

Support, information, guidance & news about Autism in Lambeth

Spring 2007

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION DISORDER PRE-SCHOOL GROUP



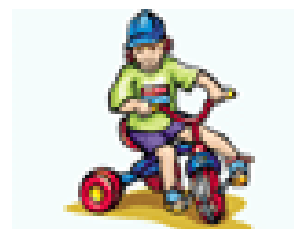
** Does your preschooler have a language delay, unusual speech development, challenging behaviour and/or find social situations difficult?*

** Do you long for a welcoming, accepting and inclusive place where your child can play, while you enjoy a cup of coffee?*

** Would you like to meet other parents who know what you are going through?*

If so, we want to hear from you! We are planning a club for parents and their children (up to the age of 5) living in Lambeth who are awaiting, or have received, a diagnosis from the SCDAT team. We hope to offer regular meetings (2-4 times a month) where there will be:

- A safe, welcoming place for children to play
- A chance for parents and carers to share experiences
- Fun, educational toys and activities
- Access to a sensory room
- Information and advice
- Free refreshments



PLEASE COME TO THE OPEN MEETING ON 21 JUNE (see below) to find out more and/or email isabelle.garnett@gmail.com

Autism-friendly screenings

RITZY

Brixton Oval, SW2 1JG

MEET THE ROBINSONS (2007, U, 100 min)

11am, Wednesday 30 May

Bookings 08707 550 062

GREENWICH PICTUREHOUSE

180 Greenwich High Road, SE10 8NN

SHARK TALE (2004, U, 90 min)

11am, Tuesday 29 May

Bookings 08707 550 065

*Tickets for all screenings are £2 per person
(No concessions or free carers' tickets)*

For more info, contact Alice Warren 020 7326 2611 or alice.w@picturehouses.co.uk

Parents and Carers GENERAL OPEN MEETING

THURSDAY 21 JUNE (10-11.30AM)

Come and meet the LAG committee members and other parents of children and adults with ASDs. Share your views, thoughts, concerns and ideas. Tell us what you'd like to see happening in your area or simply relax with a cup of coffee. It's a great opportunity for parents and carers to meet, and share experiences!

**VENUE: Little Starz Children's Centre, 29
Benton's Lane, off Gipsy Road, London SE27 9UD**

TRAIN: Gipsy Hill, West Norwood

BUS: 3, 196, 468, 322, 68

All welcome!

SECONDARY PROVISION UPDATE

If you have a pre-school or primary-aged child with an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), you may not have thought ahead as far as secondary school yet. You might be surprised to learn there is currently NO autism-specific secondary provision in Lambeth: children are either in mainstream schools, moderate learning difficulty or complex needs schools, or are obliged to travel outside Lambeth for appropriate schooling.

LAG asked Barry Gilhooly (Assistant Director - Inclusion, Lambeth Children and Young People's Service) for an update on Lambeth's plans to develop new provision. He told us they intend to have four 15-place ASD Centres based in secondary schools. Lilian Baylis School in Kennington is having an extension built to incorporate an ASD Centre planned to open by September 2009. Stockwell Park School is being rebuilt, incorporating provision for an ASD Centre planned to open in Sept 2010. The remaining two schools have not yet been identified, but funding is available.

LAG asked Barry Gilhooly for information about how Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Occupational Therapy (OT) would be provided in these new centres. As you may know, Lambeth PCT (health authority) has cut provision of SALT and OT to both special and mainstream schools recently. It is most unlikely that the PCT would consider providing services to 4 new specialist centres. Barry's responded:

'We are still working on a strategy to deal with the PCT cuts. This is likely to involve finding additional funding for schools (or clusters of schools) to recruit their own speech therapists. I am sorry I cannot be more definitive at the moment, but will keep you informed about progress in this area.'

Barry has offered to come along to a meeting to speak to parents and carers about these plans. If you're interested in getting involved in shaping the development of these new centres, we would like to hear from you.

Please send us an email: lambethautismgroup@yahoo.co.uk

NEW LAG WEB FORUM!

We've replaced the yahoo groups mailing list with a new forum for parents and carers of children and adults on the autistic spectrum. It's a much more user-friendly way of getting in touch with others in a similar position to you. It can be found at:

<http://lambethautism.21.forumer.com>

You will need to register if you want to access the General Forum. All this involves is giving your email address and creating a user name and password. Your request will soon be approved by one of the forum moderators, who may reply to confirm you are a parent/carer in Lambeth.

In time, we will set up more sections (based on your suggestions of course), but for now it is fairly basic as it's only just started!



Hope to see you there!



The National
Autistic Society

help! 2 Parent Seminars

Meeting your child's sensory needs

This seminar (aimed at parents/carers of people aged 3-18 years with a diagnosis of autism, Asperger Syndrome or ASD,) offers a chance to explore the effect the world has on autistic people's sensors and uses activities that can help them deal with this.

Date: Friday 1 June, 10.15 am – 2.30 pm

Venue: to be confirmed, but in the London area

*For more information and an application form, please contact: **Maria Watkins: 0117 974 8414***

SCDAT WAITING LIST

As you know, LAG has been increasingly concerned by the long waiting list for the diagnosis with the SCDAT (Social Communication Disorders and Autism team) at the Mary Sheridan Centre for Child Health (MSC) in Lambeth, which peaked at 3 years. In January, four LAG committee members met with Lambeth Primary Care Trust (PCT) CEO Kevin Barton to voice our concerns about the current situation and find out more about what the MSC was doing to address the problem. Kevin Barton assured us that the waiting list has now dropped to 2 years and confirmed that there remain approximately 300 children awaiting diagnosis. A new Paediatrician will be joining the SCDAT team in September. LAG considers that this is small progress in a year since we first raised the issue with them. The situation remains deeply unsatisfactory and certainly does not justify the devastating cuts to the SALT and OT services that have been made. We continue to argue that the PCT should outsource the existing backlog, in order to focus on the increasing number of referrals the borough is seeing, and to restore SALT and OT services. We have asked the PCT to provide us up-to-date data, including how the MSC is performing against their original plan. We are still waiting to hear from them and will keep you posted.

20 June - Brain Gym® workshop

To help improve children's memory and concentration, as well as behaviour

4 July - Autism: a nutritional approach

New research and insights

Both courses: 9.30 - 2.30 pm

Donations: £45 parents, £90 professionals

Light lunch, refreshments and resource materials provided

To book your place, please ring: **020 8544 1100**

worshopshacsg@aol.com

The Hyperactive Children's Support Group

Red, Cross Centre, 28 Worple Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 4EE

www.hacsg.org.uk

THE TRANSPORTERS

Thanks to all those who came to the showing of this animation on 22 March. This DVD, which helps children with autism learn about emotions, was well received by parents and children. Free copies were distributed on the night.

More copies available at the 21 June Open Meeting!



NAS parent to parent line

0800 9 520 520

Freephone open 24 hours

The Parent to Parent Line is a free, confidential telephone support service offered by volunteer parents to other parents of an adult or child with an autistic spectrum disorder.

Call anytime and leave a message and contact number.



RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

The Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital in Denmark Hill are conducting a research project and would like to invite you to take part. They are investigating how the brain works in young people and adults, and specifically want to find out how the brain works in people with certain difficulties (including autism, hyperactivity, attention problems, behaviour problems and obsessive compulsive disorder) and how it relates to their thinking style. We hope this will mean these difficulties are treated more effectively in the future. The research would involve a single magnetic resonance imaging' (MRI) scan and answering some questions. In all, it will involve about two and a half hours of your time. You will be paid for your participation in this project, and your travel expenses will be reimbursed. You can even have a picture to take home! **Please contact Dr**

Clodagh Murphy on tel: 020 7848 0984/0938 or email:

clodagh.murphy@iop.kcl.ac.uk

YOUNG ASD VOLUNTEERS WANTED (19-22 JUNE 2007)

The Maudsley are looking for volunteers to help professionals train in using the ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule). We are looking for children and young people with a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (this includes autism, atypical autism, Asperger's syndrome), specifically children with no language or emerging language and of any age up to 16. We are also looking for high-functioning children from around 8 or 9 years up to 16. This is an enjoyable session during which the child is engaged in play activities and chat. As well as being an enjoyable experience, each child receives a voucher (WH Smith or similar) and a taxi paid both ways for parent and child (if local) or travel expenses refunded if travelling further afield by public transport. **Please contact Jenny Ronayne on tel: 020 3228 2535 or email: jenny.ronayne@slam.nhs.uk**

*We're Going on a
Bear Hunt*



Autism friendly performance:

30 June 2007, 11am

Aimed at typical 3-7 year olds, but many older children with autism will enjoy this production too. The Polka is a lovely, cosy children's theatre in Wimbledon, with a small playground area, a café, a book corner, a colouring table and more... After the performance there will be complimentary refreshments and a chance to chat.

Special rate of £6 per child and carers go free!

Please note: no under-3s will be admitted. Book tickets in advance to avoid disappointment!

Box Office: 020 8543 4888

www.polkatheatre.com