



Special Matters
Staffordshire
Moorlands

Newsletter June 10
Support Group for Parents

Summer Activities

Seaside

Chester Zoo

Drayton Manor

Black Country Museum

and more...

Welcome to you all!!!

Hi to everyone, so it's been along time since the last newsletter. It's been a good year so far for Special Matters. We have been invited to help Borderlines in the New Vic Theatre with some workshop and a number of parents gave their time to help. We have had number a activities over the last few months.

We also have a number of interesting activities coming up. So please have a look and read through the newsletter. We are always interested in hear from parents about what they have enjoyed and would like to see happen in Special Matters so please contact me for a chat or drop me a line.

For my information please contact me on 07966 053040 or email faith.asplin@staffordshire.gov.uk. Remember to look the website www.specialmatters.co.uk

Faith

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Special needs **FUN DAY**

Saturday 10th July 2010

12 - 3pm

Activities for Children

Support for families

Activities include...

Aiming High
Fire Engine
Stoke City FC
Socatots
Bouncy Castle

and lots more...

"for all
the family"

"free family
fun day"



Venue

The Meadows, Springfield Rd
Leek, ST13 6EU



LEEK C&LP
PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Summer

Thanks to our partners Aiming High, this summer Moorlands Rural Children's Centre, Special Matters Group is delighted to offer the following trips:



Llandudno Saturday
14th August



Fresh Air & Fun

Drayton Manor
Thursday 19th August



Enjoyment All Day

Black Country Museum
Wednesday 25th August



**Fun and Learn in an
Open Air Museum**

Chester Zoo
Friday 3rd September



**Enjoy the animals &
activities**

Activities

These trips have been funded by Aiming High project. We are providing a coach on these trips as they are further a field. These coaches will have wheelchair places. You don't have to come on the coach if you prefer driving yourselves there, and we can arrange to meet you at the place. Please follow the instruction below when booking in.

**Join us for some great days out
& BOOK NOW!**

Book Now by telephoning Moorlands Rural Children's Centre 01298 687162 or Emailing jayne.harding@staffordshire.gov.uk or sue.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk

When you are phoning or emailing please can you advise the team should you need wheelchair space on the coach, if you are not wanting a place on the coach please let us know.

If you would like to go more than one trip? Simply state your favourites in order of preference when you book in.

Cost: £3.00 per adults / £1.50 per child / Under 3's free

(note: Closing date for booking is Friday 17 July. Due to anticipated demand, we are unable to guarantee places immediately. Places will be allocated & confirmed in writing by 30 July)

Support Groups

The daytime support group is going very well. Over the last few months we have had Christine Austin from CAF, North Staffs Cares the Wellbeing project, Aiming High and Children with Disabilities Service Jane O'Neill, Benefit and information. The parents had asked about these projects and the information has been very informative.

The next daytime support is on the 21st July at the Meadow School starting at 10.00am and we have Kathryn Shirley from Aiming High G8way project and if you have any questions please come along to have a cuppa and chat with other parents. It's a great atmosphere and a lot going on with chatting and children playing with the toys.

**Leek Support Group
21st July**

**10.00am - 12.00pm
Meadow School**

**Biddulph Support
Group**

**July
September**

**Staffordshire
Moorlands Children
Centre**

**Cheadle
Support
Group**

**12th July
13th September
4th October**

**7.30pm
9.30pm**

**Cheadle
Children Centre**

Support Group

In Biddulph there is a support group for parents with children with Dyspraxia. For more information please contact Tracy Bronti on 07856 77790.

28th June Squirrel Hayes
First School

26th July Children's Centre
30th Aug Children's Centre

27th Sept 25th Oct
Squirrels Hayes
First School

Sitting Service

Do you need a sitting on service for your special needs child?
Do you find it difficult to have a social life and time to go out with your own partner or family without someone willing or reliable look after your special needs child?

If the answer is yes and you need a service on hand to look after your special need child why not give Louise a ring on 07813 025237.

I can offer -

- Any evening
- Over 10 years experience of working with young children and adults with varying disabilities
- References and CRB can be seen
- I am NNEB (Nursery Nurse) and first aid qualified
- Direct payments can be used

If you are interested or need some more information please give me a ring on the above number.

Baby Sensory

Baby Sensory the sessions are cut into three phase. The first phase is sensory activities. second phase is exploratory play & provides the opportunity for parents and babies to socialise and move about taking advantage of the equipment that is set out in the free play area. Third phase is parents return to the sensory area with their babies for a two or three activities followed by a therapeutic or visual experience.

Some of the activities are as follows:

Bonding Techniques
Baby Massage and reflexology
Sleep Techniques
Baby Exercise
Action Songs
Visual Development Activities
Development Games, Textures

**Cheddleton
Children Centre**

**For babies
6 months - 12 months**

**Thursday
2.00pm - 3.00pm**

Play and Stay Session

North Staffs Carer has a play and stay support session in the Staffordshire Moorlands Children Centre in Biddulph. This session is for parents/carers with a child with additional needs. Please contact the Children Centre on 01782 297970 or Anna from NSCA on 01782 834836.

Friday - 18th June & 2nd July
Starting at 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Thank You

We would like to say a **Big Thank You** to Mothers' Union who provided the money for supporting us with the swimming session we had back in February and March time. The families had a great time and really enjoyed the time in the water and as it wasn't too crowded and the temperature was just right. So Thank You so much to the Mothers' Union for supporting us in this way.

Thank You

We also would like to say a **Big Thank You** to a Special Matters family who has given some money for us to put towards an activity. We would like to say a Big Thank You to this family for supporting us as a group and so that families can have an enjoyable day out.

Thank You

Young carers Conference

'We Care Can You?'

At the beginning of May Special Matters had a wonderful opportunity to make a difference by taking part in this conference which was staged at the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle.

The Delegates at the Conference were all young people hoping to enter a Caring Profession. Over three days the delegates explored their potential as Care workers in terms of key qualities such as: communication, empathy, understanding, compassion, professionalism, morality and humanity.

A group of parents from Special Matters worked alongside the Actors at the New Vic and the Professionals who organized the Conference to deliver a workshop. The workshop was based on a piece of poetry written by a mother of a child with Special Needs entitled "Welcome to Holland". The poem compares giving birth to a child with special Needs to going on holiday and landing in an unexpected country. The Delegates were then encouraged to play a game which put them in the parent's shoes. Finally the Parents spoke to the Delegates and unpacked cases with groups of delegates which gave a unique insight into their world and what the Carers of the future could do to make a difference for them.

The workshop was very well received by the delegates and gave us the opportunity to witness the impact our parents had on the audience.

Young carers Conference cont..

We have now arranged a follow up date to explore and develop the workshops at the New Vic on Wednesday, 14th July from 10am until 1pm followed by lunch.

Please come and join us as we take this exciting project forward, we have seen many times how the true impact of the message comes across extremely strongly from parents.

We shall work on the suitcase theme, if you can't join us please send us your ideas by phoning Faith: 07966 053040 or visiting our website to use the Blog or email special.matters@staffordshire.gov.uk

The 6 cases are focused on: Autism, Physical Disability, Learning Difficulties, Sensory Impairment, Impact on the Family and Impact on Mental Health. The items will be used by parents and ourselves to help put across to groups, made up of Professionals and Agencies, the emotional impact, the joys and the difficulties, of having a child with Special Needs in a family.

Sailability



On the 13th June we went down to Rudyard Lake for Sailability. The day started off being beautiful. We got there and set up and booked the families in for the day. The families went off either on the sailing boats, visiting boat or the bell boats, there also could go on the train.

Then in the middle of the afternoon the clouds opened and it poured down of rain. So some of the families came in to have some lunch also the children could play with the sensory equipment or do some art and craft.



Some of the family didn't mind getting wet and they went out on the boats and when they came back they were wet through, but they didn't mind and had a great time out there. We had a number of families saying that they really enjoyed themselves and that they would like to join Sailability.

One parents said this to one of member of staff.



'I have never heard my child laugh so much before'

Great to hear that the families really enjoyed themselves in spite of the rain.

Dates for your Diary

Support Groups

We are having the support groups in Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle. Cheadle in the Cheadle Children Centre, meeting at 7.30pm, Leek is a daytime one at the Meadows Special School starting 10.00am and one in Biddulph at the Staffordshire Moorlands Children Centre starting at 9.30am . Please come and join us, it would be great to see you there to have a cuppa and a chat.

Cheadle - Children Centre Leek - Meadows

12th July	21st July
13th September	15th September
4th October	13th October
	10th November & 15th December

Biddulph - Staffordshire Moorlands Children Centre

7th July
8th September
3rd November

Activity Days/Meeting

10th July - Special Needs Family Fun Day
14th August - Llandudno
19th August - Drayton Manor
25th August - Black Country Museum
3rd September - Chester Zoo

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A Sure Start Children's Centre



Working together with the
Community & Learning Partnerships