

Puzzle Pieces

Our newsletter for all parents and families past and present and for friends, who continue to support our work.

Autumn 2009

Fundraising News

Thanks to all for your hard work and support which helps us to continue to provide the service we offer children and families

Friends of Puzzle have once again been supporting our cause and raising much needed funds for us:

- Our local **fundraising committee** have been doing a fantastic job holding a variety of events. Firstly **Open Gardens at Claydon House** raised **£653.00**. The committee then had a sell out event of **Gardeners Question Time** which raised **£1,219.00**. Finally, they also held a **car boot sale** raising another **£385.00**



- The **staff and parents of Puzzle** recently had the first charity stall at **The Winslow Farmers Market**. All staff and parents baked cakes and biscuits for the event, and we raised **£170.92**. We have asked to have a stall again at this event- watch this space!!!



- Our friends at **Silverstone Golf Club** recently had a charity **Golf match** in aid of Puzzle and have informed us that they raised **£600** (in addition they will be having a Christmas auction / raffle, hoping to boost this figure to over £1,000.)



- Many of our **friends, parents and supporters** all have a collection box that they fill with loose change. These raised over **£100** last year. If anyone would like a collection box, please contact **Mandy Lawer** at Puzzle who will be happy to send one to you.



- The **Puzzle Charity Ball** held last summer at Horwood House raised a tremendous **£36,000** for Puzzle. 190 attended the Ball which featured pre-dinner drinks, canapés, a 4 course dinner and dancing to a live band. Auctioneer **Charlie Ross**, from the BBC TV programme "Flog it" officiated at the live auction which produced almost **£8,000** from 11 lots, a silent auction produced a further **£4,000** and there were gift tree sales of **£2,100**.



Louise Sellers, who works part time at Puzzle organised the ball with a group of friends. Our thanks go to **Louise** and her committee for the most fantastic achievement, and wonderful evening.

How can you help Puzzle?

The charity must fundraise at least 55% of its costs - £165,000 this year.

The need to fundraise is constant and we heavily rely on parents, their friends and relatives and the local community to support us.

So what could you do?

There are so many ways that anyone can help us: e.g. Get sponsored, host a social event, Company Donations to name just a few ways.

Often many companies give to charities especially if their employees have a connection. In the past a company have matched funds one of its employees raised doing sponsored bike ride and gave **£7,000** to Puzzle!!

Can your company help?? Does your company have a charity of the year?

Regular Giving to Puzzle—if you can donate through a standing order on a regular basis, please contact us on 01296 733900.

Training

Spring Term 2010

Training Workshops at Puzzle

All workshops run from 10am. until 12 noon

Open to any parent or professional with an interest in meeting the needs of children with autism/communication needs

Cost: parents: £7, professionals: £12

Please make cheques payable to Puzzle Centre Charitable Trust

Phone: 01296 733900 or email

mandylawer@puzzlepreschool.co.uk

to book your place

Thursday 21st January 2010

Managing Behaviour

Led by Alex Stanyer, Director

This workshop will explore ways to understand and manage your child's behaviours.

Thursday 16th February 2010

Interactive Stories

Led by Diana Hilton-Jones, Speech and Language Therapist, Puzzle and Mary Copsey, former parent, Puzzle

This workshop will teach you ways to make stories more accessible and fun for your child and how to teach language and play skills using stories

Monday 8th March 2010

Occupational Therapy at Puzzle

Led by Sarah Edwards, Paediatric Occupational Therapist.

This workshop will:

- 1. Help you to understand your child's sensory world*
- 2. Help you to develop your child's independence skills*

Puzzle Centre Training

One day or half day workshops for schools and settings Autism and Early Years

Autism and Early Years Training

Puzzle Centre has developed a half or whole day training course(s) that can be delivered at schools, nurseries or other organisations. The course is suitable for early years practitioners, teachers, SENCOs, speech and language therapists, portage workers and parents.

You will learn about:

- How autism affects the development of play, communication and Interaction
- How you can develop attention, communication, play and interaction skills in children with ASDs
- How to create a visually structured and low arousal environment
- How to adapt the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to meet the needs of children with ASDs
- How to include parents

Feedback from previous participants:

Excellent, really enjoyed the course and the video clips were inspirational

The simple and clear way in which autism was explained I found invaluable

To find out more or to book a course for your setting please contact Mandy Lawer or Alex Stanyer on 01296 733900 or email alexstanyer@puzzlepreschool.co.uk

Training continued

We are now in the early stages of planning our second national conference to be held in 2010. Please see the initial flier on the right detailing more information.

Wish List

Here at Puzzle there are many items that we would love to have if possible.

If anybody has any of these that they would consider donating to Puzzle, please let us know:

- Outside Display Notice Board
- Adjustable office desk chair
- Digital Camera
- Small toy parachute
- Material- different textures
- Beanbags
- Velcro
- Clear see through Storage Boxes— with lids—any size
- Any stationery—e.g. biros with on off facility not lids, A4 ring binders, envelopes
- Child sofa
- Summerhouse

Many Thanks

Autism in the Early Years

What is good practice?

A one day conference to discuss best practice in early intervention and education for young children with autism.

Friday 2nd July 2010

Horwood House, Nr Milton Keynes
Mursley Road, Little Horwood, Bucks, MK17 0PH

Speakers Include:

Prof. Tony Charman
Dr. Karen Guldberg
Gina Davies
Chair: John Bercow MP

For further details contact the Puzzle Centre
01296 733900

or
mandylawer@puzzlepreschool.co.uk
www.puzzlecentre.org



Forthcoming Fundraising Events

Wednesday 3rd March 2010



Winslow Public Hall

2.00 pm



An afternoon of Bridge with Tea
Tickets £11.00 per person

For more information, or to purchase tickets please contact
Liz Mostyn on
01296 670419

Date for your diary

A Musical Concert
Saturday May 22nd 2010



The popular pianist
Haruko Seki
will be performing in aid of Puzzle in
Buckingham

More details to follow.

Autism News



- **Autism Education Trust News**

The Autism Education Trust (AET) was launched in November 2007 with funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It is dedicated to co-ordinating and improving education support for all children on the autism spectrum in England.

The AET aims to create a platform for voluntary, independent and statutory providers to plan and develop appropriate autism education provision across all education settings, including early years.

Alex Stanyer, Puzzle's Director, sits on their Advisory Council and has been presenting workshops at their recent conference in Leeds as well as several road shows across the country. The conference and road shows have focused on the theme of transitions at all stages of a child's life. Alex's workshop discussed the issues that arise in managing change and transitions in the early years.

For more information about the AET go to their website at www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk

- **National Autistic Society**

The National Autistic Society now has an Aylesbury Vale branch. Rachael Judd is the Branch Officer, Toni Gunnell the Branch Secretary. They can be contacted via email on AylesburyVale@nas.org.uk



- **Talk About Autism is now open**

An online autism community is now up and running. The community is hosted by Treehouse, a national charity for autism education. This online community facility allows you to discuss news items, talk about your own experiences with other parents/carers and post questions for discussion.

To find this online community please go to www.talkaboutautism.org.uk

Staff News



Many of you will have had your children supported here at Puzzle by Judy Robbins and Janet Poulton. Both these ladies retired from Puzzle in the summer term, and I am sure that you join us in wishing them both a happy retirement. Both have said they were very sad to leave, and have offered to be emergency cover when Puzzle needs additional staff. In fact Janet has already been back helping out!

Several staff has received additional training in this Autumn Term:



Mandy has attended a 2 day Paediatric First Aid course, ensuring that we have the appropriate number of qualified First Aiders here at Puzzle.

Alex, Stephanie, Sarah and Ella have all been on a Safeguarding Children Course. All the Learning Assistants here at Puzzle will be doing this one day training though Bucks County Council.



Ella, Sally and Annette have also now attended a 2-day workshop consisting of 13 hours of training on the background, rationale hands-on implementation of PECS.

We sadly said goodbye to Shirley Worth (nee Wicks) our Nursery Co-ordinator in October. Shirley has been a real asset to Puzzle in the two years that she was with Puzzle and will be sorely missed. We are pleased to tell you that Sarah Carus-Moore and Ella Millerchip are now doing a job share for this key role in the Nursery.

We also have welcomed 5 new Learning Assistants here at Puzzle in the Autumn Term. They are Annette Hooper, Jo Taylor, Helen Chapman, Marie-Laure Crisp and Jennifer Carlaw. These ladies come with a wealth of experience and have settled in well as part of the team.

Summer Puzzle Picnic—Waddesdon Manor

Sunday September 6th 2009 was the Summer annual picnic at Waddesdon Manor. Everybody who managed to attend had a wonderful day, and the weather was kind.

Our thanks go to Chris Campbell, who arranged for us to have free entry to the grounds at Waddesdon that day. We will ensure we organise another annual reunion event back at Waddesdon in the summer of 2010. We hope to see you all there.