

Understanding Differences

A Self-Help Group

Raising Awareness to Support Children who have Experienced Difficult Times

UPDATE

October 2003 to June 2004

The purpose of UPDATE is to keep you informed on the progress of the group, what we have achieved, spent, meetings, your stories, why you have an interest in the group and hopefully supportive comments from recognised bodies to help us on our way.....

MONEY SPENT

The start of this whole project began when I wrote a short poem.

My need to do something to Raise Awareness of Congenital Heart Disease was so great that I ordered a qty of notebooks with this embossed on the front-I thought the heart charities would be interested to sell them and receive the profit and also hoped that this would be the starting point to gain support and interest for families to be a part of a local network of Raising Awareness of similar issues.

I was having a stall at the Christmas fair and then rushed into having some cards printed that the children had done-Raising Awareness of CHD, Diabetes, Epilepsy and Different Families situations. I then had to buy the envelopes, cellophane wrappers and bags to put them in.

I posted and delivered approx 50 of the notebooks and sets of cards along with a letter explaining my mission.

I got a few back, with no support and unfortunately, the others seemed to go astray.

I have used 3 black and 3 tricolour ink cartridges approx £135 and still don't seem to have much interest yet!

Stamps to post flyers.

A ringbinder, laminator and the accessories needed to use them.

A long arm stapler.

Approx £130 of books to show as sample packs in the schools, folders and baskets to present them in.

I have also gone for an anytime package on the internet as I never really used it before.

We met at Springboard which cost us £60.

I think that is everything!!

No its not...

I also purchased a Group membership for admission to the adventure playgrounds-however we have an issue with them regarding all arriving and leaving at the same time. The whole point of our group is bringing together families that mainly have illness or disability, meaning that some have medication and others may tire more easily, this is on top of the normal daily things that can go wrong when you have children,

Traffic and so on! We are hoping this matter will be resolved as it appears that there is a misunderstanding as to whether we are really a group or whether we should purchase family memberships. The correspondence will be posted on the notice board so you can see the details if you are interested.

UnderstandingDifferences@
groups.msn.com

GRANTS

The group has been awarded £550 from THE SCARMAN TRUST. This money has not yet been claimed as we needed a bank account first. Now we have this I will contact them. I was extremely surprised to receive a cheque for £250 from Gatwick Airport Community Fund as I was strongly advised not to put the application in.

MEETINGS

Don't forget we meet at the pub every 4th Monday at 6pm! Brewsters at Tilgate Park, Crawley. See the notice board for any changes or additional meetings that we arrange.

THAT'S IT FROM ME

You already know about me from the information pack so I now hope to pass you over to some of the other members now-well maybe next time.

Hi, I'm Karen Hutchings.

I am married to Graham and we have a little boy called Alex who has been both the joy and the trauma of my life in the last few years.

Alex is 4 years old and was born with a rare chromosome abnormality (deletion of part of 16p chromosome). This means he has moderate learning difficulties,

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Registered Childminder (114726)

with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (Ref:

UDUpdate1)

(worst area is speech – he refuses to), severe congenital heart disease (heart bypass at 4 weeks, 2 angioplastys and still some minor problems left), lowered left eyelid and various other issues which have been corrected.

Alex has a sunny nature and seems able to make anyone who meets him smile. His arrival has altered our life completely and opened up a new world to me – sometimes good, sometimes bad. Alex starts school in September and I am currently expecting our second baby in November which means life will completely ch

By way of introduction I am “Molly’s Mum” and although I am not always around when the group organise events and get together and fund raisings I am aware of the hard work and effort that goes into the group especially by Donna and I am sure I am doing an injustice with regards to everyone else. An

My contribution is to now and again do some photocopying and generally listen and to Donna when she is saying how all the Committee’s hard work had basically fallen on dear ears – to that I say don’t give up – you are doing something that you all believe in and have an interest in so keep at it.

Brewsters is fun for the children and thanks should go to them for their support. We can all have reasons as to why we can’t come to events however as long as the group know that like me they have your support then it is all worth while – so basically **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK** you will see the benefits in the long run.ge for us again.

SAMPLE BOOKS IN SCHOOLS

The following schools have received sample packs in the hope that they would leave them in a classroom for parents to use-having a link to our group.

The books will help to Raise Awareness and will also provide the opportunity for children to produce their own pieces of work to add to the support packs.

Tilgate Playgroup
Southgate school
Rainbow Playgroup
Gossops Green Playgroup
Dormans Playgroup
Mrs Cooper Ifield
Gossops Green
Our Lady’s Playgroup
St. Margarets Playgroup

Meath Green Infant school Horley have just phoned to say that they are interested but, please come back in September. Desmond Anderson have put the books in two classrooms.

A school in Horsham have requested that I collect the books as they don’t need them and Milton Mount school refused to take them.

Our membership is growing and consists of families with

- Heart conditions
- Diabetics
- Asthma
- Eczema
- Learning disability
- Living with domestic violence

If you would like to gain or offer support for any reason where you feel your child is affected then contact us for more details.