Isobel Family Centre

March 2021 Newsletter

Upcoming Online Events

* March 1st - Microtia/Atresia Meet-Up - Vanessa Waple
* March 8th – Early Intervention for Children with Sensory Loss- Catherine Demi
* March 15th - Glue Ear - Marianne Haylett
* March 22nd – Daily Living Skills – Martha Rubio

Book your place in any of the groups - [family@wandsworthhis.org.uk](mailto:family@wandsworthhis.org.uk)

Isobel Family Centre News

March is here already! As this is being written the sun is shining and we are looking forward to things returning to some semblance of normal. Keep an eye on the newsletter for new events and activities in the coming weeks and months.

Our playgroups continue to run online and we have been excited to see new families join these activities. We are hopeful that we aren't too far off having playgroups in the centre.

We have an exciting evening event on March 23rd - look out for more information in the newsletter.

We'd Like you to meet.....

Hi, I'm Hannah and I have been heading up the Willow HSC since September 2020. I am currently training to become a qualified Teacher of the Deaf but when I'm not at school or studying, I love to bake and walk my Cavapoo, Rupert. I love meeting new families - so please do get in touch!

Save the Date!

We are excited to announce our first Family Night for 2021. On March 23rd from 7 - 8 pm we will be having a wonderful night of inspirational speakers who have excelled in the sporting arena – one in running and one in netball. Come along and hear their stories and ask questions about how you can support your child's participation in sports.

This event will take place on Zoom. Register your interest at [family@wandsworthsss.org.uk](mailto:family@wandsworthsss.org.uk)

Out and About

March 8th is an exciting day. Children and young people are returning to school and everyone at Linden Lodge and Wandsworth Sensory Service are looking forward to seeing everyone back in schools.

There is lots of discussion about face coverings and the impact on deaf children and their access to communication and language - please get in touch with your teacher if you have any questions or need of guidance in this area.

Useful Websites

Clear face masks and face coverings – where to buy and what to look for

https://bit.ly/3pUTk6o

Face masks and communication - coronavirus info for families of deaf children

<https://bit.ly/3dOlsFV>

Building Language

We know that the best way to develop a child’s speech is to encourage them to talk with the people who are important. Parents, grandparents, friends, cousins... We talk because we want to share ideas and because we want to make relationships.

We need 2 things: Someone to talk with and Something to talk about.

Children who have a sensory loss may find it harder to join in with conversation. They may not have the vocabulary that they need. Sometimes they need a prompt or something to support their ideas as they speak.

Most of us have lots of photos of our kids on our phones. Choose a photo that shows your child doing something that he or she was interested in.

“There’s mummy. And you. Who’s that in the highchair?”

Look at your child and wait for a response. Wait a bit longer. Give your child time to respond. If your child doesn’t reply, you can answer the question.

“That’s right! It’s Paul.”

Talk about what you can see.

“Mmm. You’ve got ice cream. Paul has a biscuit. Have you got a biscuit?”

Look at your child, smile and wait for the response.

“No, because you chose ice cream. It’s your favourite, isn’t it?”

Keep chatting until your child wants to stop.

Talk about what you did that day: e.g. went to the swings, went home on the bus how you were feeling - it was a fun day, a busy day, a tiring day what you can see: cups, teapot, bottle of water.

Sensory Play

Children of all ages benefit from sensory play. Beyond the positive impact upon the brain, sensory play also aids the development of thinking skills and fine and gross motor skills, and it can also act as a great stress reliever. In fact sensory play is important for people of all ages. On the next page you will find a fun activity to try with your family and children - send us a photo or write and tell us what you enjoyed.

Frozen Ice Eggs

You need:

* Small balloons
* Small plastic animals
* Water

Place the plastic animal inside the balloon and partially fill with water. Put in the freezer overnight or until solid. Break the balloon and discard. Put the ice eggs in a bowl and play them. Use play tools like a wooden hammer or wooden spoon to hit and bash them, spray them with water from a squirt bottle, drop them on the hard ground outside and see what happens

Talk about how they feel - wet, hard, freezing, cold,

Talk about what it happening - 'it's melting', 'it shattered'

Talk about what is inside or hidden.

Talk about what you might find or what you found.