

Kingston Connections

Summer 2011



The newsletter for disabled children, their families and carers.

From the Editor:

As the summer fast approaches the long weeks without school need to be filled. Don't forget to book as early as you can to avoid disappointment. Speak to the professionals who support you and your child to ensure that you are aware of all the different groups that are up and running and could offer your child some wonderful and hopefully exhausting activities. Tired and contented children equal happy parents in my experience.

As you will see from the contents of this newsletter there is much to celebrate with the new activity rooms and wonderful outside play space at Moor Lane which has just been completed. The fabulous news that there is still a healthy short breaks budget that will support so many of the children and young people in Kingston to access a varied programme of activities.

As from the next edition of this newsletter Kingston Connections will only be available in electronic format. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for more details.

As ever the feedback that we receive re the newsletter always includes parents wanting to hear stories, hints or advice from other parents. Please do let us know about your summer experiences so that we can include them in the next issue.

Wishing everyone the very best for the summer.

Caroline Baxter
Editor

EnhanceAble, Kingston "I-Count" Register and the Moor Lane Children and Young People's Development Service distribute this newsletter.

The views, articles and suggestions in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by the Editor, EnhanceAble or the Moor Lane Children and Young People's Development Service. The Editor cannot accept responsibility for any goods or services mentioned or enclosed in the newsletter.

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EnhanceAble Confidentiality Protocol:

EnhanceAble is a voluntary organisation that provides its clients with a guarantee of independent, impartial and confidential advice.

**For more information see our website:
www.enhanceable.org**

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Changes to the Kingston Connections Newsletter

The decision has been taken, in consultation with the Kingston Parents Panel, that from the Autumn 2011 edition the Kingston Connections Newsletter will only be published in electronic format. The newsletter will be sent via email and will also be available on the EnhanceAble and Royal Borough of Kingston Websites.

In keeping with the environmental and economic policies of the borough it is felt that this will be a more responsible method of publication. Many and increasing numbers of parents are already receiving the newsletter this way so we felt now that the time was right to make this change.

To ensure that you are still able to receive the newsletters please complete the form below to ensure that we have your most appropriate and up to date email contact details.

If you are not able to access the newsletter in electronic format a few hard copies will be printed and we will be able to send them to you until such time as you are able to access the newsletter in electronic format. Please indicate below the best address to send the hard copy of the newsletter.

Name	
I wish to receive Kingston Connections by email	Yes No
Email Address	
I am unable to access the electronic version of Kingston Connections and would like to continue to have a hard copy sent to my address	Yes No
Home address	
Telephone Number	
Your child's age	
Your child's disability	

Please return form to:

**EnhanceAble Children's Services
The Moor Lane Centre
Moor Lane
Chessington
Surrey KT3 3HB**

Or by email to: children@enhanceable.org

The Big Chat

EnhanceAble makes communication fun for the local community

Local people recently had fantastic fun at a Lottery funded event – 'The Big Chat' – run by EnhanceAble.

A lot of planning and preparation by the Big Chat Project Team, including event partners 'Your Healthcare' and 'Young and Disabled and Positively Artistic' (YADAPA), resulted in a successful award from 'The Big Lottery Fund to run the event. This funding, in addition to a contribution from EnhanceAble, ensured that the event was completely free for everyone who attended. Lots of disabled children and their families made the most of the free entry and joined in multiple workshops.

'The Big Chat' comprised a programme of free creative communication workshops which took place over three days including art, music, drama, poetry, IT, photography, and learning sign language. Disabled people of all ages wholeheartedly entered into the spirit of the event and were keen to try new activities or enjoy ones more familiar to them.

'Sign and Say, Sing and Play' was a great success with the younger participants who joined Makaton tutors for games and songs using Makaton. First timers and experienced users combined their skills to create a great atmosphere and experience to remember.



One young participant, Mummy and furry friend enjoy 'Sing and Say, Sing and Play'

Another workshop that particularly appealed to the younger children was 'Sign into Space'. Makaton tutors (aka Space Cadets) Julie and Wendy took the mini astronauts through a journey into space learning to sign their way to the Moon, stars and planets and orbiting their way back to Earth.





**'Astronauts Signing into Space'
'Space cadet Wendy'**

The workshops encouraged disabled people, their carers, families and friends to improve their communication skills in a fun and inclusive way. Absolutely everyone joined in a got involved in the infectious enthusiasm of the event. Even the Postman learned a new way to communicate as he delivered the daily post- 'thank you' in Makaton!

Everyone gathered together for the drama finale performance 'Actions Speak Louder Than Words'. Participants used masks, wigs, hats and music during the performance set in a street café to communicate using the drama skills they learnt at five drama workshops during the event.

A Memory Book including quotes and photos of the event was produced featuring participants from age 4 to 84, giving everyone their own special memory of this very successful and popular event.

For more information on how to be kept informed of events like this in future and other services offered by EnhanceAble contact Caroline Baxter, Manager EnhanceAble Children's Services T020 020 8547 6200 or caroline.baxter@enhanceable.org or visit www.enhanceable.org

EnhanceAble's New Charity Shop

EnhanceAble are delighted to announce the opening of our second charity shop on the Tolworth Broadway. The money raised by sales at the shops and at our jumble sales pay for EnhanceAble's substantial contribution to the running of EnhanceAble Children's Services. Huge thanks must go out to the volunteers who work so hard in the shops and at the jumble sales. Thanks also to EnhanceAble's Charity Shop and volunteer Managers Jill Gray and Adele Cowell.



EnhanceAble Children's Services

Included with this newsletter is our annual evaluation document. There is a £20 M&S voucher for one lucky person who returns their completed questionnaire. We cannot improve and grow our service without your input. Make sure your views are heard.

Parent Partnership Summer2011

The warm, bright days of the Easter break gave us all a taste of summer. Even though your children may feel as if they're in the "downhill slope" of the school year, you I'm sure will still be following their academic and social progress with a careful eye.

We're all keen that children should enjoy and make the best of their school days – and this sometimes calls for your close work with teachers, TAs and SENCos.

How can you feel confident in your ability to work together effectively? The first step is **good communication**.

Consider the difference between a good experience of communication, and a disappointing one. It's when we feel that we've been heard, and that our concerns have been understood, that we feel satisfied by a dialogue. What steps can you take when preparing to meet with school to make the exchange positive and practical?

Make clear notes of your main concerns so that, when you meet, you can keep a clear mind to listen to others, to hear and

learn from what they have to say, and to agree together prompt actions to support your child in appropriate ways. Every meeting is an opportunity to learn – and to promote outcomes to benefit your child.

If you feel that you might benefit from Parent Partnership support to prepare for a productive meeting at school, do please get in touch with me by phone or email and together we'll consider your concerns. I'm always happy to hear from you.

For a range of school-related information and support, be sure to take a look at the Parent Partnership pages of the EnhanceAble website: www.enhanceable.org.

Kind regards,
Anne Frayda
Parent Partnership Officer
☎ 020 8547 6203
✉ anne.frayda@enhanceable.org

Kite

The Kite Group have been extremely busy over the last few months. Trips to The O2 Arena, Camden Market, Bowling at the Rotunda and cooking and games evenings at the Geneva Road Centre have all been enjoyed by the groups.

The big events though have been the running of the Kite Cafe at the Aiming High Legacy event at Moor Lane and at the Big Chat. The young people not only served their customers but they prepared the food too. Huge congratulations must go out to the young people for all their incredible hard work and efficient and very charming service style!



The new activity rooms and outside play space at Moor Lane

Thanks to funding from Aiming High the building work on the new activity rooms and outside play space at Moor Lane has been completed. There will be an official launch later in the summer. We will keep you posted!



Update from Aiming High!

Caroline Jager, Project Officer for The Moor Lane Children and Young People's Development Service and Aiming High for Disabled Children

Final Report

The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme concluded on 31st March 2011; we have helped over 600 children and young people access short breaks in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames which is a wonderful achievement!

As well as commissioning new specialist groups/activities, by giving the school clusters funding we have helped more children access mainstream activities.

The two specialist Children's Centres - Norbiton and Chessington, have also received Aiming High funding which has helped them become fully accessible to disabled children under 5 years.

We also received some capital funding, which enabled us to refurbish two rooms on the ground floor of the Moor Lane Centre to create group activity rooms, an outside area, accessible toilets and a kitchen area.

Although the Government's Aiming High project has now finished, we do have some funding to continue short breaks this year. To keep the theme, we are calling the new project 'Kingston Aiming High!' Local and national organisations have been asked to complete an Expression of Interest form if they are interested in providing short breaks this year and during the next few months we will be deciding which organisations will receive funding.

The “I count” Register for children with Disabilities.

I Count Children with Disabilities Register – Four Boroughs Go Forward in Partnership

In September 2010 Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust gave notice that it would no longer be able to manage the I Count Children with Disabilities Register and the Lambeth Adults with Learning Disabilities Register.

This service had been provided since 1996 and has been greatly valued by children, parents and carers. It has helped local authorities to plan their services; it is also a legal requirement that local authorities maintain a register of children with disabilities.

Following detailed consideration of future options Sutton, Croydon, Lambeth and Kingston decided that the most economical and effective solution would be to continue to develop their register services together.

In the longer term tenders will be sought from organisations which may be interested in taking on this responsibility. It is hoped that this will be achieved during 2012.

In the meanwhile Sutton Disability Partnership for Children and Young People has agreed to maintain the essential elements of the registers. The register will:

- Enter new children on the register and update other details as notified.
- Provide the I Count Card to newly registered children, and renew everyone's card when the current issue expires.

- Be available for enquiries to authorised professionals.
- Generate mailing lists which can be used by statutory and voluntary organisations.
- Provide 'raw data' which can be used for the planning of services.

Thanks to Sutton for agreeing to lead on this important work.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact your borough's nominated representative:

Carol Nelson

020 8547 6569

Carol.nelson@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Debby Da Silva

020 8547 5265

Debby.dasilva@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

Further details regarding the procedure for new or updated registrations will be circulated shortly.



**Tuesday Special Club
is coming to
The Moor Lane Centre for the Summer Holidays**



Support and Activity group for parents
and carers of pre school children with
disabilities

Every Tuesday 10:30-12:30pm
Makaton Sing and Sign at 11:30am

Come and enjoy the new facilities and have a coffee and catch up with your
friends.



For more information
please contact
Eleanor Reed on
0208 547 6567



The Parent Panel has gone from strength to strength over the last few months. New members have joined the group and there have been two extremely interesting meetings with senior officers from RBK.

The February meeting provided the Panel with the opportunity to meet with Grahame Snelling and Christine Cleveland at which the main topic of conversation was around budgets and future service provision. Grahame also invited a member of the Panel to join the Moor Lane Children and Young People's Development Service Management Board and Sarah Quibell is now attending meetings and will feedback to the rest of the Panel.

The March meeting welcomed Julie Ely, Manager of the Support for Learning Service, with a fascinating discussion around Special Educational Needs provision in Kingston.

The Parent Panel had a stall at EnhanceAble's Big Chat and special thanks must go to Sarah Quibell and Sarah Brooks for coming to man the stall and provide information to parents about the job the Panel does.

If you are interested in joining the panel contact:
Caroline Baxter 020 8547 6201 or caroline.baxter@enhanceable.org

Information requested by parents on resources and services

(This information has been provided by individual contributors and is not endorsed by DCIAS or the Integrated Service for Children with Disabilities, Developmental and Complex Health Needs).



Special Needs Hairdressing in the Community
At Warren Park,
Kingston Hill, KT2 7LX
And
Norbiton Children's Centre, Dickerage Lane
New Malden, KT3 3RZ

I'm Gina and I have 26 years hairdressing experience, plus I have a disabled child so I know how hard it is to take them to a salon and expect them to behave.

Come and have your child's hair cut and make use of the range of facilities at all three sites.

(From only) £ 5.00 per cut

Dates:

12th June & 12th July – 10am – 1pm Warren Park

+

20th June, 12th September & 24th October - 4.15pm – 6.15pm
Norbiton Children's Centre

+

26th May & 23rd June 3.45 – 5.30 – Surbiton Children's Centre

Discover additional dates and other venues by visiting The Kingston Carer's Network: www.kingstoncarers.org.uk

Any queries please call me on 07970-833652 or email me on ginaginaselby@hotmail.com, or Gina@closecuts.co.uk

2010
September: 0th & 20th
October: 4th & 18th
November: 1st, 15th & 29th
December: 13th

2011
January: 10th & 24th
February: 7th
March: 7th & 21st
April: 4th
May: 10th
June: 13th & 27th
July: 11th

INSPIRE
(Inclusive Sport in Recreation & Exercise)

Inspire is open to anybody aged 8 to 80 with a disability and gives you the opportunity to play various sports such as:

Basketball, Boccia, Cricket, Goal Ball plus much more.

Please note sessions run **TERM TIME** only!

For more information about these sessions please contact
The Active Kingston Team on 020 8547 5207
or email Sue Johnson: sue.johnson@rbk.kingston.gov.uk
or visit www.kingston.gov.uk/sports

Day: Mondays (fortnightly)
Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Cost: £3.00 per session
Where: Chessington Sports Centre, Garrison Lane, Chessington KT9 2JB

ASD Parents Support Group: for families with children in mainstream schools in Kingston.

- ✓ For parents and carers of children on the Autistic Spectrum, Aspergers syndrome and/or with social and communication difficulties.
- ✓ Set up by parents for parents to support and shared information.
- ✓ Come and join us for a friendly chat in a relaxed environment.

The group meets the 1st Tuesday of every month @ Surbiton Childrens Centre: 7.30pm-9.30pm

For more information contact Caroline Baxter, EnhanceAble Children's Services on 0208 547 6201.



SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP

The Social Skills Group is a club for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or social and communication difficulties attending mainstream school. The children are all aged between 8 and 12 and there are two groups which run back-to-back on a Tuesday after school, term time only.

The groups are structured to have an average attendance of 7 or 8, meaning that there are a maximum total of 16 places available. It is imperative for the group to be small enough to be workable and to offer good support for young people.

Young people attending the group must meet the following criteria:

- Be aged 8-12
- Be attending mainstream school
- Have ASD with social or communication difficulties
- Not be in need of high level / one-to-one support
- Be a Royal Borough of Kingston resident
- Be committed to attending the group (places will not be allocated where there is not a commitment to attend all sessions).

For more information and to put your child's name on the waiting list for the groups commencing in September 2011, please contact Caroline Baxter, EnhanceAble Children's Services on 0208 547 6201.



***New monthly support group*
starting March 2011**

Registered Charity No. 1039508

For Parents & Carers of Children & Young People with ADHD

Where? Norbiton Children's Centre , at King's Oak Primary School,
Dickerage Lane, New Malden, KT3 3RZ

When? 10.00am to 12.00noon (2nd Friday of each month)
Friday 11th March, 8th April, 13th May, 10th June, 8th July 2011

What? An opportunity for parents/carers to support each other by
sharing experiences, challenges and successes.

Access to information, advice and support on
parenting and carers' issues and signposting to
other services/sources of support if appropriate.

No charge, refreshments provided.

For more information contact either;-

Carol Harvey

T 020 3031 2753 or E carers1@kingstoncarers.org.uk

or Tiffany Chalmers

T 020 8547 6504 E tiffany.chalmers@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

or Ruth Henley

T 020 8547 6286 E ruth.henley@rbk.kingston.gov.uk



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Useful Telephone Numbers & Email addresses

The Moor Lane Centre – main reception		020 8547 6527
Royal Borough of Kingston		020 8547 5757
Kingston Hospital		020 8546 7711
EnhanceAble Children's Service	children@enhanceable.org	020 8547 6200
Team for Disabled Children - Duty Line		020 8547 6523
RBK SEN department		020 8547 4615
Family Information Service	fis@rbk.kingston.gov.uk	020 8547 6582
Portage Service		020 8547 6688
Dysart School	DYS@rbksch.org	020 8412 2600
St Philips School	PHS@rbksch.org	020 8397 2672
Bedelsford School	BDS@rbksch.org	020 8546 9838
Surbiton Children's Centre	SHN@rbksch.org	020 8390 2555
Warren Park		020 8481 0200
Benefits Enquiry Line		0800 882200
Disability Living Allowance Help Line		08457 123456
Carers Allowance Help Line		0845 6084321
Child Tax Credit Help Line		0845 3003900
Kingston MENCAP	gillcwood@blueyonder.co.uk	020 8540 1399
Kingston Centre for Independent Living		020 8546 9603
Kingston Welcare	admin@welcarekingston.org.uk	020 8546 3258
MAPS	info@mapschildren.org.uk	
SWAPS	swapskingston@googlemail.com	
21@Co	tattyloulou@hotmail.com	
Kingston Carers Network	info@kingstoncarers.org.uk	020 3031 2757
Continence Clinic		020 8399 7111 ext 4105
Contact a Family (Wandsworth)	wandsworth@cafamily.org.uk	020 8947 5260
Yorda Adventures	info@yordaadventures.co.uk	07590 622437
ASKK		020 8547 5888

And finally...

We would love to hear from you about any experiences or information that you would like to share with other parents and carers in the next newsletter. The copy date for the Autumn 2011 newsletter is **Friday 7th October 2011**. If you would like to submit an article please contact **Caroline Baxter or Stella Tomkins on 020 8547 6200 or email children@enhanceable.org**