpline Monday to Friday 10 am to 3 pm: **0113 395 1200**

Visit the Leeds Parent Partnership Service website

www.leedsparentpartnership.co.uk

The website contains advice and information on Special Educational Needs (SEN) as well as a facility to contact Leeds Parent Partnership Service online.

Extended School Services & the Specialist Inclusive Learning centres

Leeds has, for the coming year, put a focus on working with the Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) to support them in delivering aspects of the full core offer. There are a number of developments taking place at each of the SILCs. You may have already noticed that things are beginning to change and a greater range of opportunities is being promoted.

If you would like to know what is happening at the school/SILC your child attends, or would like to pass on your comments and ideas, please contact the SILC directly (see page 17 for full details) or get in touch with Hilary Waite of the central team,
hilary.waite@educationleeds.co.uk

Psychology and Assessment Service

What is an Educational Psychologist (EP)?

An EP is trained to understand how children and young people

- Develop thinking, learning and problem solving skills
- Behave and their relationships with other people
- Understand feelings and control their behaviour
- Feel about school and what motivates them to learn

What do EPs do?

Educational Psychologists work with children and young people, parents, teachers and other adults to help improve the school experience. This will ensure that children and young people have the best opportunities to develop and learn.

Why does the EP need to be involved?

Educational Psychologists are able to offer additional support and advice to help overcome barriers to learning when schools feel they have exhausted their current resources.

Under current legislation an educational psychologist must have parent/primary carer's permission to undertake any work with a named individual. It is crucial that you are able to sign the EP consent form.

If you have any questions about meeting the EP you can talk to your SEN coordinator in school or contact:

Psychology and Assessment Service – 0113 395 1039

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**The Family Hub Leeds City Council,
Early Years Service,
6th Floor East, Merrion House,
FREEPOST, NEA 4600, Leeds LS2 3YY**



Extended School Services – the Full Core Offer

By 2010 all schools will be offering a range of extended services to the children, young people and families they serve. These services, described as the Full Core Offer, fall into five areas.

“Primary schools provide access to high-quality childcare, 8am–6pm, five days a week, 48 weeks a year, in accordance with their communities’ needs, combined with a varied menu of activities (study support) to enhance achievement and broaden interests.

Secondary schools provide access to a varied menu of study support and enrichment activities which provide fun and stimulating activities for young people, as well as a safe place to be.

Schools provide access to parenting support, including information sessions for parents of pupils joining reception and on transfer to secondary school; signposting to national and local sources of information, advice and support; access to parenting groups using structured, evidence-based parenting programmes; and family learning sessions to allow children to learn with their parents, where consultation has shown there is a demand.

Swift and easy access - working closely with other statutory services and the voluntary and community sector, schools ensure that children with additional needs are identified as early as possible, and are well supported through integrated working with other services.

Schools ensure they provide community access to appropriate facilities, such as ICT suites, sports and arts facilities, and also provide access to adult learning.”

Whilst we are still two years away from extended services becoming a statutory duty for children’s service providers, there has been good progress in Leeds, with just over 40% of schools developing some form of full core offer. Many schools may choose to develop an even richer mix of services and activities over the coming two years.

If you would like further general information please contact the relevant Extended Services Area Adviser for your part of Leeds, as below, or the central team via Sally Bavage at sally.bavage@educationleeds.co.uk

North West
North East
East
South
West

Alison Larkin
Sue Cassidy
Angela Bailey
Barbara Temple
Dave Foxton

larkina02@leedslearning.net
cassids02@leedslearning.net
angela.bailey@educationleeds.co.uk
templebe01@leedslearning.net
foxtond01@leedslearning.net

Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) School Nursing Teams

The School Nursing Team (SILCs) provide their services to children working in schools supporting pupils with complex health needs, learning and/or physical difficulties. They also provide training and support to parents/carers, education and local authority workers in SILCs and other mainstream schools.

The team consists of 2 Coordinators and 25 School Nurses, Staff Nurses and Health Care Support Workers, who provide school nursing services in 8 Schools:

Penny Field & Green Meadows, North West SILC, Tongue Lane, Meanwood LS6 4QD 0113 336 8270

Milestone, West SILC, Town Street, Stanningley, LS28 6HL, 0113 386 2450

John Jamieson, East SILC, Hollin Hill Drive, , LS8 2PW 0113 293 0236

West Oaks North East SILC, Westwood Way, Boston Spa, LS23 6DX, 01937 844 772

Broomfield South SILC, Broom Place, Belle Isle, LS10 3JP, 0113 277 1603

Ireland Wood Primary School, Raynel Gardens, Ireland Wood, LS16 6BW 0113 267 8032

Ralph Thoresby High School, Holt Dale Approach, LS16 7RX 0113 336 8181

The nursing teams' work includes:

- **Assessment & care planning – supporting pupils with a variety of needs including, nutritional support, epilepsy care, respiratory care, management, administration, & organisation of medication.**
- **Child protection and family support.**
- **Delivery of health education and health promotion.**

Valuable feedback received has enabled the nursing team to reflect on the way they deliver the service, how they support the pupils, parents/carers and have enabled changes to be implemented.

- **Children and young people said, wrote or signed that they liked their School Nurses, they found them friendly, easy to talk to and knew how to access their help. Many said that they would like to see more of the school nurse in the classrooms.**
- **Some parents felt that their son or daughter would not to be as well educated without the support of the nurses. Some said they would like the School Nurses to provide more support to parents & carers; this will be included in the action plans for future service development.**
- **SILCs' school staff identified the good relationship between the school nurse and education teams resulting in effective communication and support.**
- **Each School Nurse SILC team has provided proposals for services they wish to develop in their school including increasing the amount of health promotion work undertaken on a variety of health issues.**

The SILC nursing team wish to thank the children, young people, their parents, carers and teaching staff of the Leeds SILCs for contributing to the feedback. SILC parents can contact their child's school nurse for information about the feedback or Liz Denton, School Nurse Coordinator at Morley Health Centre, **0113 295 4628**

LEEDS CITY WIDE FAMILY FORUM

The establishment of a city wide parents forum is well on the way. The forum have now chosen a name LEEDS CITY WIDE FAMILY FORUM (LCFF) – supporting families with children and young people with additional needs. The forum will be open to anyone who has a keen interest in ensuring the best possible outcomes for these children and young people.

1. The forum aims to represent parents' views
2. To be an advocate for parent
3. Campaign for change
4. To raise awareness of issues, strategies and proposed changes
5. To signpost families to established services
6. To be an information provider
7. To unite families

A steering group has been established to set up a board and work on a constitution. The next meeting for the forum will be on 22nd April 2008 at the Leeds Civic Hall 10am. Everyone is welcome.

The North West SILC parents forum has helped facilitate the LCFF you can contact the LCFF through their website www.nwsilcparentsforum.co.uk

We hope you will attend and help advertise the forum. We need parents to tell us what work you would like to see the forum leading on, only together can change happen.

Sibs

- for brothers and sisters of disabled children and adults

Sibs is the UK charity for people who have grown up or are growing up with a brother or sister with any disability, long term chronic illness, or life limiting condition. Their aim is to enhance the lives of siblings by providing them with information and support, and by influencing service provision throughout the UK.

**You can contact Sibs on
01430 810 094
or online at
www.sibs.org.uk**

**ARE YOU THE BROTHER OR SISTER OF SOMEBODY WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?
WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR OWN PAGE IN THIS NEWSLETTER?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THIS NEWSLETTER?**

**IF SO CONTACT Rob Lake ON:
0800 731 0640 or 0113 247 5487 or
email robert.lake@leeds.gov.uk**

Children & Young Peoples' Social Care

In Leeds specialist services for disabled children are accessed through identifying the child's needs and a Disabled Children's Integrated Needs Assessment (DCINA), which incorporates a Parent/Carer Assessment. Once needs are identified a plan is made to deliver services or organise support in such a way that meets a families individual needs..

The Child Health & Disability Assessment (CHAD) Team

The team undertakes assessments for children/young people aged 0-13 years who have complex health needs and/or a disability. They offer short term and intensive input to enable families to manage and coordinate their various networks of care. The aim is to empower families and help them be as independent as possible by working flexibly around the child/young persons changing needs. The team offer practical and emotional support to the child/young person and their parent/carers.

A referral to the team can be made by parent/carers or professionals via: The Call Centre Customer Service 0113 398 4702 or CHAD Assessment Team 0113 206 4383.

The Transitions Team

The team undertakes assessments for children aged 14-18 years who have complex health needs and/or a disability. They offer an interagency approach to assist young people and their families to coordinate the move from childhood to adulthood.

They work closely with schools, the career service and other agencies to identify appropriate resources. They offer information, advice and support to young people, families, carers and professionals regarding the transition process.

A referral to the team can be made by parent/carers or professionals via: The Call Centre Customer Service 0113 398 4702 or CHAD Assessment Team 0113 206 4383.

The Regional Paediatric Specialist Team

The team offer a dedicated service to those children who attend oncology, renal, liver, cystic fibrosis and blood disorders unit. Contact with these services is through the specialist units based at St James's Hospital.

Care Management

Families that require long term social work input receive support through social workers based in either the specialist teams or area social care teams. Access to this service is via a Disabled Children's Integrated Needs Assessment from the CHAD Assessment Team. (See above).

Remember to enter our 'design a name and logo competition' for the newsletter and you could win £50 of High Street

shopping vouchers, send your entries to

**The Family Hub Leeds City Council,
Early Years Service,
6th Floor East, Merrion House,
FREEPOST, NEA 4600, Leeds LS2 3YY**



Voluntary Organisations

When putting together the idea and basis for this newsletter, we found that there are lots of voluntary organisations and charities helping families in Leeds who provide their own newsletter. We didn't want to appear as competition to these publications, as they all do a very good job of helping the families they are involved with. This newsletter is about reaching ALL families in Leeds using a multiple agency approach, working with Education Leeds, Social Care, Youth and Early Years Service, Primary care trust and other agencies, so here are a few other agencies.

Carers Leeds

We are a Leeds voluntary organisation supporting carers while they care for others.

The work of Carers Leeds is focused on the support of all carers across the city of Leeds. We are open and available to carers, including parent carers. Within our staff team, there is a great deal of knowledge and experience about carers, their issues and needs.

We provide confidential information, advice and one-to-one support either at our city centre offices, or from different community settings. We can also visit a carer in their own home, if they are not able to visit our office. Our support workers are experienced in offering emotional support and listening to issues that a carer may wish to explore. One member of staff works specifically with carers from minority ethnic communities and is often able to communicate with individual carers in their mother tongue.

We are committed to providing many different opportunities for carers to get support and feel acknowledged and valued in their role. We organise social and leisure activities where carers can meet up with other carers, relax and enjoy their special time. For example,

we hold a monthly carers café, have regular day trips to places of interest and theatre visits. We arrange very low cost complementary therapies that carers can enjoy at our city centre offices. We run a range of different courses and trainings for carers, for support in their caring role, to help deal with stress, and/or to look at different opportunities for personal development.

All our activities are advertised in our newsletter, Carers News, which is published every other month and sent out to carers and professionals with an interest in carers' issues. Our newsletter provides a great deal of information of interest to carers as well as details of our activities. If you are interested in receiving Carers News, please telephone us and we can arrange for you to go on our mailing list – if you can receive Carers News by e-mail, this helps us and the environment!

The Time for Carers scheme, provides grants to help carers get a break from caring. Many carers use this fund to pay for a holiday, day trips, or for therapies that give them a break. An application can be made once every 3 years for up to £350. Please phone us for more information about this fund as Leeds City Council provides the funding on an annual basis – it is then allocated to carers on a first come, first served system. Carers Leeds, 6-8 The Headrow, Leeds, LS1 6PT
Tel: **0113 246 8338**
e-mail: **info@carersleeds.org.uk**
www.carersleeds.org.uk

Please note: we are planning to move to new offices in the city centre at the end of March, so please check our address then.

LEEDS ABC SUPPORT GROUP

Registered Charity No.1023066

“Supporting each other Learning together”

The title for our group (Leeds & District Autism Behaviour Communication Support Group) is quite a mouthful so in and around Leeds we are simply known as the Leeds ABC Support Group. I really can't tell you about our group without explaining something about autism so I hope you'll bear with me whilst I do this.

Autism is a condition that affects the individual's ability to communicate and connect with others. Problems arise when trying to understand and use non-verbal and verbal communication, engage in social behaviour or think and behave flexibly. There may also be sensory issues such as an over or under reaction to certain sensory stimuli. In some cases there can be associated features such as learning difficulties, chromosomal and genetic conditions and epilepsy. Asperger syndrome is a form of autism used to describe people usually at the higher functioning end of the autistic spectrum.

Leeds ABC Support Group offer:

- Monthly support group meetings
- Regular newsletter
- Telephone support
- Email facilities
- Website
- Family swim sessions
- Workshops
- Library

We can give ongoing support to families with children and young people who have or are awaiting a diagnosis of autism or Asperger syndrome, advice on educational matters, help with filling in Disability Living Allowance (DLA) forms and information and support on all issues concerning or surrounding autism.

If you would like to contact us our details are:

Leeds ABC Support Group
25 Somerdale Walk,
Bramley, Leeds
LS13 4SF

Tel: **0113 2579269**

Email: **info@abcleeds.org.uk**

website: **www.abcleeds.org.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you.
Susan McDonagh (Chairperson)

BOSTON SPA ACTIVITIES CLUB

The Boston Spa Activities Club is a weekly multi sport session for young people with special needs commencing on Monday 18th February 2008.

Come and try lots of sports and fun games including: football, basketball, parachute, athletics and many more

Where? Boston Spa School (Main Hall)

When? Every Monday Evening 6-7.30 (term time only)

Who? 11-17 years old young people with special needs

How? Bring £1 and just turn up
For more information about the Boston Spa Activities Club contact Dee Lazenby on 01937 840110



Children with Disabilities Social and Leisure Fund

Children with Disabilities Social and Leisure Fund are organising a Residential weekend at Lineham Farm Children's Centre, Eccup, Leeds.

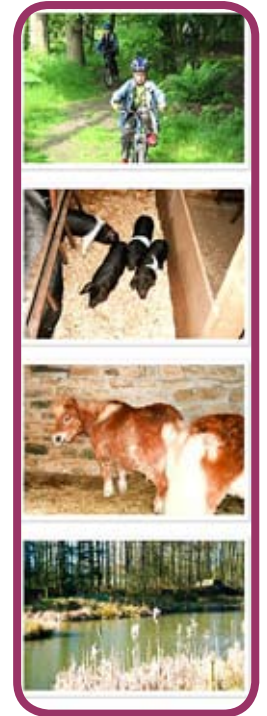
The residential is open to children aged 8 – 16 years who have learning or physical disabilities, who live within Leeds and don't receive any over night respite care.

It will take place from Teatime Friday 27th June 2008 – after lunch on Sunday 29th June 2008.

The cost to parents will be £20 per child.

If you are interested in your child attending or would like further information please contact:-

Chris Parapia on **0113 247 7436**,
email **christine.parapia@leeds.gov.uk** or
Jo Galasso on **07764 432 933**,
email **joanne.galasso@leeds.gov.uk**



Apple Group

Armley Primary Parents Learning Enjoyment



c/o Armley Primary School
Salisbury Terrace, Leeds LS12 2AY
Amanda Craven, Chairperson
applegroupleeds@googlemail.com
Telephone: 0113 2795142

APPLE Group is a community group for Leeds parents. Our core aims and objectives are to provide parents and carers the chance to learn together, visit places of interest, gain confidence and socialise in a safe and inclusive environment.

The group also meets during school holidays with our children and young people, several of whom have additional needs.

APPLE also runs a community family resource library. This valuable resource gives families the chance to borrow board games, SEN books, dual language books, SEN and educational resources.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact

Mandy Craven:

mandlc@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0113 279 5142

Leeds Mencap

Leeds Mencap works to improve the lives and opportunities of children and young people with learning difficulties and of their families and carers. Although affiliated to national Mencap, Leeds Mencap is an independent charity run by and for local people. Leeds Mencap provides a variety of services, the Hawthorn Family Support Centre, two youth clubs and holiday playschemes.

These services are available to children, young people and families throughout the city.

Hawthorn Family Support Centre

Hawthorn offers support to families and carers of children aged 0-3 years with a learning disability.

At the centre children and their families can attend support groups with the simple aim of extending friendship with families in a similar situation.

At Hawthorn there is a well equipped play room where children can play as well as a parents and carers room where families can talk and relax.

As one family recently commented about the support group,

'Being able to talk to other parents in the same position has been really valuable to both of us'

Families can attend a group on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday. Hawthorn will help to provide transport for families if necessary.

Staff at the centre are happy to discuss the child's needs and to help families access information and support that might help them.

'I found the staff at Hawthorn really friendly, helpful and supportive. I gained lots of information about other services and places that was useful'.

The play room is run by qualified staff who use the Foundation Stage to guide planning. There is also a sensory room and a children's dining room. Children are offered a snack in the morning and a healthy cooked meal at lunchtime. Each child has an individual profile that records their play and achievements through written observations and photographs.

One family commented about the profile:-

'Gives constant progress on my child. I feel very proud reading it'.

Youth Clubs

There are two youth clubs open to young people with a learning disability and their friends and siblings. The club that runs on Tuesday night is for young people aged from 9- 13, whilst the 14 – 19 age group meet on a Thursday night.

Playschemes

Playschemes usually run during the summer holidays and are bursting with activities and excursions. We are working towards providing playschemes during other school holidays in addition to our current provision.

Contact Details

Leeds Mencap

Londesboro Terrace

East End Park

Leeds LS9 9NE

0113 235 1331

E mail – info@leedsmencap.org.uk

MONEY MATTERS!!!



Lets face it for most people money does matter, we never seem to have enough to make ends meet sometimes!

Not everyone knows what benefits are available so here's a brief guide to what benefits are available.

Benefits for the extra costs of disability

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Attendance Allowance are benefits to help you pay for personal care and the costs of getting around. However, it does not matter what you use the money for.

Disability Living Allowance is for people under 65 and Attendance Allowance for people of 65 and over.

You can get Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance whether or not you are working, and they are not affected by any work you do.

The benefits do not affect any income related benefits you get, as DLA and Attendance Allowance do not count as income when these benefits are worked out.

Disability Living Allowance for children

Disability Living Allowance can be paid for children under 16, but there are extra conditions about their care and mobility needs. They have to need more care and attention than other children of the same age. To have mobility needs, they must have reached a certain age. However, these extra conditions only apply if the child is under 16 when their Disability Living Allowance starts. The extra conditions no longer apply when the child reaches the age of 16. If you are under 16, you cannot make a claim for the

benefit in your own right, another person, authorised by the Department for Work and Pensions, must make the claim for you. This person is called an appointee and for children, the appointee will usually be the child's parent or guardian. If you are a disabled young person under 16 or you are responsible for a disabled child and need to claim Disability Living Allowance on their behalf, you should consult an experienced adviser, for example, at a Citizens Advice Bureau.

For the current rates of Disability Living Allowance go to the Disabled people section of the Directgov website at **www.direct.gov.uk/disability**.

How to apply for DLA

You can claim Disability Living Allowance by phoning the Benefits Enquiry Line **0800 882 200 or Minicom on 0800 243 355**. This service will help you complete a form over the phone.

You can contact your local One Stop Centre for any details of any benefits for more information contact:-

Telephone:- 0113 234 80 80

Minicom:- 0845 127 1113

Fax:- 0113 245 7890

email:- onestop@leeds.gov.uk

How is DLA paid?

Disability Living Allowance is usually paid directly into a bank or building society account. If you cannot open an account or you have difficulties with this method of payment you should let the office know. It is possible to pay Disability Living Allowance by cheque in some circumstances.

Carers Allowance

Carer's Allowance is a benefit for people who are giving regular and substantial care to disabled people in their own homes. Carer's Allowance is a taxable benefit and forms part of your taxable income.

Who can get Carer's Allowance?

You can get Carer's Allowance if you are 16 or over. There is no upper age limit. You must spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a disabled person who gets a benefit for the extra costs of disability. The benefits for the extra costs of disability are Attendance Allowance, Constant Attendance Allowance or the middle or higher rate of Disability Living Allowance.

You do not have to have paid any national insurance contributions to get Carer's Allowance.

How much is Carer's Allowance?

Carer's allowance is paid at a standard rate for the person making the claim. Currently this is £48.65 a week and will rise to £50.55 from 7th April 2008.

You may also be able to get extra benefit for your partner or someone who looks after your children. This includes partners who are living together as well as those who are married or in a civil partnership. It includes lesbian, gay or heterosexual partners.

You can only get the extra benefit if the person you are claiming for has earnings below a certain amount and does not get certain benefits in their own right which are worth more than the extra Carer's Allowance.

If you are making a new claim for Carer's Allowance, you cannot get any extra benefit for your children. You should apply for Child Tax Credit instead.

For the current rates of Carer's Allowance, go to the carer's section of the Directgov website at **www.directgov.gov.uk/carers**

How to claim Carer's Allowance?

You can claim Carer's Allowance in a number of ways. These include:

- Online at **www.directgov.gov.uk/carers**.
- Phoning Jobcentre Plus on freephone **0800 055 6688** or textphone **0800 023 4888**.
- Filling in a claim form in leaflet DS700 (or the form in leaflet DS700 SP if you get State Retirement Pension). You can get the leaflets from local benefit offices.

You can find out more about making a claim for Carer's Allowance from the Directgov website at the address given above.

If you were entitled before you make your claim, you can ask for benefit to be paid for an earlier period of up to three months. You should ask for this on your claim form. You do not have to give a reason why you are claiming late.

You will have to provide your national insurance number and evidence to show it belongs to you. If you do not know your national insurance number, but you think you have one, you should provide evidence to help the office to find it. If you do not have a national insurance number, you will have to apply for one.

The Blue Badge Scheme



What is the Blue Badge scheme?

The Blue Badge scheme provides a national arrangement of parking concessions for people with severe walking difficulties who travel either as drivers or passengers. The scheme also applies to registered blind people and people with very severe upper limb disabilities who regularly drive a vehicle but cannot turn a steering wheel by hand or experience extreme difficulty in using a parking meter. Children under two years may be eligible if they have a condition that requires being accompanied by bulky medical equipment and/or have to be close to a vehicle for emergency medical treatment. The national concessions apply only to on-street parking where badge holders may park close to their destination, providing no parking restrictions apply which may prohibit the use of the badge.

How do I apply for a Blue Badge?

You can obtain an application form by either;

- Downloading and printing off the form at **www.leeds.gov.uk** (search for Blue Badge Scheme)
- Telephoning us on **0845 125 4113** or **0113 398 4700**
- Visiting your local One Stop Centres
- Write to
Service Support Scheme
P.O. Box 657
Leeds
LS1 9BS

Will I automatically qualify for a Blue Badge?

To automatically qualify for a Blue Badge you must be registered blind with a Local Authority or in receipt of one of the

following:

- The mobility component of Disability Living Allowance at the highest rate.
- A vehicle supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions.

What proofs of eligibility do I need to provide?

You will need to provide proof that you receive the above benefits with your application. Award letters such as confirmation of DLA must be no older than 3 years. You will need to contact the relevant benefit provider for an up to date award letter.

Does everyone have to provide a photograph with their application for a Blue Badge?

Yes, every one should submit one passport sized photograph with their application for a Blue Badge. You may submit any suitable full face photograph as long as it is cut down to approximately 5cm wide by 6cm long (passport size). It is fine to take a photograph with a digital camera and we will accept a family photograph if you are unable to use a photo booth. In the exceptional case of severe facial deformity, an applicant is not required to provide a photograph.

How long will it take for me to receive my Blue Badge?

Before we can make a decision as to whether you are eligible for a Blue Badge or not, we will require the following items from you:

- Your completed application, your photograph and any written proofs that we require from you.
- If you are not automatically eligible for a badge, we may write to your GP for more information about your disability. Once we have received your application we aim to process and issue your badge or send you a refusal letter within ten working days. Please bear in mind that we use the 2nd class post and items will take a few days to get to you. If you are not eligible for a Blue Badge we will write and tell you.



DESIGN YOUR LOGO AND MAGAZINE NAME HERE TO ENTER THE COMPETITION TO WIN £50 OF HIGH STREET VOUCHERS, TEAR/CUT OUT THIS SHEET, FILL IN THE DETAILS ON THE OTHER SIDE AND SEND IT BACK TO US ON THE ADDRESS AT THE BACK. (CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS 31/05/08)

We'd like to thank everyone who has submitted articles for this first issue of this newsletter. Please remember we would love to hear from you about your views on the newsletter or if you would like to submit any articles yourself. To receive further copies of this or to let us know what you think please fill in the questionnaire overleaf.

Thanks

The Family Hub Team





Thank you for taking the time to read the very first issue of this newsletter.

However please remember this is only the very first issue and we would love to hear from you whether you have an opinion on the magazine, what you liked and what you didn't or whether you have an article you would like to see in future issues. We would particularly like reader recommendations on places to go and see that are easily accesible for children with additional needs.

The next issue will be available from June 2008.

Please write to us with topics you would like to be included in future issues. If necessary please include additional sheets.

**Would you like to receive this newsletter to your door or by e-mail?
Please fill in the reply slip below.**

Name:-

Address-

Postcode:-

Email Address:-

If you would like this publication in other languages or in Braille, large text or in an audio format, then please contact us (details below).

**We look forward to hearing from at to the following address:
Family Hub Leeds, Leeds City Council, Early Years Service,
6th Floor East, Merrion House,
FREEPOST, NEA 4600, Leeds, LS2 3YY (NO STAMP NEEDED)
e-mail: family.hub@leeds.gov.uk Telephone number 0800 731 0640**