



On the S.P.O.T!

The newsletter from the **S**peech, **P**hysio and **O**ccupational **T**herapies team



Who are we?

| Speech and Language Therapy | Physiotherapy | Occupational Therapy |
|--|--|--|
| We can help children who have difficulties with communication and those with feeding and/or swallowing difficulties. | We can help to develop and restore movement and function when a person is affected by disability or illness. | We work with children who have a physical disability which affects their participation in everyday activities. |

Autumn 2014

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Hello again!

We hope you've all had a lovely summer break and have been enjoying the lovely sunny weather. This term our newsletter focuses on games to play indoors with your child as the cooler weather draws in. You may also have heard about the changes to the way that children with Special Education Needs are assessed so we have also included some brief information about the new SEND Reforms that come into effect in September.



Top tips for using an empty box

Don't throw away empty boxes. You can use them to have fun and help your child learn at the same time.



- Make a post box and post everyday items into it to help your child learn the names of them.
- Use boxes to sort toys into categories e.g. put all the animals in one box and all the clothes in another.
- Place objects in the box that vary in shape and cover with dried pasta. Get your child to locate and identify the items using feel only.
- Gather some bigger boxes together and use them to teach concepts by climbing 'in' or 'under' the boxes.
- Help develop play skills by pretending the box is a boat and your child is a pirate!
- Work on physical skills by folding, pushing or pulling boxes to make a den!

Contact us

FASTA line - To make a new referral:
0121 612 2010

The Lyng Centre
0121 612 2345

Other useful numbers:

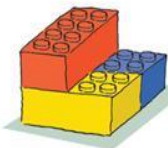
Sandwell Parent Partnership & Parent Voice
0121 552 0047

Sandwell wheelchairs (assessments)
0121 565 7950

Woodisses (wheelchair repairs)
01902 494336

Sandwell orthotics (footwear, AFO's, etc.)
0121 507 2784

What's happening in schools?



Some schools are successfully using LEGO® therapy as an alternative way to help develop social skills. Based on play therapy, using LEGO® children learn to communicate with others, express feelings, modify behaviour, develop problem-solving skills, and develop fine motor skills. If you want to learn more about this approach, please speak to your school therapist.

Elklan 5-11 training for professionals. Places available for course starting 25.09.14 - book via lynne.cotterill@nhs.net

Our recent achievements

- ◆ Two of our Speech and Language therapists have been shortlisted for the Sandwell and West Birmingham Staff Awards! [Justin Drew](#) for his work developing the Symbols2Write App and [Denise Charnock](#) for TaSSeLs. Good luck!
- ◆ Two new therapists have been appointed to work within the Multi-Agency Assessment pathway for children with a potential diagnosis of Autism.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reform 2014.

Children and Families Act 2014 – This includes clauses on special education needs (SEN) which aim to reform the SEN system. These changes, known as the SEN and Disabilities Reform, are to be implemented from September 2014. The main aims of the Act are:



- To consider the views, wishes and feelings of the child, young person and their parents/carers and to involve them as fully as possible in decision making
- To provide a collaboration between education, health and social care
- Local authority, health and care service to commission services jointly for SEN & disability
- Local authorities to publish their Local Offer. The provision across Sandwell education, health and social care will be published via a website (details to follow)
- To support the child/young persons development to help them achieve the best possible educational outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood
- Assessment and planning via **Education, health and social care plans**. These replace statements of Special Educational Needs from September 2014. They are:
 - For children with complex needs
 - Person centred plans developed with children, young people and their families
 - Outcome focussed and cover four broad areas - Communication and Interaction; Cognition and Learning; Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties; Sensory and/or Physical disability

To access more information about the SEND reforms visit <http://elearning.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/> or alternatively to view Sandwell Councils local offer visit: www.sandwell.gov.uk/send

Dates for your diary

Coneygre Centre
0845 352 8789:

- Twinkly Tuesdays - play and stay 10.00 - 11.30
- Sensory Tots - Weds mornings for children with visual / hearing difficulties
- Physical Fridays - for children with physical disabilities 9.45 - 11.45

What's coming up in the spring issue....

- ◆ Advice for very young children - baby walkers and 'tummy time'
- ◆ Things to do with an inset puzzle
- ◆ More about the Symbols2write App

Appointments missed

You can help us to reduce wasted costs by letting us know when you cannot attend.

| DATE | APPOINTMENTS WASTED | COSTS |
|------------|---------------------|---------|
| April 2014 | 95 | £10,014 |
| May 2014 | 74 | £7830 |
| June 2014 | 87 | £8916 |



