

newsandviews

Wakefield Information Network

Issue 9 Christmas 2011



Chance for Parents in the district to have their say

In line with Central Government requirements, Wakefield Council have published their Short Breaks Statement. The document outlines the range of short breaks on offer within the district and also the criteria for accessing them.

The local authority are now seeking feedback on the document and are requesting views and opinions from parents/ carers living within the region. The entire Short Breaks Statement is included in this issue of News & Views and you are invited to contact WeSail with your feedback.



This is your chance to have your say!

The Short Breaks Statement is presented on pages 6,7,8 and 9.

Parents Reference Group awarded £10,000 Grant

The Parents Reference Group Wakefield is a leading consultative group for parents of disabled children. You can share your thoughts about what is important to parents, to inform future service development in health and social care. Matters already raised include issues concerning Home to School Transport, Speech and Language Therapy services and developing the Short Breaks Statement, (see above).



The group is supported by Wakefield Council and NHS Wakefield District and want to involve parents and carers at all levels of planning and development of services. Further to this the group has been successful in obtaining £10,000 of funding for this financial year and are now organising events and activities through to next April.

This money is being spent on a Christmas Party, Parents Conference and a range of Parent Consultation events. The aim of each is to better inform parents and carers of service provision within the district, as well as garner their views regarding future changes and developments. In addition to the afore-mentioned events, part of the funding will be used to finance confidence building courses. The aim of these is to empower parents to be able to air their own views and opinions.

For further information please contact **Ian Bradbury** or **Linda Blackburn** at Carers Wakefield & District on **01924 305544** or E-mail: lindab@carerswakefield.org.uk or ianb@carerswakefield.org.uk



Learningdisabilities.org.uk Publications



foundation for
people with
learning disabilities

There are three fantastic, free publications available on this site to help young people with disabilities or additional needs to help prepare for the future and for leaving school.

The first publication, titled 'What Kind Of A Future' is designed to support young people with Down's syndrome to lead full lives after they leave school. The booklet is for young people their families, friends and supporters to read and talk about together. It is written in plain English and also has an easy read summary. The end of each section features ideas for young people and information about some useful websites and booklets. There is a final section on useful addresses and information for families.

'Prepared For The Future', the second publication features a similar theme but is designed for young people with learning disabilities who are leaving school or college. The final publication is called 'My Kind Of A Future' and is a workbook designed to help young people with learning disabilities prepare for the future.

All of these publications and more are available to download for free from
www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/publications

Disability Gym-Minis

These new Gymnastics sessions are suitable for children aged 1 to 4 years old with any disability. However Children with Downs Syndrome will need an Atlanto Axial screening by a qualified medical practitioner before doing any Gymnastics. A screening form can be requested by calling the **Gymnastics Co-ordinator** on **0113 3950165**.



London 2012 may come too soon but you may have a future Olympian in the making

The sessions run at **Scott Hall Leisure Centre, Scott Hall Road, Leeds, LS7 3DT**, on **Wednesday afternoons** from **1:15pm to 2pm**. A parent or carer must be present at all sessions. Sessions cost **£4.50** at standard rates, **£4.20** for LeedsCard holders and **£2.60** for LeedsCard Extra holders. Payment is taken in half termly blocks and the prices listed above represent the cost per session.



A budding future Action-Man in training

To book a place please contact **Scott Hall Leisure Centre** on **0113 2624721**. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Yoga for Children with Additional Needs

Yoga is a system of practise that originated in India more than 3,000 years ago. Yoga works on many different levels, mind, body and breath and has shown itself to be an effective therapy for many conditions including Downs syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, ADHD and Autism.

Yoga works by using gentle postures that work with the body to enable the child to gain their maximum potential over a series of sessions. A specific programme is designed for each child according to their needs. The yoga therapy works along side conventional methods such as occupational therapies, speech and language and physiotherapy. Yoga helps these children to improve on their basic motor, communicative and cognitive skills. The yoga routines help the children with learning disabilities to develop a greater concentration, balance and posture

For more information contact **Anne Marie** on **01924 278461**, or **07956 266144**, E-mail:
info@relaxedbaby.co.uk

Concerns from changes to Motability

Every Disabled Child Matters, (EDCM), have raised concerns about proposed changes that may mean drivers will only be able to be insured on a motability car if they live within 5 miles of the disabled child/ person to whom DLA has been awarded.

There are worries about the potential impact this may have for families with a disabled child living in residential school more than 5 miles from the family home, families where the parents live more than 5 miles apart and families for whom grandparents and other relatives provide a significant amount of care but do not live within a 5 mile parameter.



How will the proposed changes affect your family?

Motability are currently looking into the impact of the proposed changes on families. If you are concerned about how these changes may impact upon your family you can write to Motability via their website (www.motability.co.uk), by post (**Motability Operations, City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB**) or contact them on **0845 4564566**. You may also wish to raise concerns with your MP.

EDCM is also keen to hear from supporters about the way in which these changes might affect them, so that they can raise any concerns through their campaign work. To share your comments and concerns please E-mail info@edcm.org.uk.

KIDS Caravan



KIDS own an accessible Caravan located just outside the pretty village of Broadway in the Cotswolds. The picturesque site has a duck pond and stream running through it.

The Caravan accommodates up to five people and has a small exterior decked area with a ramp for wheelchair access. There is a spacious living room leading onto a dining area/ kitchen, a double bedroom, twin bedroom and a separate bathroom with toilet, sink and shower.

There are an impressive number of Facilities on the site including; a heated outdoor Swimming Pool and changing room, Hair studio, Community Room with small kitchen area and lounge with a piano and table tennis table, a Tennis court, a young children's grassed outdoor play area, Launderette and Ironing room.

The Caravan is available to book for weekend breaks (4pm Friday- 11am Monday) or a mid-week break (4pm Monday-11am Friday). The best bit is that it only costs **£50** to hire for either a weekend or mid-week break. This price is fixed until January 2012.

For more information or to make a booking please call **Gail Benbow** or **Liz Cunningham** on **0121 3552707**.

Pinmoor Play Scheme

Staff from Pinmoor, Michaelmas, Sunbeam, Stanley and Charlston Children's Centres came together with volunteers and crèche pool staff to offer a fun filled week at the Pinmoor holiday play scheme. The scheme ran between the 1st and 5th August 2011. 12 children aged under 5 with a disability and/or additional needs received support. The children had a range of conditions including autism, visual and hearing impairment and developmental delay.

There were a whole host of activities on offer including Sensory play, (the jelly and fake snow were very popular), arts and crafts and lots of music and singing as well as lots of outdoor play on the large equipment. There was also a visit from the Faceless Theatre Company, who provided lots of themed fun activities around the story 'We're going on a bear hunt'

The aim of the scheme is to offer respite to families, parents and siblings, whilst ensuring the children have fun in a safe and caring environment. Evaluations of

Snow during the English Summer
no longer seems far-fetched!

the scheme were very positive and included the following; The benefits of the scheme to my child have been "Learning to be around new people and environments, having space to run around in, sleeping better and making new friends."

Families have also seen benefits to themselves and have commented that positives for them have included; "Being able to spend time with other children, having time to relax, time to go on trips with my other children that my child would struggle with, meeting other families with disabled children, watching how confident my child has been in a new setting and seeing that he can cope with being away for a full day."

The scheme proved to be a great success and one delighted parent commented, "Can we have more of them please".



What do you mean its time to go home?

For further information contact Mandy White at Pinmoor Children's Centre on **01924 302646**

Relate Parenting Course

Relate Leeds are running a free course for parents of disabled children/children with additional needs on coping with relationships, particularly from the angle of managing relationships within the context of supporting a disabled child.

relate
the relationship people

The course, titled '**Surviving Relationships and Coping with Life**' will cover a range of areas, including communication, parenting skills, transition and change, blended families, support networks, assertiveness and controlling relationships. Workshops will be held on the **12th and 19th of January 2012**, from **12:30pm until 2:30pm** at **St George's Community Centre, Broadway, Lupset, Wakefield, WF2 8AA**. Refreshments will be included.

For more details and to book please call **Bridget** on **01302 347444**.

The Old Quarry Adventure Playground

The Old Quarry Adventure playground, in Knottingley, is an exciting playground with a difference. We are an inclusive, free of charge, open access, staffed play provision for all children with or without disabilities, who are aged between **5** and **16** years old.



Fun filled facilities!

We provide opportunities for children to engage in self directed play, after school and during the school holidays. Facilities include an exciting spacious outdoor multi-terrain area that is filled with wooden play structures, a big swing, wobbly bridge, zip wire, Basketball nets and a Skate park.

In addition to our playground equipment we actively stimulate the children's imaginations by providing the resources and guidance to construct dens, build fires, engage in outdoor cooking and have great adventures! Our large building is well equipped with activities such as arts and crafts, music and dance opportunities and Pool and Table Football tables, as well as plenty of additional space for children to enjoy their freedom. Our building is an ideal base for conferences, group sessions, field trips and forest schooling sessions. We have a large Kitchen area, spacious accessible WC facilities and a separate Mother and Baby changing area.

February Half Term Event

On **Monday 13th February 2012** we are holding an Inclusion Open day, running from **10am–2pm**, at our playground. We invite all children and families to attend our holiday session, where we will show you why adventure playgrounds are so much fun for children of all abilities. Activities will include building fires, cooking, playing with water, making dens and weather permitting, a Bouncy Castle. Additionally we will be providing all children with the opportunity to decide how they spend their time, in return we would be very grateful for your time and also feedback about how we can develop our inclusive practices.



Save a Marshmallow for me!

For more information contact: **The Old Quarry Adventure Playground, c/o 93 Sycamore Avenue, Knottingley, WF11 0PJ** or phone: **01977 670953**.

Child Law Advice Line

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Children's Legal Centre

The Child Law Advice Line currently operates a telephone helpline for users to contact a legal adviser, alongside digital services. This includes access to factsheets, a virtual assistant and web-chat facilities to talk with an advisor.

Advice is available on all areas of family, child and education law. This includes issues for children with disabilities/additional needs, plus legal issues relating to special educational provision, transport, learning difficulties and education tribunals.

The instant messaging facilities are available from **9am** until **6pm**, **Monday** to **Friday**. The advice line is staffed from **8am** to **8pm**, **Monday** to **Friday** and a voicemail facility is available outside of these hours.

Visit www.childrenslegalcentre.com or call freephone: **0808 802008**.

Short Breaks Statement

Welcome to Wakefield Council's Short Breaks Statement. The aim of this document is to provide parents and carers with information on:

- Short breaks;
- The range of short break opportunities available in Wakefield;
- Who can access short breaks;
- How to access short breaks; and
- How short breaks meet the needs of disabled children and families.



What are Short Breaks?

Short breaks provide leisure activities and support services for disabled children and young people, outside of the school day. Short breaks are part of a range of services which support children in need and their families. They include the provision of day, evening, overnight and weekend activities for the child or young person, and can take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting. Short breaks enable parents and carers to have a break from their caring role, giving them time to have a rest, catch up on day-to-day activities, spend time with other family members or take up other interests.

The range of short breaks in Wakefield

Wakefield Council has published detailed information on the range of short breaks available across the District on the Families Information Service website (www.wakefieldfis.org.uk) for some time. Wakefield Council has also undertaken significant consultation with parents, carers, children and young people in relation to the range of short breaks provision offered across the district. This includes a detailed consultation exercise called "you said, we did" which engaged with parents to understand the issues that matters to them and detailed how these were being addressed by Wakefield Council and Wakefield District Primary Care Trust. The range of short breaks includes:

Get Started (Barnardo's)

The Get Started project is funded by Wakefield Council and is for disabled children and young people aged 5-19. The project supports children and young people to access mainstream leisure activities. The project helps to search for activities in the area in which the child/young person lives, supports other organisations within the local community to understand disability issues and provide an inclusive environment and provides short term support to children and young people in accessing a leisure activity or club.

Parents told Wakefield Council that you wanted more leisure facilities for disabled children with better training for staff. In response Wakefield is supporting inclusion into mainstream services through Get Started.

Awake Mentoring

Awake is a project which recruits and trains volunteers who have experience of disability, and supports them in providing mentoring young people aged 14 years and above, who has a disability, learning difficulty or long term health condition to achieve their personal goals. Mentoring includes supporting young people around building confidence, accessing services, new hobbies or interested in training, voluntary work or employment.



Family Activities & Grant Scheme

The Family Activities and Grant Scheme provides parents with an opportunity to apply for a grant of £150 (or £200 where a child is of secondary school age). Grants can be used for family outings or payment for registered childcare/holiday schemes or support from registered domiciliary care agencies

The Home Based Break Service

The Home Based Break Service provides a variety of short breaks in the community for eligible families (an assessment is undertaken to determine eligibility) The service includes:

Family Link

Family Link is a service that provides safe care and support in a child/young person's own home or out in the community. This may be alongside or independent of parents/carers. Family Link is a service for children aged 0-18.

Leisure Link

Leisure Link provides disabled children (aged 8 - 18 years) short breaks 'out and about' in the community. These breaks help them pursue leisure interests, have fun, gain confidence, learn new skills and develop independence. The children and young people along with their families decide what kinds of activities they take part in; for example, swimming, bowling, cinema trips, visiting places of local interest, joining a young people's club or sports group, or just meeting up with friends.

Parents told Wakefield Council that you wanted more social activities in areas where families can get together and meet others. In response Wakefield Council have provided short breaks which support families to enjoy time together, such as the Family Activities & Grants Scheme and the Family Link service.

Sitting Service

This service is open to any family caring for a child/young person aged 0-18, who has significant disabilities. The service is limited to a sitting service and children/young people will not be taken out for leisure activities. Each session lasts for a minimum of 3 hours to a maximum of 6 hours between 9am - 11pm (excluding public holidays) and is subject to availability.

Connect Placement

Connect Placement is a short break service for children with a significant disability (aged 0-18). The placement takes place within carers' own homes, with both day and overnight care available.

Wakefield Council and Wakefield District NHS also offer overnight short breaks to eligible children/young people and their families living in the Wakefield District (an assessment is undertaken to determine eligibility). These breaks are available at

Wasdale Children's Resource Centre

Offers overnight short breaks for children and young people aged 5-17 with learning disability and/or a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Star House

Star House provides planned residential short breaks for up to seven children and young people aged 5-17 with learning disability, with a dual diagnosis of complex physical and/or sensory needs and/or challenging behaviour.



Short Breaks Statement Continued

Who can access Short Breaks?

Detailed information about eligibility criteria for short breaks is published in the Wakefield Council Short Breaks Access Guidance (See 'Related Downloads' at <http://www.wakefieldfis.org.uk/Disabled/Default.htm>). The document describes the services and support that are available to families caring for a disabled child.

Services that do not require an assessment

Some services/support are available without an assessment, for instance, where:

- The child/young person has a learning/physical disability or autism which means they sometimes or always need some support with personal care, behaviour, keeping safe, making friends and/or taking part in activities, and the parent/carer needs some support so that they can manage their caring role, have time with other children and have an 'ordinary' family life; or
- The child/young person has a substantial disability or complex needs which means they frequently need help with personal care, without help would be unable to make friends or could be a risk to themselves or others, and the parent/carer needs support to be able to manage their caring role and enjoy an 'ordinary' family life, to have a break from caring or to spend time with other family members.



Services that require an assessment

If a child needs more specialist support, a banding system provides a guide to the level of support that may be on offer:

Band 1

The child has a substantial disability or complex needs which means they frequently need help with:

- Personal cares: e.g. eating, dressing, going to the toilet, bathing, moving.
- Without help, they would be unable to make friends or could be a risk to themselves or others.
- Or the parent/carer needs support to manage their caring role and enjoy an 'ordinary' family life, to have a break from caring or to spend time with other family members.



Band 2

The child / young person meet Band 1 criteria, plus have one of more of the following:

- Requires active assistance to undertake the majority of personal care tasks, needs assistance with mobility or 'transfers';
- Requires close supervision in order to manage everyday risks;
- Displays unpredictable behaviour which requires close monitoring to ensure their safety or that of others;
- Has a medical condition which requires careful monitoring;
- Has complex health needs, for example enteral feeding;
- Or the parent/carer needs support to manage their caring role due to difficult family circumstances, they have their own physical or mental health needs, or have no family or friends to provide support.



Band 3

The child / young person meet Band 2 criteria, plus have one of more of the following:

- Needs frequent active assistance as a result of complex or challenging behaviour;
- Needs frequent active assistance as a result of complex health needs;
- Or the parent/carer needs considerable support due to their own health needs, is experiencing a lack of sleep as they are frequently required to attend to the child during the night or that without support, they may no longer be able to continue their caring role.



How to access short breaks

Some short breaks and services for disabled children can be accessed without the need for an assessment, whilst others require assessment by a Social Worker. For more information about how to access short breaks and eligibility, please contact:

- Wakefield Early Support, Advice, Information & Liaison (WESAIL) service (01924 379015)
- Social Care Direct (0845 8503 503)
- Wakefield Families Information Service (0800 587 8042)

How short breaks meet the needs of disabled children and families

Parents and carers, as well as children and young people are involved in the shaping of services in Wakefield; for instance, the Access Guidance for short breaks was developed in partnership with parents/carers of disabled children. Local service providers also undertake consultation activities with families and feed these back to the Local Authority. Local Authority commissioners undertake evaluation of services to ensure they are providing services which meet the needs of service users.

Review

This Short Breaks Statement will be regularly reviewed and revised as required.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Now that you've seen the Short Breaks Statement we would welcome your feedback. Firstly did you understand what it is about and was the language clear and easy to follow? Do you know what Short Breaks are and are you aware of the different range available in the District? Can you say how Short Breaks meet your family's needs, what level of support you feel you should be entitled to and how to access this support? Ensuring you can answer these questions is what the Short Breaks Statement is about and its crucial that you inform us if it meets this criteria, because without your feedback we won't know. There are no right or wrong answers, just your honest views and opinions.

If you would like to comment on the Short Breaks Statement please contact **WeSail** on **01924 379015**.



Booktrust

Booktrust is the independent national charity which encourages people of all ages and cultures to discover and enjoy reading. The end of November will see Booktrust relaunch Bookmark, its web resource dedicated to the subject of disability and books. The new look site will include regularly updated articles, news, reviews, resources, organisations and a blog. The site is the perfect place to find children's books featuring disabled characters, a subject very close to the charity's heart.

Booktrust is building on this work, with various projects aimed at making books more inclusive and accessible for disabled children. The charity is keen to hear from young disabled people with an interest in promoting positive attitudes to disability who might like to act as consultants on a new inclusive book project and possible campaign.

For more information on getting involved E-mail **Alexandra Strick** at **alex@strick.co.uk**

Able2 Pontefract Special Olympics

Able2 Pontefract Special Olympics, formed in April 2009, is affiliated to Special Olympics GB. We are part of the Olympic family. We offer coaching and provide a year-round sports training and competition programme for people with learning disabilities. Currently Able2 Pontefract Special Olympics offer the following sports; Swimming, Boccia, New Age Kurling, Table Tennis, Equestrian and Athletics.



London 2012 beckons!

2011 has been another fantastic year for the athletes at Able2 Pontefract Special Olympics. Our athletes have all been successful in a wide range of competitions and events at local, regional and national level. We have champions in Athletics, Swimming, Equestrian, Boccia and New Age Kurling! Seven of our athletes have competed at National Championships during the year.

Several of our athletes have represented Yorkshire at no less than four national Swimming finals during 2011! Athletes represented Able2 Pontefract Special Olympics for the first time at the 6th annual British Learning Disability Swimming Championships. This was held at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield on Saturday 6th August. Sarah Shutt and Oliver Peace both took gold in their 25m breaststroke events to

become 2011 British Champions.

Four swimmers qualified to compete at the National Halliwick Swimming Championships at Pontypool, South Wales in October. Oliver Peace and Gavin Shaw dominated the individual men's races, both winning UK titles for their events.

Thomas Raddings, Sarah Shutt and Oliver Peace joined 25 other swimmers to form the Yorkshire and Humberside swimming squad at the Special Olympics National Aquatics Championships at Cardiff. James Pritchard joined Sarah and Oliver to swim at the 30th Rotary Sports Team Championship in Coventry in November.

Having a strong association with Wakefield Able2, (disability sports), Able2 Pontefract Special Olympics share equipment, resources and amenities, which strengthen our commitment to community sport.



We are the Champions!

For further details contact **Steve Peace** (Chair), on **07551 648661**, E-mail: speace@soable2.org.uk or visit www.soable2.org.uk

KIDS Calendar

Looking for some inspiration for a Christmas gift? How about a KIDS 2012 Calendar? The Calendar features high quality, positive images of families supported by KIDS in the Yorkshire and Humber region, including families from the Wakefield District.

The Calendars are a steal at only £5 each and any monies raised will be reinvested in KIDS continued work supporting families of disabled children/children with additional needs. So need to be stuck for Christmas gift ideas any longer.



To order your copy call **KIDS** on **01924 379015**

Parents in Partnership Forum



The Parents in Partnership Forum is managed by Wakefield Parent Partnership Service. Its aim is to make sure that parents and carers who have a child with SEN or a disability can feed their views about local SEN services back to the local authority. The forum makes sure that parents, carers, support groups and voluntary organisations understand and contribute to changes to policy and practice.

At the last meeting officers from the SEN transport section talked about the recent SEN Transport Consultation. After an initially angry response they reported that they feel they have gradually won parents over and the report has been signed off by senior managers. The main aim of the process is to encourage independent travel for those able to access it. The long term aim of the project is to develop a flexible approach to independent travel. In order to make the process more open they have developed a Transport Panel. The next steps in the process will include further discussion with parents and schools.

The next stage of the changes to Speech and Language Therapy provision were also discussed. The idea is to develop individual children's plans for Speech Therapy. It is hoped to trial the plan to see how it would work and then roll it out to all children needing therapy. Schools have responded very well to training offered by the Speech and Language Therapy Service and all places have been taken up.

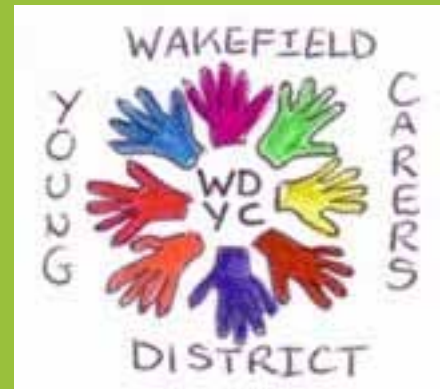
The next PIP meeting is on **25th January 2012** at **6pm** at **Wakefield Town Hall**. If you would like more information about the Forum phone: **0800 5878042**.

Wakefield District Young Carers

Here at Wakefield District Young Carers we work with children and young people aged from 5 to 19 years old, who help to care for someone within their home due to them having an illness or disability. This caring role must impact upon their lives in some way, (not all young carers need a support service). We can help reduce or remove this impact for them.

We work with the whole family, for up to 6 months, providing them with information and guidance, group work, one-to-one support, sign-posting to other relevant services and allowing the young carer to meet others like themselves. This work also involves working with sibling carers, who will be classed as secondary carers, who support parents or guardians to care for an ill or disabled sibling. We provide all of the above, which includes a Siblings group and illness specific groups or information, for example around Autism.

We do need to see that these children and young people are helping to care for their sibling, if they do not then unfortunately we cannot work with them. If you feel that you have a child or young person who would be classed as a young carer or sibling carer and would like more information please contact us on **01977 722860** for further information.



Seasons Greetings

On behalf of all the KIDS Wakefield team, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Our office will close on Friday 23rd December 2011 and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2012



Focus on Educational Psychology Service

The Educational Psychology Service, (EPS), in Wakefield is a team of 11.2 Educational Psychologists employed by Wakefield Council to provide a service to the maintained schools in the district. The main purpose of the EPS is to apply practice based on psychological theory to support the development, emotional well being and educational attainment of children and young people. In order to do this the service works closely with parents, children and young people, schools and other agencies to support schools in developing their inclusive practice to meet the needs of children and young people for whom some aspects of school life can be a challenge. The service therefore works with children and young people with learning and behaviour needs as well as with some children and young people experiencing difficulties because of specifically diagnosed conditions, for example Autism, ADHD or a range of medical conditions.

The work of an EP can take the form of detailed assessment work with an individual child or young person, or it can be work to support groups of children experiencing similar challenges in school. Sometimes work is at the whole school level, as this is where change needs to take place to ensure that children's needs can be met.

EPs work within the SEN Code of practice, which states that schools should take the first action to address needs, both by identifying them and then by putting in place strategies to address the identified needs. If this action indicates that further advice and guidance is necessary, the school can request the involvement of the EP to undertake some assessment work and to advise the school further about meeting the child's needs. If this assessment is to take place, parental permission is always required.

Requests for EP involvement occur through planning meetings, which are held twice a year in every school and which provide the school with the opportunity to raise concerns and request involvement. It is the school's responsibility to ensure that parents are aware that this is to take place.

If a parent/carer is concerned about the progress of their child they should always make an appointment to discuss this with the school in the first instance. Close co-operation between the school and parents/carers and monitoring of the support offered by school will, in most cases, address concerns and will, in any case, indicate which children need the involvement of an EP.

The Whole Shabang



Shabang, a local arts company based at The Watershed in Slaithwaite, specialising in delivering high quality and accessible arts to children with special educational needs are pleased to announce the arrival of '**The Whole Shabang! Volume 1**'

This is a fabulous new sing & sign resource book & CD for children with, (or without), additional learning needs and includes Makaton signs. The songs, activities and games in this book will help you & your child grow your learning power, helping to lay the foundations for effective lifelong learning. The resources in this unique book have been developed over years of hands on experience in special education settings.

Using two themes - the Sea and the Garden, songs are created to start and end your day, songs to build language and facilitate group sessions, songs to encourage participation and turn taking. Combined with Makaton signs the ideas come alive to enhance any curriculum, including mainstream nurseries, whilst having fun & enjoying music together.

The Book and CD set is available now for **£19.99**, or alternatively you can purchase just the CD for **£7.99**.

For more information, or to hear a sample of the songs or to buy an item visit www.shabang.org.uk