

Let's Play Project Newsletter – September 2013



To find out about information, services & advice for families of disabled children, SEN & additional needs please go to:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/disabilityinformation

The next Wheels for All Junior Session is taking place on Sunday 6th October 2013 12.30-2.30pm at Witney Artificial Turf Pitch.

The session has a variety of bikes and a brand new bike called the Velo-Plus Wheelchair Transporter which is ideally suited to those with more severe and profound disabilities and wheelchair users who would prefer to remain seated in their wheelchairs whilst riding.

A website devoted to helping parents support children with behavioural difficulties <http://behaviouradvice.org>

Personal Budget

The option of Personal Budgets for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) is one of the key elements of the Children and Families Bill that is due to become law in September 2014. In order to effectively design and implement personal budgets for children and young people with SEN in Oxfordshire, InControl an organisation that supported the introduction of personal budgets for adults and is working closely with many other local authorities around these new changes) will be running a workshop aimed at helping us to develop our approach. The workshop is planned for Thursday 24th October, from 9am to 1pm (precise timings are still to be defined).

The plan for the event is to be an even mix of parents, carers and professionals from education, health and care services. If you would like to attend, then please email me your name, and contact details (phone number and/or email).

Melissa Sheard - Organiser HIPPOS Support Group. melissasheard17@gmail.com

Creative Dance classes for Special Needs on Thursday evenings from 6.30 to 7.30 pm at the Ark T centre.

Up and Down class is for people with learning difficulties from 9 to 99 years old (wheel-chair users welcome). During this class, the focus is mainly on exploring and maintaining physical skills throughout movement plays using images, Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and symbols helping alleviate a lot of frustration to communicate. Participants are also encouraged to develop their creativity by using props, creating group postures facilitated by daily life movements and gestures and being inspired by the music

Miss Mamé Yansane - YOUR MOVE

Freelance - Community Dance Facilitator 07586 03544 m.yansane@hotmail.fr

Accessible Childcare Information Officer at Oxfordshire Family Information Service - supporting families who have children with additional needs.

Hello I'm Joanna Robinson and I am the Accessible Childcare Information Officer, based at Oxfordshire Family Information Service (OxonFIS). OxonFIS are a universal service providing free information and support to all families in Oxfordshire with children and young people aged from birth to twenty. We can help parents to find childcare, such as finding a child-minder or nursery as well as answering queries on applying for a school place, information on parenting classes and signposting families to the right services. We also do outreach work, visiting children's centres, toddler groups as well as attending events across the county.

In my role, I work specifically with families who have children with disabilities or additional needs who are in a mainstream education setting. I can provide information and support on a variety of topics, such as finding childcare, play and leisure activities as well as accessing any funding that may be available. This can happen in the form of a brokerage service whereby I will contact providers directly on behalf of parents, explaining the families' requirements and, where possible, shortlist any suitable provision to give to parents. If appropriate, I can meet with families in Oxfordshire, usually at their local children's centre.

Families can get in touch by phoning our helpline on 08452 26 26 36. We are open from 9.00am till 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and from 9.00am till 4.00pm on Fridays.

Alternatively, you can e-mail the service on fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk

They can also create an 'About Me' record for their child. The record is for parents and carers to share important information about their child.

Once registered families can quickly create and update their child's personal record which they can share with organisations, services and providers. The record allows families to present a range of relevant and up to date details that can be used to match their child's individual needs with the skills and facilities a provider can offer as well sharing information with appropriate professionals.

Joanna Robinson

Dimensions

Dimensions have been successful in obtaining Skills for Care funding to run a series of workshops for parent carers or disabled adult service user employers and their personal assistants. This is a pilot which is being run in Oxon and Calderdale to see how to support people who want to use their personal budgets/direct payments to employ personal assistants and what can be done to support employers using direct payments in this way to make sure they get the right staff and achieve the best outcomes for the cared for child or adult. They are keen to recruit up to 15 participants for this pilot in Oxon. Dimensions will be working in close collaboration in Oxfordshire with Oxfordshire Family Support Network and the Oxfordshire Wheel.

Contact: Gail.Hanrahan@dimensions-uk.org

Mencap's Employability and Personal Development Traineeship

This is a real opportunity for any motivated young person who is LDD or NEET to engage in an intensive programme of training and work experience, to help them make the transition to personal independence and employment. Brochures and leaflets attached, providing further details and information.

Mike Foster

07903 643577 or mike.foster@mencap.org.uk