

# contact a family

for families with disabled children

**HELPING FAMILIES IN WANDSWORTH WHO CARE FOR CHILDREN  
FROM BIRTH TO 19 YEARS WITH ANY DISABILITY OR ADDITIONAL NEED**

- ☐ Support groups
- ☐ Information & Advice
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Holiday & social activities for all the family
- ☐ Links with other organisations

MARCH/APRIL 2007



<b>Contents:</b>	2. News from the office	9. Workshops
	3. Sure Start	12. Therapies
	4. Sure Start	12. Information
	5. Events	15. Siblings' views
	7. Theatre trips	17. Useful phone numbers

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**Wandsworth.office@cafamilly.org.uk Charity No: 284912  
Core funded by the London Borough of Wandsworth**

Seagull Print London 020 8944 7366

## News from the office

There are more staff changes to report - Tina, our Surestart family worker in Roehampton, is moving on after two years. We will miss her after all her hard work and wish her well in her new role. We are about to employ a new family worker in the Tooting Integrated Children's Centre so there will be two more people to join our team - the recruitment process is underway and we hope to have the new workers on board by mid April.

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete our questionnaire about the services we offer - we are always looking to ensure we are providing the support you need the most. By popular request, we are organising two theatre trips for parent/carers only - we have limited places for these so we will be drawing names of people who apply out of a hat to decide who will be going. Names will then be stored so that the next evening events are offered to different people.

We are also, of course, offering family outings as well - see inside for details.

In line with our colleagues at other London projects we are introducing an annual membership charge of £5 per family. Each family will be issued with a membership card. This card will entitle the members to receive our newsletter and take advantage of all the subsidised services we offer. The fee will help towards the costs of producing the newsletter. There is a registration form attached to the newsletter which you need to complete and return with a cheque or postal order for £5 payable to Wandsworth Contact a Family. You can bring cash to the office on any Monday in March or April (not Easter Monday). *If you have any difficulty completing the form, please call to make an appointment to come in to the office and we will help you.*

**Please note that any services offered after May will be available only to those who have paid the subscription.**

**Best wishes to everyone, Rosie, Tracy, Cree and Tina**

E-mail: [cree.summers@surestartbattersea.gov.uk](mailto:cree.summers@surestartbattersea.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 7223 1119 Wednesday, Thursday,

020 8947 5260 Friday: 9.00am- 5.00pm

**Battersea Network Group for families with disabled children**

**Thurs March 21st 10.30am-12.00pm** at the Katherine Low Settlement

Come and meet the Educational Psychologist who will be giving a talk

**Thurs April 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am - 12.00pm** Osteopathic Centre - see last newsletter for more details

All members of Contact a Family are welcome to come along for a coffee or tea and to chat with other families.

Battersea Network Group

The network group went to a gourmet restaurant in Clapham Junction, everyone enjoyed the meal, this generated positive discussions, and one of our parents was able to give her experiences within Sure Start and Contact a Family. She had lots of ideas that the new parents were interested in, the parent involvement worker has now recruited four new volunteers and would like to thank the parents for the invitation; she had a lovely time *"the Battersea Network Group are very friendly, enthusiastic and warm, they gave me positive feedback and came up with lots of ideas that I will be using, thank you"* Annabel - parent involvement worker.

Fathers' Worker

There is a father's worker now at Battersea Integrated Children Centre, he is planning lots of outdoor activities, this includes a trip to Godstone Farm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 9.00am - 4.00pm meeting at Katherine Low Settlement. It is an open booking system, so all you have to do is phone to book a place - there is no age limit for children on this trip

Cilroy Fileera

Monday - Friday Mornings only 020 7223 3509



**Sure Start Roehampton Integrated Children's Centre**

Contact a Family worker **Tina Melvin**

E-mail: [wandsworth.office@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:wandsworth.office@cafamily.org.uk)

Tel: **020 8947 5260**

Monday-Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

I am moving on from Contact a Family Sure Start Roehampton at the end of February after just over two years. It's been an interesting and rewarding time for me, especially having been involved in the start-up of such an exciting venture. I have learnt a lot! I have really enjoyed meeting, and getting to know so many wonderful families. I will miss everyone, and I wish you all the best for the future. A new Family Worker should be in place by the end of April 2007 but should you need assistance before then, please contact the project manager, Rosie Noble on **020 8947 5260**

**Tina Melvin**

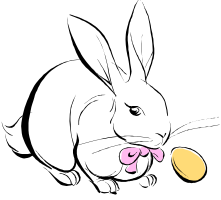
**The Contact a Family National Helpline**

**Freephone 0808 808 3555**

**10.00 – 16.00 Monday to Friday and 5:30 – 7:30 Monday**

- Give you **information on medical conditions and disabilities** affecting children, including very rare disorders. All the information is written by leading experts in the field, specifically for parents and families
- Advise you about help which may be available, including **special educational needs assessments**, getting help to have a **holiday**, your rights to **benefits and tax credits**, and **services** for families with disabled children. We have a wide range of **free fact sheets** on these issues which you can obtain from the helpline.
- Put you in touch with **UK-wide and local support groups**. Many families like to share experiences with others caring for a disabled child and find the support this can bring invaluable. If your child has a rare disorder and there isn't a group we might be able to **link you with another family** on a one-to-one basis.
- Tell you about any other specialist **voluntary organisations** which may be able to help.
- **Listen** - many parents simply wish to 'tell their story'

# Events coming up



## Spring Trip 2007



### Legoland Special Community Day

At the last minute, we have been able to secure cut price tickets for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March for children aged 2-12 years

**Cost: £10 per adult, £8 per child - under 3s £2**

Transport will be provided- the coach will be leaving the Early Years Centre, 1 Siward Road at 9:30am and leave Legoland at 4:00pm.

It is **essential** that parents provide booster seats for any children who require one in accordance with the Department for Transport guidance.

**URGENT- WE NEED YOUR RESPONSES BY WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH. IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL, MONEY WILL NEED TO BE PAID BY WEDS 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

#### BOOKING ARRANGEMENT FOR LEGOLAND

LEGOLAND

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March*

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults  Number of children  Volunteer required

Please fill in this booking request form in the first instance and send to 1 Siward Road, London SW17 0LA, by **Wednesday 7th March - send no money** until you get confirmation of your place, after which payment in full must reach the office, by **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** to secure the places.



## Easter Trip 2007



### **Guildford Spectrum**

Following the success of this venue before, on **Tuesday, 10th April**, we will be taking the coach to Guildford Spectrum. This is a leisure centre just off the A3 and offers a fantastic **leisure pool**, including a diving pool, flumes, wave machine, jacuzzi and learner pool, an **ice rink** and a **bowling alley** as well as Pizza Hut and Burger King all on site.

This trip should appeal to the older members of Contact a Family and places are offered on a first come first served basis. As always, all children must be accompanied by an adult and brothers and sisters are welcome to join in. There will be an opportunity to do two of the three activities. You will need to specify which activities you wish to do.

Prices: **£6 per adult, £4 per child (under 16)**

#### BOOKING ARRANGEMENT FOR GUILDFORD SPECTRUM

**GUILDFORD SPECTRUM**

*Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April*

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults     Number of children     Volunteer required

The Bus will be leaving the Early Years Centre, 1 Siward Road at 9:30am and leaving Spectrum at 4:00pm.

**Please return this form to 1 Siward Road, London SW17 0LA**

**By Monday 19th March 07.**

Buddy- The Buddy Holly Story

THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 7:30PM

New Wimbledon Theatre  
The Broadway  
Wimbledon  
London



The tickets cost £7 each and there is a maximum of 2 tickets per family. There are 24 tickets available and they will be allocated by a random draw.

We Will Rock You

TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 7:30PM

The Dominion Theatre  
Tottenham Court Road  
London  
W1A 0LA



The tickets cost £10 each - there is a maximum of 2 tickets per family. There are 20 tickets available and they will be allocated by a random draw.

Booking request form: WE WILL ROCK YOU

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

2 Parents and Carers only

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Booking request form: BUDDY

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April

2 Parents and Carers only

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note you will have to make your own way to the theatre for each of these trips. Please return this request form to 1 Siward Road, London SW17 0LA by Monday 19th March when the draw will take place.

## Autism friendly screenings

There will be autism friendly screenings during the Easter holiday but at the time of going to print we are not able to find out what will be shown all the venues.

The screenings will be at:  
Clapham Picturehouse,  
76, Venn Street SW4



Ritzy Cinema,  
Brixton Oval SW2 1JG

For details contact Alice Warren nearer the time on  
020 7326 2611 or email her on [alice.w@picturehouses.co.uk](mailto:alice.w@picturehouses.co.uk)  
or call 08707 505 703 to book for these venues.

Odeon Wimbledon,  
The Piazza,  
The Broadway,  
Wimbledon.  
SW19 1QB

Dates:

April 21st "Charlotte's Web"

June 2nd (film to be announced)

July 14th (film to be announced)

These should all be Saturdays at 11am

*For details at this cinema, contact Johanna in our office nearer the time  
on 020 8947 5260 or email her on [wandsworth.office@cafamilly.org.uk](mailto:wandsworth.office@cafamilly.org.uk)*

**Polka Theatre** 240 The Broadway Wimbledon

**Flat Stanley** Stanley Lambchop was just an ordinary boy, with an ordinary family and an ordinary life, until... SPLAT! Suddenly he can get through doors without opening them, fly high in the sky as a kite and send himself around the world with just the aid of a stamp and an envelope. Now Stanley is anything but ordinary, in fact, he's flat!



For a while it's great being special. But when the novelty wears off he finds it can be tough being different. How on earth will Flat Stanley get back to being just Stanley?

**Showing until March 17<sup>th</sup>** To book call the box office **020 8543 4888**

# Groups and workshops



## New Family Network Group for under 8's

- ❖ Do you have a child under 8 with additional needs?
- ❖ Struggling to cope with the issues that this brings?
- ❖ Interested in meeting up with other parents to discuss things in a therapeutic way?

We have a unique opportunity for a small group of parents to meet up regularly for an initial block of 4 weeks (which may be extended). These sessions will be facilitated by Charlotte Lyons who is a psychotherapist working with individuals, families and groups. Charlotte has lots of experience working with families who have children with additional needs & currently also runs a playgroup in Putney (advertised on page ? of the newsletter)

There is very little counselling available for parents, often with services being focused around the child, so this is a real opportunity to get some support for you.

The dates are Fridays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007 from 10.00 am-12.00 on



**Places are very limited & will be offered on a first come first served basis. Please ring on 020 89475260 as soon as possible to book your place on this group.**

# Workshop - Direct Payments

## What are direct payments?

Every local authority must operate a direct payments scheme. **If your child or any member of your family is assessed as needing services**, with only a very few exceptions, you are entitled to direct payments - instead of accepting the services your local authority provide. You can then use these payments to buy in the services you want. In theory, this gives you greater control over when services are delivered and which organisations you approach to provide them. In practice, many families use the direct payments to recruit a personal assistant or other worker to help out. You can then use these payments to buy in the services you want.

## What can you use the direct payments for?

Direct payments must be spent in a way that meets the needs social services agreed they can help you and your family with. This can cover a whole range of services and practical help.

## Penderels Trust

From November 2006 Penderels Trust became responsible for supporting people who are using or wish to use Wandsworth Social Services Direct Payments Scheme. We have invited them to come and talk at a workshop here at the Early Years Centre, 1 Siward Road to talk about their role.

They will bring along information & give a presentation about their service & there will be chance to ask any questions that you may have. There will be a free lunch available for all at the end of the meeting.

The workshop will be on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00am - 12.00 followed by a free lunch

We hope to see lots of you there. Please call before if you want more information about the workshop.

Please call us on 020 8947 5260 to book your place



## Transition workshops.



We have arranged two more meetings in our series of transition workshops on:

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** - senior youth worker from

**Generate** coming to talk about services on offer to young

people with mild to moderate learning disabilities in Wandsworth. **20<sup>th</sup>**

**March** - we have some tutors from **South Thames College** talking about the opportunities for further education courses.

Both meetings run from **7.00pm.-8.30pm.** Refreshments will be available. Please call 020 8947 5260 to confirm your attendance. We need to know how much food to provide!

### **Does your child go to residential school?**

The first meeting for this group of parents was very successful and it was agreed to hold a group here at the Early Years Centre each term for parents and carers to attend. Look out for details of the next meeting in the next newsletter.

### **Contact a Family Network group**

This group is now running on the last Thursday of each month so there will be one on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 - 12.00 noon** with the next one being on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April** (same time). This group is open to all members and offers the chance to meet with other parents and the staff team to discuss any issues that may be worrying you, or to simply come and have a cup of coffee or tea amongst friends.

Please call 020 8947 5260 to confirm your attendance. We need to know how many biscuits to provide!

### **And finally.....**

We will be holding another information stall at St George's hospital Child Development Centre, Lanesborough Wing on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March** from 9.30am - 12.30pm. If you live in the Tooting area (or anywhere else in Wandsworth!) and would like to speak with one of our team, then feel free to drop in for a chat and look at some of our literature and leaflets. Call us if you would like to know more.