



Wakefield & District Down's Syndrome Support Group Newsletter: February 2010

Saturday Club

The next Saturday Club will be on **Saturday 6 March** at Sunbeams Children's Centre, Lupset from 10-12 as usual. Come along for a cuppa and a chat!



Bowling trip!



We have been funded for another bowling trip for our families. We are going to Bowlplex at the Xscape complex in Castleford on Saturday March 13th, arriving at 10.45 for bowling at 11.

Contact Alicia Tulley on a.tulley@sky.com or 07805 792021 if you would like to come along and join us!

Sports Club dates

The next date for our Sports Club is March 27th. It runs from 10-11 a.m. for children between 5 and 16 years old, and their siblings.

The club is held monthly at Minsthorpe Community College Gymnasium from 10-11am, and covers a range of sporting activities.

Contact Alicia Tulley on a.tulley@sky.com or 07805 792021 for more information, or just come along!

Down's Syndrome Awareness Week March 15th – 21st

Down's Syndrome Awareness Week starts on March 15th – building up to World Down's Syndrome Day on March 21st. We reckon you have to be pretty cool to have a day named in your honour!

Beautiful Octopus Club

This night out is run by and for adults with learning disabilities – this time it's a 1980s disco theme. Entertainment will include DJs, live music, open mic and interactive dance sessions.



The next event is on Tuesday March 30th from 7-11p.m. at Leeds University Union and is for over-18s only (as alcohol is on sale). Tickets cost £6 each. Tickets are limited and can be booked in advance at West Yorkshire Playhouse Box Office on 0113 213 7700 or on the door at the Union.

Celebration Corner!!

James Tulley has settled in brilliantly at high school and has now been selected to be Form Captain! A boy and girl are elected by votes from pupils in each form and we understand that James won the boys' vote by some distance. Congratulations James, this is a great achievement – nice one!!



Happy birthday to Natasha Sharp and Samuel Thackray, who both have birthdays coming up in March – hope you both have a lovely day!!



If you have any news to share, contact Andrea on 07814 367594 or andrea@bignews.co.uk
See our website: www.wdco.org/site/Wakefield-District-Downs-Syndrome-Support-Group

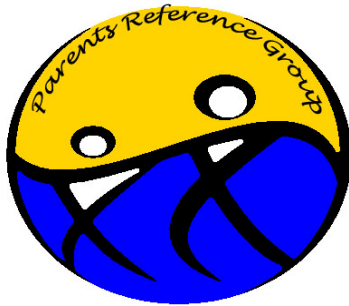


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Parents Reference Group

The Parents Reference Group meets every six weeks to steer the way parents are involved in service monitoring and development and to discuss the issues that are important as a parent/carer of a disabled child/young person in the Wakefield District.

New members are needed, so if you can, join the group and share your thoughts and ideas – your experiences are really important.



The next four meetings are being held at varying locations around Wakefield to make the meetings more accessible. Professionals from Social Work, Nursing, Therapy and Child Mental Health have been invited to give a short overview of services in relation to disabled children.

The meetings are 10am – 12pm on Thursdays and lunch will be provided at 12. The venues are:

- March 25th: St Mary's Community Ctr, The Circle, Chequerfields, WF8 2AY;
- May 20th: Havercroft + Ryhill Sports and Youth Centre, off Mulberry Ave, Havercroft WF4 2BD;
- July 22nd: Belle Vue Community Centre, Montague St, Wakefield WF1 5AU
- September 23rd: St George's Community Ctr, Broadway, Lupset WF2 8AA.

If you need support with childcare or transport to any of the meetings, please contact 07776163508 or 07881637534 or 0776901713 to discuss your needs.

If you have any news to share, contact Andrea on 07814 367594 or andrea@bignews.co.uk

See our website: www.wdco.org/site/Wakefield-District-Downs-Syndrome-Support-Group

Benefits advice

Contact-a-Family have set up a new web site called Cash Counts, for benefits advice and money tips for families with disabled children: www.cafamily.org.uk/cashcounts

The DSA also has a benefits advice service (Tel: 0845 230 0372) and all of the DSA's benefits publications may be downloaded free of charge at www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/resources/publications/benefits.html



Resources

We've found a great web site with free visual aid picture resources, which will be really useful for children of all ages.

These excellent visual aids were created by an Australian family whose son has Down's Syndrome, in consultation with teachers and speech therapists. They have kindly made them available for everyone – and are well worth a look!

www.visualaidforlearning.com

Facebook update

Our facebook page is going strong, we now have 26 members and it's proving to be a great way for our families to keep in touch, to ask advice or to post information about things that we have found that have helped us. The group is only open to our families and those connected directly with us.

Recent topics that we've been discussing range from Saturday club equipment, our next bowling trip, internet clips of the Special Olympics, to hairbrushes and everything in between! Log on or miss out!