

# the **EDUCATION CENTRE**

## for children with down syndrome

Registered  
Charity

No. 1115300

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 7

Jul 2007

Please visit our website on [www.eccds.org.uk](http://www.eccds.org.uk)

## INTRODUCING NEW NAMES FOR OUR GROUPS

We asked parents to come up with some ideas for new names for our Friday and Saturday Groups and the committee chose Speech and Teach for the Saturday Group and the Early Development Group for the Friday Group. Many thanks to all those who submitted ideas. New term dates will be displayed on our website over the summer.



## SINGING HANDS



We were very pleased to welcome Singing Hands in April. There were sessions for pre school children, school age children and another for parents and professionals. These were all very well attended, many thanks to everyone who came.

Everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Their books and cds can be obtained from their website on [www.singinghands.co.uk](http://www.singinghands.co.uk)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for two of our staff members. Well done to Emma for passing her Duke of Edinburgh Award and to Maggie Hart for being awarded Carer of the Year in Darlington. Well done to you both!!



## A BIG HELLO!



We give a warm welcome to Jo Longstaff (pictured left) and Leanne Coglán (pictured far left) who have joined us on a Friday and Ruth Matthews (pictured right), who has



joined the team on a Saturday. They are all proving to be a big asset to us. We hope they will all be with us for a long time.

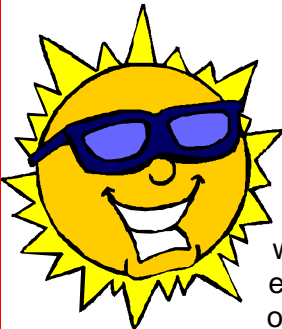
## MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

Fundraising is a vital part of our organisation if we are to continue offering what we see as an essential service to the children. We are currently charging for each session what the committee consider an affordable amount for all families; however this does not cover the true cost of each session. The sessions we run are heavily subsidized, as for every £5.00 paid for sessions; it actually costs the charity £15.00.

Some families already are actively involved in fundraising or make additional donations and we would welcome more participation.

If you can help with fundraising or have any ideas, please email the fundraising team through the website or contact Sue Belton or Val Hutchinson, whom I'm sure will be pleased to advise.

## SUMMER FETE

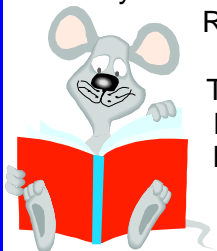


Please come along to our Summer Fete on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2007 at Holy Family Social Club in Prior Street, Darlington from 1.00p.m. to 4.00 p.m. This will be a fun family day out, with lots of stalls selling books, toys and cakes and there will also be lots of side stalls with a raffle, tombola, etc. Come along and enjoy a good afternoon out and meet lots of other families. If anyone has anyone has

donations e.g. cakes, bottles, etc. please contact Sue Belton. If you have not returned you sponsor forms for the balloon race, please bring them along on the day.

## **POPS READING SCHEME**

Marie Dunleavy has a little boy with Down Syndrome aged 10. Her son struggled to learn to read with meaning and she failed to find suitable resources to support him. Driven by frustration she set up a small company with her brother, employed primary school teachers, learning support teachers and a speech therapist and together they designed and produced a reading scheme to support children like her son playing to his strong visual learning skills. The Pops Reading Scheme is based on a family who have a little boy with Down Syndrome and features everyday stories of fun and frolics on Rainbow Farm.

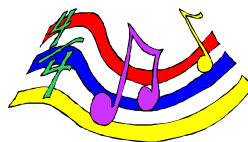


The company is now over 2 years old and the Pops Reading Scheme is being used successfully in hundreds of schools and homes across Scotland and Ireland. This year they plan to launch the company in England and Wales.

Their website is [www.popsresources.co.uk](http://www.popsresources.co.uk) if you would like to see what they offer with reviews and testimonials.

## **SINGING AND SIGNING CLASSES**

There is a new session starting in Darlington every Friday afternoon during term time in the Sensory Room in the Dolphin Centre between 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. Please ring Rachel Joynes on 0870 7652121 for more information.



## **MAKATON COURSES**

The Makaton Foundation 1 and 2 courses, which were held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June were fully booked and were very much enjoyed by everybody. We look forward to be able to put on training for Foundation 3 and 4 in the Autumn term. Many thanks to Caroline Carter and Sue Belton for organising the day.

## **RACHEL COAD SCHOOL OF DANCE**



We would like to say a great big thank you to Rachel Coad and her School of Dance for raising £2112 for our charity from their Annual Show. Rachel wanted to donate to our charity as she has three pupils, who have Down Syndrome and one of these pupils attends our Saturday group. We are very grateful for their kind donation.

## **DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING AND GIFTS**

Our very grateful thanks to everyone who have helped raise money for us:



Taywood Northern Sports and  
Social Club  
G E Walker  
The Barbers Chair  
Michael Buckley  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Barnard Castle Schools  
Shafto Inn  
Mr and Mrs Everitt

The Rotherley Trust  
P J Whelan  
Harrow Gate Helping Hands  
Northern Electric  
Sedgefield School Nurses  
Rotary Club Sedgefield  
Rachel Coad School of Dance

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Sandy King (Chairperson)	01325 465317
Tracy Dunn (Secretary)	01325 351795
Joe Hutchinson (Treasurer)	01325 300688
Maggie Hart (Education Co-Ordinator)	07806 707465
Sue Belton (Parent Representative)	07806 707466
Christine Toas (Parent Representative)	
Val Hutchinson (Fundraiser)	
Caroline Berry (Education Team)	
Sue Harston (Education Team)	

For any enquiries please ring either of the following numbers:  
07806 707465 or 07806 707466