Isobel Family Centre

February 2022

Upcoming Events

Isobel Centre Activities

* Tuesdays - Baby Sensory Group - 10.30 am
* Wednesdays - Listen, Chat, Learn Playgroup - 10.00 am
* Thursdays - Look, Chat, Learn Playgroup - 10.00 am Thursdays - WHSS Youth Club
* 24th February - Virtual Parenting Workshop
* 9th March - Tech with Friends -VI Youth Club

To register for any of the playgroups please email Frankie at [fpunzi@wandsworthsss.org.uk](mailto:fpunzi@wandsworthsss.org.uk)

For more info

[family@wandsworthsss.org.uk](mailto:family@wandsworthsss.org.uk)

Isobel Family Centre News

February already! It always amazes us how quickly time flies! Groups have been running well with growing numbers of young children. We are excited to look towards the start of a Youth Club for our deaf teens and also a Tech with Friends Group for our VI young people. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details or talk to your teacher to find out more…

Also launching in March is our Monthly Parent2Parent Workshops. These will be an opportunity to come and meet other families whilst getting information and ideas for raising a child with a sensory loss and ways to support their development. Our first workshop will be on 'Sharing Our Story' using books and experience books to enhance your child's literacy and language development will be held on Monday 7th March at 2 pm. Leave with a fun resource to share with your child. Contact us for more information [family@wandsworthsss.org.uk](mailto:family@wandsworthsss.org.uk)

Cochlear Implant Corner

If your child has a cochlear implant then you are becoming or have become familiar with the part known as the coil, the magnet, or the headpiece. Ensuring it is in place and keeping the coil in place on a baby or young child is challenging. In this article we explore the ‘coil’, how we manage it and troubleshooting problems. Your child has a magnet as part of their implant. This magnet connects to the magnet in the coil. This is a non-permanent way to attach the coil so the processor can communicate with the internal implant. When the two magnets are close enough to each other the sounds which come in to your processor’s microphone are coded, sent from the processor to the implant, up the electrode to the auditory nerve and to the brain. It is important to understand that for the CI to do its job, the magnet has to be on the head. It is also important for the best microphone position, the processor needs to be worn on the ear as intended rather than attached to clothing or dangling. This ensures the microphones are able to pick up sound and speech throughout the everyday activities of the child.

The magnets keep coming off! What do I do?

What if you or your child’s magnet will not stay attached, or comes off very easily? It is important to consider where your child is in the CI process. At the initial switch on, your audiologists will choose the best setting for the magnet for your child. They ensure it is strong enough to connect but not too tight as to cause problems. Early on, the incision site is still healing and we want to avoid extra pressure on the skin. There may still be some swelling which may cause the magnets to be slightly further apart, as the general swelling goes away you will find the magnets connect more easily.

Many parents of very young children who have just received a cochlear implant use some sort of retention device. You will have some items in your kit which helps keep the processor on the ear such as a hugfit or a snugfit but you might find some other things will help keep the processor more stable which will help keep the magnet in place. Devices like hearing aid headbands or pilot caps can be helpful. Regardless of how long you’ve had your implant, it’s best not to change the magnet yourself without speaking to your clinic to ensure it is advisable. Even though it seems like an easy fix at home, you want to protect the skin at that incision site, so get the go-ahead from a medical professional before you make adjustments on your own.

Watch out in the next newsletter for more tips or if you have a question or resource please send them to kate@wandsworthsss.org.uk so we can share it with our community.

Vision Corner - Tech Tip

MICROSOFT OFFICE LENS

SCAN PHYSICAL BOOKS TO ELECTRONIC FORMATS

Students with visual impairments - you scan physical books and handouts and convert them to electronic formats (including large print, Braille and audio).

If you do not have access to electronic versions of handouts or books, you can use the free Microsoft Office Lens app on your iPads or phones to do the text conversion! You can even scan the whiteboard and convert to accessible text.

Office Lens uses your device camera to take photos of pages, and then converts them to readable text using OCR. You can either have the app’s built in Immersive Reader to 1) read text out loud, 2) Enlarge text, and 3) space out words or export them to word, pdf and other formats too. Office Lens converts not only physical documents to electronic formats but also text written on whiteboards in a classroom!

In the video below, you will see how to use Office Lens on an iPhone to “scan” books for text conversion. You will notice that it does make mistakes but for a free app, it does remarkable work. Also, the more you use it, the better it will get. <https://youtu.be/QaQw3-bE61I>

Upcoming Events

Three new events are planned for the new half term. We are excited to be offering activities for our older students - a youth clubs for our deaf secondary school students, a Tech with Friends club for VI yr 5 - 13 students and a parenting workshop for our Early Years and Primary level families. If you are interested in any activity please contact info@wandsworthsss.org.uk for more information or to register.

Playgroups!

If you have a baby or young child then our playgroup may be for you! We have groups on Tuesday for 0 - 16 months, Wednesday 16 + months and Thursday 16+ months.

Each session we play, move, read, sing, eat, jump, chat, learn, explore and engage with each other. It has been great to see the children developing their skills and friendships and is also a great opportunity for the parents to meet, chat and learn from each other.

We use music in every session to build engagement, audition, communication, language and to have fun. The kids love learning the songs and moving to the beat.

Clear Vision is a charity who also provide input into our playgroups sharing books and resources to enhance story reading with the young children.

Want to know more? Ask your teacher or contact info@wandsworthsss.org.uk for more information.

Fun for children and families

With half term holidays around the corner have a look at the next couple of pages for some things to try with your family. Why not visit one of London’s many museums? The museums often have FREE admission and family friendly activities. Here’s our first suggestion for 2022.

The Museum of the Home

Fun for children and families Isobel Family Centre News page 2 One of London's most friendly and charming museums. The Museum of the Home shows what some homes in England would have looked like from 1600 to the present day.

Outdoor space

The museum also has a series of attractive gardens to explore with trails to follow.

Opening Times

Tuesday to Sunday: 10am to 5pm Pre booking is advised

Getting There

By public transport:

Overground we are opposite Hoxton Station (zones 1+2) with step-free access Underground and Rail Liverpool Street and Old Street are nearby

Buses 149, 242, 243, 394 stop on Kingsland Road

By bike:

8 bike racks in the Kingsland Road Gardens and there are Santander Cycle docking stations at Falkirk Street & Geffrye Street.

By car:

Parking locally is very limited. Blue Badge holders may park in bays alongside the central museum gates on Kingsland Road (up to 3 hours, 10am–4pm). There is ramped access into the gardens from the north and south gates.

Family Friendly Parties/Events

Birthday parties are milestones we love to celebrate but sometimes it is hard to find the perfect location. Why not consider the Isobel Family Centre?

The centre was purpose built to provide an environment that works for children with a sensory loss and their families. The rooms are acoustically treated to provide a great listening environment for everyone, are fully accessible with facilities built for people with additional needs.

The multipurpose space can be set up to provide seating and tables for both adults and children. There are easy to use kitchen facilities.

Contact us to discuss your needs at [family@wandsworthsss.org.uk](mailto:family@wandsworthsss.org.uk)