

OAASIS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010



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 Email: oaasis@cambianguroup.com

OAASIS Helpline news

Please remember we have a free 24 hour manned answer phone service **0800 902 0732**.
You just have to leave a short message and then we call you back as soon as we can between Monday – Friday 10am – 4.30 pm.
The Wednesday evening helpline which we started has not proved to be successful and so will be withdrawn, the last one will be on the 21st July.
Don't forget that you can also email us your query/problems and we will get back to you usually within 24 hours.
oaasis@cambianguroup.com

Andrea Wooldridge, OAASIS Manager
Gill Ansell, OAASIS ASD Advisor
Lucinda Dowson & Jayne Halligan, OAASIS Admin Assistants

OAASIS presentations to parent support groups/schools

This new service was started earlier this year and has been well received by the groups that we have visited so far. They are offered to parent support groups, teachers/TAs, care staff and take place at your own venue within an hour and a half maximum travelling distance of Lymington, Hampshire.
Gill Ansell our ASD Advisor offers a presentation, which she can adapt depending on your needs,
'Practical Strategies for school aged children with Asperger Syndrome'
OAASIS is also happy to attend parent support group meetings and smaller open days/information days etc with our stand of information and resources and to speak to the visitors.
To discuss this please call our admin number 01590 646852 or email gill.ansell@cambianguroup.com

Cambian Group free parent workshops 2010

The second sets of parent workshops for 2010 have now been finalised. Each day will have talks from experienced staff on different aspects of support strategies; the Asperger day will also have A Parent's Journey.

Strategies to support young people with autism:
Tuesday 5th October – Birmingham

Strategies to support young people with Asperger Syndrome:
Wednesday 6th October – London

Details at: www.cambianguroup.com Tel: 0800 288 9779

Holidays and days out

The summer holidays are fast approaching and this can be a difficult time for parents who try to find various ways to occupy their children with special needs.

Your local authority Family Information Service should have details of summer activities that may be suitable; this is the national website: www.familyinformationservices.org.uk

OAASIS has a list of Holidays/Short breaks that are special needs/autism friendly for children and adults, both in the UK and abroad. Please call us or email us for a copy.

Try 'googling' the words 'special needs summer activities' and a host of activities will appear, narrow it by putting your town or county in the search words.

For families with children on the autistic spectrum there is an Airport Awareness booklet produced by Manchester Airport. It's interactive with lots of pictures and tick boxes, worry pages and fun pages for parents to use with their child www.manchesterairport.co.uk (click on Airport Information and then Accessibility under Airport Facilities). May be good to make your own version with the name of the airport that you will be using.

Special Needs Kids has information on fun and leisure, holidays and respite care: <http://special-needs-kids.co.uk/index.htm>

Contact a Family has information at this link: <http://www.cafamily.org.uk/holidays.html>

The National Autistic Society has information on holidays, days out, preparations and travel insurance: <http://www.autism.org.uk/en-gb/living-with-autism/out-and-about/holidays-and-days-out.aspx>

Autescape takes place every year and is a conference/retreat specifically by and for autistic people. Non autistic people and carers are welcome but the environment and content are centred around the needs, interests and sensitivities of people with autism.

Takes place this year near Bath from 10th – 13th August. www.autescape.org



Home Access is a government drive that helps low-income families who currently lack access to a computer and/or internet and/or software to get online at home to support learning. Due to the success of the programme families of children with severe disabilities or Special Educational Needs may be eligible for a tailor-made Home Access package based on a simple evaluation of their needs. Find details at www.homeaccess.org.uk

PDA A father of a young boy diagnosed with PDA has set up an excellent youtube resource to enable parents and children themselves to watch and listen to explanations of what PDA is, common features, does my child have it, education and handling. <http://www.youtube.com/user/bluemillicent>

AuKids magazine A quarterly positive parenting magazine aimed at families with young children on the autism spectrum. It is produced by a parent and journalist Debby Elley and a speech and language therapist Tori Houghton. Can be delivered to your door for £10 or downloaded for £8 per year. You can submit news, recommendations, reviews or your child could be in the Celebrity Spotlight feature. www.aukids.co.uk

The Horse Boy Rupert Isaacson wrote a book and then made a movie about his son Rowan who has autism. After struggling to understand his world, behaviours and lack of communication he and his wife undertook a journey to the Shamens and Bushmen of Southern Africa after Rowan communicated and became calm for the first time when on a horse. The story starts with memories of when he was little and takes you through the family's amazing journey. Available now to purchase in the UK. from <http://gilliannaysmith.com>

POPS Resources Exclusively designed for children who are struggling to read, reluctant readers, children with autistic spectrum disorders, Downs syndrome and those with a speech and language impairment. Each book has a unique script designed by speech therapists to support language development, to help comprehend the meaning and to promote conversation. The books have structure and routine and games are used to reinforce learning. www.popsresources.com

Changing Places This is a campaign for more Changing Places toilets with enough space and the right equipment, including a height adjustable changing bench. Children and people with PMLD, autism and other disabilities cannot be toiletted properly in 'normal' toilets. Website has a map of where these toilets currently are situated. www.changing-places.org

Speech Therapy Cerebra have a scheme where you can apply for a voucher worth up to £500 for private speech and language therapy. The child must be aged between 1 and 16 years and have a neurological brain related condition. They must have a Statement of SEN or be on School Action+ in England and Wales, a Co-ordinated Support Plan in Scotland or Stage 4 or 5 In N Ireland. They must not have received speech therapy in the last 6 months and a professional reference is also required. www.cerebra.org.uk/parent-support/support/speech-therapy.htm

Carers self-assessment The NHS have an online short self assessment tool so that you can assess your own situation and it gives clear information on where to get more help, advice and support. www.nhs.uk/tools/Pages/Carers.aspx

Artspider This is Mencap's learning disability arts website. See What's On near you, check out films, music and art in the Gallery and click on Resources for links to art organisations www.artspider.org.uk

Parent Plus The Dyscovery Centre team are health and educational professionals and have extensive experience of helping children, young people and their families with a range of specific learning difficulties including dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, ASD and speech, language and communication difficulties. The Parent Plus website has 1000's of practical and easy to use activities, resources and ideas to help for home, school and further education www.parent-plus.org

BOOKS and DVD:

An Animated introduction to Asperger Syndrome This short, simple and accessible film explains through a series of lively animations what AS is, what it feels like and how it can be helped, in a way that is both informative and easy to understand. Created by children in conjunction with professional animators, this highly entertaining film concisely summarises the basics of AS, enabling viewers of all ages to gain a real insight into the condition in less than half an hour. www.jkp.com

Managing Family Meltdown: The Low Arousal Approach and Autism This book, by Linda Woodcock and Andrea Page, offers practical, long term and effective strategies to help resolve common challenging behaviours avoiding confrontation and reducing stress and anxiety. It also provides explanations and a wealth of guidance on managing various challenging behaviours. Available from Amazon

Assessing the Unproductive Classroom Behaviours of Students with Special Needs Certain classroom behaviours can signify an underlying learning disability. This book will help you recognise potential indicators of Asperger Syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, speech and language disorders. Contains a simple to use screener, monitoring classroom behaviours, creating an Individual Behaviour Plan, teacher strategies, educational theories. By Dr Steve Chinn www.jkp.com

<u>OAASIS is supported by the Cambian Group – the largest provider of education and care for autistic spectrum disorders.</u>		
Website: www.cambiangroup.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 and Amberwood Lodge</i>	Hampshire, 16-25 years, 52 week Dorset, 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 & College with Elston House</i>	Lincolnshire, young people 16-30 years, 52 week	<i>autism and/or SLD with complex needs</i>
<i>Gorefield Lodge</i>	Cambridgeshire, young people 16-30 years, 52 week	<i>autism and/or SLD with complex needs</i>