



Wakefield Parent Carer Forum

The Official Newsletter



Welcome!

to the third spooky edition of our newsletter. We hope that you are all managing ok since going back to school and the usual daily routines. If you need help, advice or just a friendly chat then please do get in touch with us. Should you have a request for us to cover a specific topic feel free to email us info@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk with your request. Competition entries can be emailed to competitions@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk

EHCP WEBINAR

We are holding an online webinar training course on EHCP's with our guest speaker Steve Broach. Whether you are thinking of applying for an EHCP now or in the future this event is a great chance to learn from an expert in this field. You can attend from the comfort of your own home by purchasing a ticket via the Eventbrite website. See inside for further details and how to book your ticket.



Cuppa & Chat
Join us Sunday's 7pm



Email

info@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk
to request an invitation to join us

DOOR DECORATING

We wanted to set a little spooky challenge for some Halloween fun and make up for not going trick or treating. To enter you need to decorate a door at your house with anything Halloween themed, & send us a photo of you stood next to your decorated door. We will choose 1 winner at random to win a little treat! We will post the winner & some of the entries in our Facebook Chat Group.





Who we are

Wakefield Parent Carer Forum is an independent parent led forum who work with families of children with special educational needs and/or disability, aged 0-25 years old, living in the Wakefield area.

The forum is led by a small group of local parents who are looking forward to listening to, and representing the views of parents, young people and children in the future.

These parents all have a wide experience of what it is like to be a parent of a child with an additional need or disability in the Wakefield area.

We want to work together with you to make a positive difference and improve the quality of life for all children and families in Wakefield.

What we can offer you

- Reduce isolation for families
- Support services to enable families to cope better with the challenges resulting from interaction with various services
- Peer support for all SEND families in the Wakefield Area
- Support completing EHCP applications & other SEND paperwork
- Provision of family activities, sibling support groups
- Working with other services in the Wakefield area to make a positive impact for SEND families (LA, CCG, WESAIL, KIDS & local support groups)

Working together to make a positive difference and improve the quality of life for all SEND children and families in Wakefield.



Wakefield Parent Carer Forum



www.wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk



Wakefield Parent Carer Forum Chat Group



@carer_forum



info@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wakefield-parent-carer-forum-8776891b8>



EHCP WEBINAR



Wakefield
Parent Carer Forum

EHCP Webinar



Education



Health



Care

Guest Speaker Steve Broach Thursday 12th November 2020 10am - 2.30pm

Includes an overview of the law affecting disabled children and young people from 0-25 in terms of education, health and social care. EHC needs assessments, annual reviews and how to challenge.

Steve Broach, is a barrister at 39 Essex Chambers in London. He has a wide-ranging public law practice with a particular focus on the law and policy affecting children and disabled people. Prior to becoming a barrister, Steve worked extensively in the voluntary sector on behalf of disabled children and adults.

See Facebook or our website for details on how to book a ticket for this event.

IN THE LIFE OF A... SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPIST



The Children's Speech and Language Therapy service (SALT) is based in Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and sits alongside Children's Physiotherapy & Children's Occupational Therapy (OT). Together we form the Children's Therapy Team.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy helps children with a range of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) to achieve and maintain their potential. It also provides support and advice to families and those working with children.



WHICH CHILDREN DO WE WORK WITH & WHERE DO WE WORK?

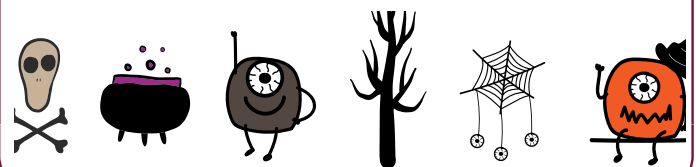
We work with children of all ages from babies to secondary school-aged children and beyond! Children may present with any of the following:

- Delayed or disordered language development
- Speech sound difficulties
- Stammering
- Voice disorders
- Social communication difficulties/autism
- Severe learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities, e.g. cerebral palsy
- A hearing impairment
- Maxillo-facial disorders such as cleft palate
- Eating, drinking and feeding difficulties
- A head injury 

We work across different contexts, e.g. in health centres and Children's Centres, in settings including nurseries, schools and special schools, in families' homes, on hospital wards and in the hospital Children's Centres.

We have been working differently amongst COVID-19 restrictions and where appropriate, we have been carrying out teletherapy.

As you can see, our role is very varied!



HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE TYPES OF CHILDREN WE MIGHT WORK WITH (HOWEVER THERE ARE MANY MORE)...

A new born baby with
feeding difficulties on
the hospital ward

A primary school aged
child struggling with
speech sounds as part
of a school contract

A nursery aged child
undergoing an assessment
for Autistic Spectrum
Disorder (ASD)

A secondary school
aged child seeking
support for his
stammer in clinic

A primary school aged child with
Developmental Language
Disorder (DLD) in clinic

A teenager in the criminal
justice system who
requires a speech &
language assessment

A child with cerebral palsy
using augmentative &
alternative communication
(AAC) in a special school

A 3 year old child with
delayed language at our
"Chit Chat" group

A pre school aged child with
Down's Syndrome at the
hospital's Children's Centre



WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO WE DO?

- Initial assessments
- Parent information sessions
- Drop in clinics
- Informal & formal assessments
- Training packages eg, for school
- Write activity programs
- Feeding clinics
- Review sessions
- Attend training for our own learning
- Attend meetings
- Home & setting visits
- Liaise with parents & other professionals
- Report writing including for EHCP's
- Group therapy
- One-to-one therapy
- Onward referrals eg, Paediatrician, Audiology



WHAT MIGHT A TYPICAL WEEK LOOK LIKE?

Monday - One-to-one and group therapy/review appointments in school as part of the school contract service, liaison with school staff, any reports

Tuesday - 'Chit Chat' and 'Ready Steady Communicate' groups for toddlers with delayed language and/or social communication skills, school visit appointments for children with EHCPs, liaison with school staff, any reports

Wednesday - Further toddler groups as above, drop in clinic, whole team meeting

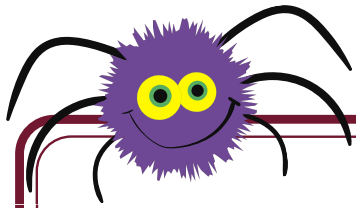
Thursday - multidisciplinary assessments for possible autism including liaison with parents and other professionals, any reports

Friday - school visit appointments for children with EHCPs, liaison with school staff, any reports



HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY TODDLER'S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AT HOME?

We have shared below some of the information that is shared with our parents at our 'Toddler Talk' parent information sessions. Please also see the links to websites and campaigns below, particularly the BBC's 'Tiny Happy People' and the Government's 'Hungry Little Minds' campaigns.



TODDLERTALK

1. **Turn the TV off when your child is playing.**
2. **Reduce dummy use as much as possible, keeping for sleep time only.**
3. **Don't ask your child to copy what you say.**
4. **Make short comments / labels describing what your child is doing.**
5. **Sing action songs and rhymes.**
6. **Model back clearly what your child is trying to tell.**





WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ONLINE?

The Wakefield Local Offer website gives further information about our service, how to contact us and other services in Wakefield.

<http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy-service>

I CAN is the children's communication charity, offering help and support for parents and professionals who have concerns about children's communication skills.



<https://ican.org.uk/>

Afasic is a parent-led organisation created to support children and young people with speech and language difficulties and their families.

<https://www.afasic.org.uk/>

The BBC's 'Tiny Happy People' campaign is a great resource with advice and ideas for play activities to develop young children's communication skills. Lots of famous faces are involved in the campaign including HRH the Duchess of Cambridge!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>



The Government also have a campaign called 'Hungry Little Minds' with activity suggestions for children aged 0-5 years old. The suggestions for activities are broken down into age ranges but it may be helpful to explore the different age ranges and choose activities that you feel are most appropriate for your child.

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

The National Literacy Trust has created a 'Family Zone' to support families following school closures. Their website has ideas for fun activities for children aged 0-12 years old which aim to benefit children's reading, writing and language development.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>

The British Stammering Association ('Stamma') has information, resources and advice on where to get help if you are concerned about stammering (stuttering). <https://stamma.org/>

The National Autistic Society has advice, information and resources for those with a diagnosis of autism or concerns about autism.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/>



FORUM STAR & STAR SIBLING

Forum Star



Well done Finlay on being our Forum Star this month, for mastering the art of fishing - good catch!

Your prizes will be on the way to you both very soon!

Star Sibling



Well done Pippa on being our Star Sibling this month, for being amazing & so supportive of your brother.

If you would like to be in with a chance of being published and winning a prize, please send your photo & short description of why your child is a Forum Star/Star Sibling to competitions@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Take a good look through our newsletter & count how many little cauldrons (like the one shown here) you can find.

Email your answer to competitions@wakefieldparentcarers.co.uk and we will choose a winner at random from the correct answers.





FORUM NEWS

Wow what a busy few weeks we have had!

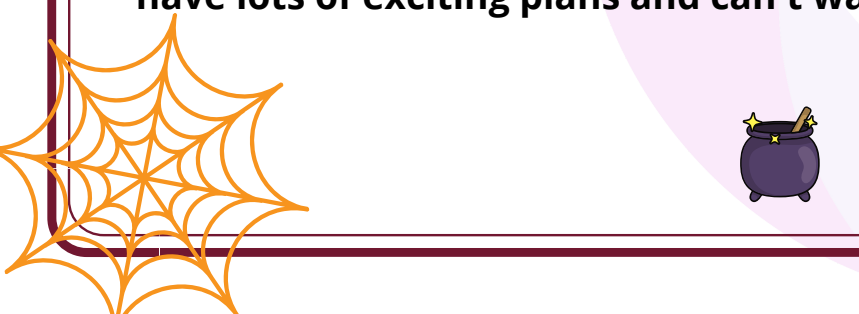
Going back to school, trying to manage and understand the new COVID-19 restrictions both in school and out & about, plus getting used to the old morning routines of being up, dressed, out of the house and doing school runs early on a morning. We are all ready for the school holidays this time around!

We have been busy at the forum giving out Wellbeing Bags to our forum members, for which we were very grateful to get funding from Wakefield Council & Wakefield CCG to make this project happen. We have been popping up around the district and meeting our members face to face, chatting, offering support and answering questions, whilst maintaining social distancing. This has been the first opportunity we have had to do any face to face work since we launched back in April, and we have loved meeting and chatting to you all. If you haven't yet collected a Wellbeing Bag you can find more details on our Facebook Chat Page.



OUR NEW HOME

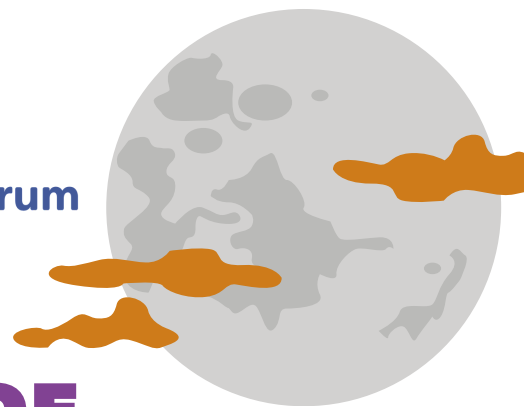
Wakefield Parent Carer Forum are excited to announce that we now have a base for the forum. We will be busy over the coming weeks, decorating and getting it ready, we will share some photos with you all as we go along. It will be good to be able to offer face to face help & support to our forum members (COVID-19 restrictions allowing). We have lots of exciting plans and can't wait to share them with you all.





Wakefield
Parent Carer Forum

HALLOWEEN SURVIVAL GUIDE



TOP TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY IDEAS

Halloween Treasure Hunt - Hide clues around your home for your children to find & follow with a spooky Halloween prize at the end.

Spooky Stories - Get your torches out, sit around with your family & tell each other spooky stories & see who screams first!

Potion Making - Try mixing water or lemonade with a few drops of food colouring, make 2 or 3 different colours & then mix them up to make your spooky potion.

Pumpkin Carving - Draw your design on the front of your pumpkin before carefully carving it out. Be sure to have an adult help with this one.

Squishy Making - Part fill a balloon with some flour (a funnel will help), then tie the balloon and squish away - why not draw a spooky face on the balloon too!

Biscuit Decorating - Use plain shop bought biscuits (Rich Tea are great for this) & coloured tubes of icing. Decorate each biscuit with a fun spooky design.

Apple Bobbing - Fill a bowl or bucket with water, add a few apples & see if you & your family can catch an apple without using your hands!

Halloween Mystery Box - Use an old shoe box or plastic box, add shaving foam, flour, dried pasta, or shredded paper & hide some spooky sweets & surprises in the box. Close your eyes, have a feel inside & see if you can find something spooky.



