

Editorial

Hello and welcome to the 1st edition of the Parenting Forum NI Newsletter for 2011, full of useful news, views, facts and information from our members.

The Forum is as busy as ever and we've already begun to plan for Parents' Week 2011, which will run from Monday 17th October to Sunday 23rd October. We'll be working hard on that and are confident we can grow from the success of previous years. It's never too early for you to start planning your events, so get your thinking caps on and let us know what you'll be getting up to by contacting Sandra on Sandra@pachelp.org Why not visit our website to see a list of events that were held last year: <http://www.parentsadvicecentre.org/projects/parentingforum/parentsweek.asp> As usual, we'll launch the week with our conference and will give you more details about that in the next issue.

In this edition our "Star of the Season" is Blossom Sure Start. Have a look and check out the great support they continue to provide here in Northern Ireland on behalf of families and children.

The latest Parenting Forum Fact Sheet looks at guidance on bullying. It is available to download along with all our other Fact Sheets at <http://www.parentsadvicecentre.org/projects/parentingforum/factsheets.asp>

Membership of the Forum continues to grow rapidly. If you are a parent and would like to be kept up-to-date with relevant parenting issues please feel free to contact us on 028 9031 0891 or email Pauline at Pauline@pachelp.org and we will add you to our mailing list. Please remember to pass on this newsletter to anyone who you think would benefit from joining us.

Lastly, just a reminder that this newsletter is for and about you, so if you have any articles or information you would like to share please get in touch. We love to hear from you all about the great work and fun events you're all involved in!



The parenting forum newsletter for news and views, facts and information from all our members

PARENTING FORUM NI NEWSLETTER

ADVANCE NOTICES

Parents' Week 2011 17th – 23rd October

Parents' Week, organised here in NI by the Parenting Forum, is now in its 12th year and is a chance for parenting practitioners and all those working with families to celebrate progress in supporting families. We hope you will join us in making this Parents' Week the biggest yet. Over the coming months we'll be letting you know what we are planning and how you can get involved - sign up to the Parenting Forum ebrief to keep updated by contacting Pauline on 028 9031 0891 or email Pauline@pachelp.org If you are planning an event please tell us about it as we'd like to share this information with our members and also help to promote it by advertising it on our website. Last year we had over 200 events across the province so we're hoping to build on this success! Send details of your event through to sandra@pachelp.org on or before 7th October. You can also check our website <http://www.parentsadvicecentre.org/projects/parentingforum/parentsweek.asp> for a list of last year's events, which might help to inspire you!

Parenting Forum Conference 17th October

Parents' Week will be officially launched with the Parenting Forum's annual conference on **Monday 17th October**. We will advise you of more details and how to register for a place nearer the date, but in the meantime remember to note the date in your diary! We're looking forward to meeting lots of you there. If you need more information at this stage please contact Alison or Pauline on Tel 028 9031 0891 or email Pauline@pachelp.org

Star of the Season!!!! ★



"10 years on and still blossoming"

Autumn 2011 marks 10 years of operation for Blossom Sure Start. Over this period, Sure Start has delivered an extensive range of support to families with young children in Portadown.

The Blossom Sure Start project covers six Wards in Portadown. The area has a catchment of over 1,100 pre-school children. Currently over 1,000 children are registered with Blossom Sure Start.

Blossoming by name Blossoming by nature. Over the 10 years the project has emerged from humble beginnings into a highly trained, fully integrated team comprising of 33 staff. This includes health professionals, home-based support workers and early years staff, among others.

The current range of services includes ante-natal support, health visiting, speech & language therapy, home visiting, early years support, family support, parenting, creative

arts, mobile crèche, occupational therapy and support for childminding.

Year on year as family circumstances change, so do we. One example of this has been the ever increasing involvement of fathers. It has been our experience that if services are specifically tailored and opened up to fathers in a genuinely inclusive way, dads will participate, often quite enthusiastically. When it comes to fathering men can be underestimated. 11 fathers recently completed the 'Flatpack Guide for Fathers' facilitated by the Parents Advice Centre. On evaluation one dad simply commented 'An excellent course. Has everything a father needs to know.'

Quality is the key in delivering services to families, along with listening and responding to what parents tell us.

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, Blossom Sure Start will be organising a series of events later in the year. Please contact the office on tel no 028 3833 7455 for more details.



Schools Show Jumping Challenge 2011

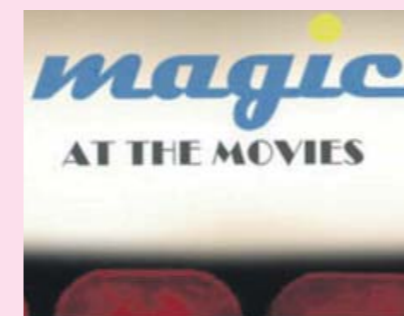
Wednesday 20th April, Portmore Equestrian Centre, Aghalee



This great event is back supporting Parents Advice Centre, the parenting organisation. Invitations have gone out to all Primary and Secondary Schools. Show Jumping classes include: MICROS (50cms open to primary schools only), MINIS (70cms), MIDIS(80cms), MAXIS (90cms), SUPER MAXIS (1m open to everyone including university students).

Prizes for individuals and team classes and for Top Fundraiser and Best Turned Out.

For a show jumping pack contact Anne on 028 9031 0891 or email fundraising@pachelp.org



Wednesday 25th May 2011
Lagan Island Lisburn, 7.45pm

Tickets: adults £8 and children (u16) and OAPs £6 available from Box Office Lagan Island Lisburn. Tel 028 9250 9254.

All your favourite songs from the movies performed by pupils from local primary and secondary schools and students from University of Ulster. With over 100 voices performing, Parents Advice Centre, the parenting organisation is asking everyone to sponsor a voice. For further information contact Anne on 028 9031 0891 or email fundraising@pachelp.org

Award winning Baby Sensory classes are now running in Belfast

Imagine taking your baby on a jungle, water or space adventure, to a winter wonderland or to a world of light and magic? Baby Sensory classes also include settling and soothing techniques for your baby, how to encourage tummy time and a whole lot more. Each activity is supported by useful learning and developmental information, so that parents know how to lead their baby's learning, and every week is different.

Baby Sensory also offer themed events the next being a celebration of Mothers' Day at the start of April and then our Easter special.

Janice & Sharon are confident you'll love Baby Sensory and they offer the first fun session as a no obligation trial. Parents can join at any time and activities are suitable for all babies from birth to 13 months.

Classes are running weekly in South and East Belfast including a monthly Saturday class.

Gift vouchers are available for a unique new baby present and 1st Birthday Baby Sensory parties are a very special way to celebrate such an important occasion!



Call us FREE & IN CONFIDENCE on 0808 8010 722

Local appointment services available in Antrim, Belfast, Coleraine, Derry, Lurgan, Magherafelt, Moy and Newry
www.parentsadvicecentre.org

Please contact Janice or Sharon for more information.

Mobile: 07929029856 / 07813277220

Email: belfast@babysensory.co.uk
 Web: www.babysensory.com

CHILD MAINTENANCE CHOICES

At CHILD MAINTENANCE CHOICES we understand that separation is a difficult time for parents, but we can help with any questions you may have about child maintenance. We provide impartial information and support to help both parents make informed choices about Child Maintenance. The fact that we are impartial means that we are here to help both parents and we aren't biased towards any one way of arranging child maintenance.

We are here to help you:-

- If you are separating from the other parents or are not living with them and you need to set up a child maintenance arrangement;
- If you are thinking of switching from a private agreement to an arrangement using the Child maintenance and Enforcement Division or the other way around,
- If your child maintenance arrangement has broken down or is not working as you'd like it to.

We can also offer practical information and we can put you in touch with specialist organisations that can provide help and advice.

CONTACT CHILD MAINTENANCE CHOICES:
FREEPHONE 0800 028 7439 (Service providers may charge for the call)
 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
TEXT 66101 to receive callback (Standard network rates apply)
VISIT www.nidirect.gov.uk/choices



A Way 2 Play 'Neglect of Adolescent Neglect'

East Belfast Sure Start have just opened the doors to a new Programme for 2 Year Olds in the Avoniel Play Centre in the heart of east Belfast. This will be the fourth programme they are providing for children from 2 to 3 years of age under the banner of A Way 2 Play.

"Children attend every morning from Monday to Friday and we make sure the learning experience is child led, fun and inclusive. Parents are invited to join in the fun at the Stay and Play sessions held on Friday mornings. Everyone gets down and dirty together doing messy play, art activities, dough making and so on. The aim is to give children a good start so that they flourish when they get to school." Elizabeth Dalton the Early Learning Co-ordinator at Sure Start makes sure the children get the maximum benefit from the time they spend in the programme. "Qualified staff are on hand to make sure the children get the most from the play activities on offer and subsequently learn the most from the experience. At Sure Start we strive for best practice in everything we do which makes us confident the services we provide for local families will equip them to make the most of their potential".

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 E. admin@surestarteast.org.uk

In the UK, neglect is the most common reason for children and young people becoming the subject of a child protection but receives relatively little attention. In addition it is often considered something that only happens to young children. In fact there are substantial numbers of neglected 10 to 17-year-olds. A quarter of serious case reviews relate to young people aged over 11 and 10% aged over 16 years.

Against this background the Department for Education and the Department of Health funded the University of York, in partnership with the Children's Society and the NSPCC, to carry out a 3 part study which has included: a review of the international research on neglected adolescents; a guide for multi-agency professionals working together on behalf of neglected teenagers, and; a guide for young people about neglect.

Publications arising from the 'neglect of adolescent neglect'
 Stein et al (2010) Neglected adolescents; a review of the research <http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-04.pdf>

Hicks, L, and Stein, M. (2010) *Neglect Matters: A multi-agency guide for professionals working together on behalf of teenagers*. London: DCSF.

Neglect Matters – a guide for young people about neglect (www.nspcc.org.uk/neglect)