



# OAASIS NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2009

Office for Advice, Assistance, Support and Information on Special needs.  
The Croft, Southlands School, Vicar's Hill, Boldre, Lymington SO41 5QB  
Helpline: 0800 902 0732 Web: [www.oaasis.co.uk](http://www.oaasis.co.uk) Email: [oaasis@cambianguroup.com](mailto:oaasis@cambianguroup.com)

### OAASIS NEWS

OAASIS is still receiving an ever growing number of enquiries on all SEN issues mainly from parents but also increasingly from schools and support workers.

To provide a better service to you we now have a new free helpline number **0800 902 0732** (this may not apply on your mobile phones, please check).

To help improve our response time to dealing with enquiries our two Admin Assistants have increased their hours.

Watch this space as in the next few months we hope to have in place a full time Autism Support Assistant to specifically deal with more complex autistic spectrum disorder enquiries and offer training and parent workshops.

*Andrea Wooldridge, OAASIS coordinator  
Lucinda Dowson & Jayne Halligan, OAASIS Admin Assistants*

### Cambian Education news

Cambian Education, which supports OAASIS, is also continuing to improve its service to help parents and carers of children and young people with a diagnosis on the autistic spectrum, who have Statements of SEN and need a placement in one of their special schools. They now have two Parent Liaison Officers who can help and support you through the process from discussing with you, day or evening, the provision and suitability for your child, arranging visits, through to advice on the process of getting the school named in the Statement.

More adult provision is being opened in the form of fully supported satellite houses, linked to existing autism provision, for people with severe autism aged 16-25.

The support team will also be increased over the next few months to offer more advice and guidance to professionals.

*There is one remaining free parent workshop this year on practical strategies for autism - 13 November in London, book now.*  
[www.cambianeducation.com](http://www.cambianeducation.com) Tel: 0800 288 9779

### Children with SEN and Disabilities

In the autumn term of 2008 Ed Balls sent a letter to all Head teachers stating that narrowing the outcome gaps between children with SEN and disabilities was a top priority.

The Secretary of State admitted in a progress report that too many children with SEN and disabilities do not fulfil their true potential. Last year 12% of SEN children gained five GCSEs at A\* - C including English and Maths compared to 57% of children without SEN.

In January 2009 Sarah McCarthy-Fry, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners sent another letter to all Head Teachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies. Main points - they are committing an additional £31million over the next two years to demonstrate best practice to improving outcomes for children with SEN; children with SEN and disabilities continue to be disproportionately excluded, nine times more, and except in exceptional circumstances Statemented children and those on school action or school action plus should not be permanently excluded; Mencap, The National Autistic Society and the Children's Commissioner report that these children are more likely to be bullied than their peers; some schools are still struggling with their responsibilities under disability discrimination legislation.

If anyone wants a copy of this letter, which contains links to appropriate websites, please contact us.

Douglas Silas Solicitors succeeded in an important urgent SEN Judicial Review case in the High Court in May which is going to have an implication for all children with statements of SEN around the country.

If this is of interest to you, the case is reported as: R (M) v East Sussex County Council and, in essence, states that: "The failure by a local education authority to amend a child's statement of special educational needs during the year of the child's transfer between phases of schooling, and to name and specify the type of school, was a breach of its obligations under s 324 of the 1996 Act and reg 19 of the 2001 regulations."

To find out more please click on: <http://www.specialeducationalneeds.co.uk/LatestNews/May2009.html>

### Special Educational Needs exhibitions/conferences for your diary

Autism Today: London, 6 & 7 July 09.

A conference by and for medical and educational professionals covering causes and diagnosis, associated issues, management, strategies and success in education with speakers and workshops and small exhibition. <http://www.mahealthcareevents.co.uk/> Tel: 020 7501 6762

Special Needs London 16 -17 Oct 09

The FREE SEN teaching resources exhibition, provides the opportunity to view the latest product and service developments from over 150 SEN suppliers. A programme of CPD seminar sessions covering all areas of the curriculum. Useful for parents too.

Web: [www.teachingexhibitions.co.uk](http://www.teachingexhibitions.co.uk) Organiser: TSL Education Tel: 0870 112 9099



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**Autism: Beating the Odds – Tools for parents that yield tangible results.** The Autism Treatment Centre of America will be holding free public lectures on autism throughout the UK in October. The free training will be geared towards families and parents who care for a child or adult with autism, Asperger's and other developmental difficulties. They will offer specific strategies that can be implemented immediately at home. **Web:** [www.autismtreatmentcenter.org](http://www.autismtreatmentcenter.org)

**Autscape 2009 – Effective Living.** A three day conference and retreat, organised by and for autistic people of any age and their supporters/friends. There are workshops, leisure activities, social opportunities and everything is oriented to the needs and preferences of autistic people. This year it is in West Wickham in Kent. Registration is now open. **Web:** [www.autscape.org](http://www.autscape.org)

**How to Calm a Challenging Child.** A book from The New Learning Centre for parents who need concise and easily accessible information to help them deal with everyday challenges. The approach is positive, gentle and consistent as well as being respectful of parents' experience and culture. **Web:** [www.tnlc.info](http://www.tnlc.info)

**Feel Good Friends.** Fun, educational products to help children Feel Good about themselves and their world. There is a board game, cards, relaxation CD, posters and a book for kids to record details of their life, focusing on what they are good at and why they are special. **Web:** [www.feelgoodfriends.com](http://www.feelgoodfriends.com)

**My Wondercube.** Designed by two parents this is a box with textile squares that children can pull out one by one like wet wipes, or like a magician pulling scarves out of a hat. Suitable from birth and suits the educational needs of individual children, includes numbers, alphabet, shapes. **Web:** [www.mywondercube.com](http://www.mywondercube.com)

**Mr Clown's Fun Zone.** A new separate sensory suite housing a reception area, sensory suite and darkroom both equipped with the most up to date equipment and a comfortable area for carers and parents. Separate changing facilities too. Available for group hire. In Hadfield, Derbyshire. **Web:** [www.mrclownsfunzone.com](http://www.mrclownsfunzone.com)

**Make Them Go Away.** A new DVD that addresses the controversial issue of SEN and bullying. This DVD is for screening in assemblies and classrooms. It aims to bring home to young people the message that it is unacceptable to bully fellow pupils who have SEN and disabilities. Additional sections will be added shortly to build on the characters. Supported by the DCSF. **Web:** [www.takeoneproduction.co.uk](http://www.takeoneproduction.co.uk)

**Autism Inclusion Development Programmes.** This new resource has been developed by the Government, led by the University of Birmingham and the National Autistic Society. The AIDP is a series of modules available online and on DVD to help education staff understand and work better with autistic children. Easily accessible and interactive, links to other resources., viewpoints from autistic people, parents and professionals. **Web:** <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/165037>

**SEN Worksheets.** For the sum of only £50 per year parents or schools can purchase an annual subscription and have access to over 4000 worksheets, with more being added every month. These worksheets are designed to support pupils of any age or ability. The worksheets support differentiated learning and can be used at home or in school. Over 250 free worksheets are available to download and print so that teachers can try some of the worksheets before subscribing to the website. **Web:** [www.senworksheets.co.uk](http://www.senworksheets.co.uk)

**Hands on Dyspraxia.** A practical working guide for parents, teachers and professionals offering an understanding of dyspraxia, its underlying causes, strategies and practical advice. Written by Jill Christmas an Occupational Therapist and Principal of her own clinic which offers assessments and treatments for a range of conditions. **Web:** [www.speechmark.net](http://www.speechmark.net)

**Eggberts Adventure's.** This series has taken Oxford author, Paul Gustafson, five years to develop. Written in consultation with parents, teachers and the children themselves, it aims to widen children's vocabulary and hone their reading ability whilst providing great enjoyment, entertainment and education. Suitable for children with autism and special needs aged 2-7. **Web:** [www.eggbertsadventures.com](http://www.eggbertsadventures.com)

**Spiritatplay.** Helping develop life skills through interaction with horses. Ideal for children and adults with very special needs. Equine Assisted Therapy and Learning involves activities with horses and clients using non verbal communication, assertiveness, creative thinking, problem solving, leadership, taking responsibility, teamwork, confidence and attitude. £35 per session 1:1 lasting one to two hours depending on client; groups of three or more £40 for the day. Markfield, Leicester. Tel: 01162 775220/07904 053899 Email: [spiritatliberty@aol.com](mailto:spiritatliberty@aol.com)

**Cambian Education Services – the largest provider of education and care for autistic spectrum disorders.**  
Website: [www.cambianeducation.com](http://www.cambianeducation.com) Telephone: 0800 288 9779

<i>The Forum School</i>	Dorset, 7-19 years, 38 and 52 week	<i>autism (ASP/HFA unit)</i>
<i>Purbeck View School</i>	Dorset, 9-19 years, 38 and 52 week	<i>autism</i>
<i>Hill House School</i>	Hampshire, 11-16 years, 52 week	<i>autism</i>
<i>with Oakhurst Lodge and The Squirrels</i>	Hampshire, 16-25 years, 52 week	<i>autism</i>
<i>Grateley House School</i>	Hampshire, 9-19 years, 38 week and some day	<i>Asperger Syndrome</i>
<i>with Stratford Lodge</i>	Wiltshire, 16-19 years, 38 week and some day	<i>Asperger Syndrome</i>
<i>Southlands School</i>	Hampshire, boys 7-16 years, 38 week and some day	<i>Asperger Syndrome</i>
<i>The Wing Centre</i>	Dorset, young men 16-19 years, 38 week and some day	<i>Asperger Syndrome</i>
<i>Broughton House &amp; College</i>	Lincolnshire, young people 16-30 years, 52 week	<i>autism and/or SLD with complex needs</i>
<i>with Elston House</i>		

