



South East Surrey Dyslexia Association

Affiliated to the British Dyslexia Association. Reg. Charity No. 281076

OPEN MEETINGS

Spring Term 2007

Tuesday 20th February at 8 pm

“Unlocking Visual Skills to Support Dyslexics”

Speaker – Lesley Milton Dyslexia@Bay

Leslie has some very interesting examples to demonstrate how dyslexic children and adults are affected by visual difficulties. She will show how good visual skills can help all aspects of life for dyslexic children.

Tuesday 20th March at 8pm

“Maths Matters”

Speaker – Anne Mitchell

Anne will talk about the difficulties children have with Maths and how to overcome them.

Tuesday 15th May at 8pm

A Talk about Language Development from Rosie Wood who was a Director at the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre until the summer of 2006.

Title and more details in the next newsletter.

***Holy Trinity Church Centre,
Carlton Road, Redhill
at 8pm***

Holy Trinity Church Centre is at the junction of Carlton Road and London Road (A23)

Members: £2.50 per family

Non-members: £5.00 per family

Details : Helpline - 01737 556 173

‘Unlocking Visual Skills to Support Dyslexics’

20th February at 8pm

Speaker: Lesley Milton Dyslexia@Bay

“Many children with dyslexia have difficulty distinguishing between the sounds of speech and relating these sounds to the written word making a phonetic approach to learning to read and spell very difficult. Lesley will talk to you this evening about an approach which unlocks visual skills to help a child bypass such difficulties. Not every child with dyslexia has difficulty with phonics but all can benefit from enhanced visual skills.

Good visual skills enable a child to spell well, to read fluently with good comprehension, to think sequentially and write a well ordered story or essay.

As well as helping with ‘reading, writing and spelling’, enhanced visual skills can also help to alleviate some of the non language based symptoms of dyslexia such as remembering and following instructions, lack of concentration, poor sense of time and difficulty telling the time as well as giving a child’s self esteem a welcome boost.”

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Other Dyslexia Association Open Meetings.

Sutton Dyslexia Association

21st March at 8pm

Speaker to be arranged

Friends Meeting House, 10 Cedar Road, Sutton, Surrey.

Cost : Donation to funds for non-members. Contact No: 0208 647 4526

Kingston Dyslexia Association

22nd February at 7.30pm

Identifying Dyslexia in Five Year Olds – The Role of Early Screening Tests

Speaker: Valerie Muter

15th March at 7.30pm

Unicorn Maths – A multi sensory approach to maths intervention

Speaker: Sarah Wedderburn

Parish Hall, Christchurch Centre, Coombe Road, New Malden

Non members £5.00 Contact No: 0208 549 4771

Croydon Dyslexia Association

31st January at 7.30pm

What kinds of assessments are used and what does the jargon mean in an Educational Psychologist’s report?

Speaker: An Educational Psychologist

14th March at 7.30pm

How parents and schools can help a child with dyslexia

Speaker: Speech and Language Therapist

United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon.

Cost: £5.00 Contact No: 0870 225 2125

Chairman's Letter

In 2006 SESDA organised 2 Courses for Teachers and Support Staff.

They were well received and the staff who attended took a lot of ideas back to their schools. Thank you to all the Committee who helped make them a success.

Open meetings - In May, Fin O'Regan talked about Homework and Behaviour

Management and in June there was a panel of teachers and parents answering questions on 'Moving on to Secondary School'.

There was also a Study Skills evening in November with Lee Pascal. We were very pleased to see a number of teenagers in the audience.

In June, the Holy Trinity Church, where we have our meetings, celebrated their Centenary Year and asked all organisations if they would like to contribute flowers for the Church.

We are very grateful to Jennifer, a dyslexic student at East Surrey College, who made a lovely arrangement for SESDA to put in the Church.

I must thank all our members who support us financially especially those of you who have generously given donations with your subscriptions. They are well used.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

We need help at Open meetings – putting out chairs (Brownies leave at 7.15pm) or helping man the Bookstall or Library or making coffee. There are about seven meetings a year, usually on a Tuesday evening. If you come regularly to our meetings or live near Carlton Road would you consider helping once or twice a year? If so, please let me know.

Tel: 01737 556 173 or e-mail: sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com.

SESDA is in desperate need of more Committee members.

In 2006 we lost four members for various reasons. Two have moved away from this area.

We are due to lose another one in February when Jillian (Bookshop), moves to Australia.

I will resign as Chairman at the end of March this year.

The numbers are going down but the jobs stay the same.

Some Dyslexia Associations in England had to close in 2006 through lack of Committee members. **We do not want that to happen to us.**

We want to reflect the balance of parents and teachers in our membership and would like to have more parent members and teacher representatives from our local schools on the Committee. We now have over 20 Schools as members.

We want new ideas and suggestions for talks and speakers.

If you have some spare time and you would like to get involved please contact me on 01737 556 173 or sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com.

The Committee meet once a month, excluding Easter month and August, on a Thursday at the Garland Pub in Redhill. The owners very kindly let us use a room free of charge.

PLEASE think about joining. Your commitment is only the time you can give.

Sheena

Listening Books

Website: www.soundlearning.org.uk

Listening Books National Listening Library can be a very useful resource for adults and children.

You can borrow as many titles as you want in a year on standard cassette. You are allocated two books at a time.

A collection of titles that support Keystage 2 to A-Level is available.

From January 2007 audio books will also be available on MP3 and CD.

Currently there are over 400 titles available.

Two ways to join:

- by requesting an information pack (for a child, adult or organisation) and an application form to complete and return
- by telephoning Membership Services Assistants on 0207 234 0522 who will complete your application over the phone

On the website there is some very useful advice about how audio books can be used in the classroom. It is also of interest to parents Website: www.soundlearning.org.uk

An extract from the Website:

‘Slow readers often lose the chance to join in class discussions because they are struggling to keep up with what has been read. If students are encouraged to listen to the tape of the story before it is read in class they will be able to understand the plot better and keep up with the discussions in class.’

‘Students need to fully understand the characters and plot of a novel before they can analyse the way it is written. Listening to the tape before attempting to read the novel and then deconstruct the text can ensure that students are familiar with the story.’

‘Students (especially those who are dyslexic) who want to read for enjoyment need to visualise what it is they are reading. If they don’t, comprehension, memory and enjoyment all suffer. Listening to an audio tape helps students to visualise because they are freed from the labour of having to decode the written word.’

If your child has a set book to read for school, it is a good idea to read the book yourself so that you can talk about the plot and the characters at home. This will reinforce what is being discussed in the classroom.

There should be audio books available in your local library. Don’t restrict audio books to children who have difficulty reading. Most children enjoy listening to stories whatever their reading ability. If children are listening or reading stories they are using their imagination which will help in their own story writing.

Newsletter by E-mail

Thank you to those who have said they will take the Newsletter by E-mail. This will save SESDA money, and time for the 'admin. dept.'

If you would like the Newsletter through E-mail please let me know.

sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

Sheena

The Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust Team is a challenging 12 week programme that helps young people, between the ages of 16 and 25, to develop the confidence, motivation and skills to turn untapped potential into success.

Aaron's Story

After leaving Reigate College in April, I went to an e2e course in Redhill, but unfortunately I had to leave due to a bullying issue.

My self confidence went down and I didn't want to go back to any College or any e2e courses. For a couple of months I did nothing. Finally I got a three day job. I then enquired at Guildford College about doing another e2e course with Jon Pickerell, called One Month to Motivate. That was a lifetime experience. By the end of that course he thought it would be good if I went on to join the Prince's Trust Team.

I looked into it, applied and got in. It has been a tough but enjoyable experience. My self confidence is going up and I'm making new friends as well.

I recommend this course to anyone.

Aaron

Aaron is a dyslexic 17 year old.

Thank you to Aaron's Mum, Jackie, for providing the following information from the people who run the Course.

Would you like to have a go?

You will join a group of up to 15 young people from various backgrounds and abilities to become a team.

During the first two weeks you will get to know each other, have fun and learn how to overcome all sorts of challenges together.

You will learn to rely on each other to achieve the goals your team sets.

So what can I get out of it?

- Confidence Skills Qualifications
- Recognition New mates Food hygiene and first aid certificate

Plus lots of fun and excitement.

And what will I be doing?

Week 1 is a chance to get to know each other and have a trip out together.

Week 2 you will plan a practical community project and do a one day First Aid or Food Hygiene Course.

Weeks 3 and 4 involve activities and projects including a residential trip to Dartmoor and fundraising ideas for other projects.

Weeks 5 and 6 are project weeks when you build a garden or decorate a room or undertake a similar project.

In week 7 you will celebrate the completion of your project and, among other things, create a newspaper.

In week 8 you will get one to one advice and as a team look at the possibilities in training, adventure schemes, jobs etc.

In week 9 you get the chance to try out the placement of your dreams.

Weeks 10 and 11 consist of time to plan and carry out the final team challenge.

Week 12 is presentation week and you plan, as a team, a small presentation reviewing the previous 11 weeks.

All youngsters work on a Profile of Achievement throughout the programme

When it is over we will carry on working with you if you want us to, helping you to get work or into College or whatever.

So who can do it?

- Anyone who is: 16 to 25 years of age
- Available full time for 12 weeks
- Needing a gap year
- Up for a challenge

Cost of Course: Free plus free lunch

Travel costs: Refunded by agreement within a 10 mile radius.

Find out more: Tel: Pete Cox at Plantation on 01483 888 122 or 07748 637 987
Visit Plantation: 12b Market Street, Guildford. GU1 4LB

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Teaching Assistants' Course
Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre

Level 3 Accredited Course in Association with The National College Open Network
Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre Frensham, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 3BW

Starting February 28th for 16 weeks

Wednesdays – 9.30 -12.30

Cost: £499

All details on Website – www.arkellcentre.org.uk

Tel: 01252 792400

E-mail: courses@arkellcentre.org.uk

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SESDA Library

If you have a SESDA library book which you have had for more than a month please return it as soon as possible. Books can be returned at all Open Meetings. If you cannot attend a meeting you can E-mail SESDA at sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com or ring SESDA Helpline 01737 556 173. You will be given the address of the nearest Committee member to whom you can return the book.

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'Contact'

The BDA magazine 'Contact' is usually distributed in January, but this year will not be published until February. It will be sent to members as soon as it arrives.

Teachers' Course Spring and Autumn 2006

Teachers and Support Staff received a good insight into the reasons why ADHD, Dyspraxic and Autistic children behave the way they do. They not only learned to understand behaviour in the classroom but also how the children may behave at home. It is very valuable for both parents and teachers to have an overall picture of the child.

Many autistic, dyspraxic, ADHD children share the same difficulties.

They have poor communication and social skills. They find fitting in with a group hard. They all like routine, especially the autistic child. They find recording information difficult. They cannot process information quickly. Personal organisation is difficult and self esteem is low. Most will have problems with literacy.

Many dyslexic children share these difficulties too.

It helps to understand that the child may appear not to be listening but is in fact trying hard to follow what is being said by the teacher. Always ask, but quietly, at his/her desk.

It is most important to look for a child's strengths. There will be something he/she enjoys and is good at. Find it and build on it.

A survey carried out by Mike Johnson, Principal Lecturer, SEN Institute of Education, Manchester University a few years ago asked children what they would like their teachers to do in class to make their learning easier. In answer to the questions, some of the things they wanted teachers to do were:

PLEASE

- give instructions slowly and not too many at a time. Make it clear what you want us to do. Check up that we have understood and know how to start a task. Show us, don't just tell us what to do.
- write clearly on the board so that there is a good space between the lines.
- when you ask a question give us time to think.
- let us sit in a position in class so that we are not being distracted by others.
- let us sit beside someone who can help us.
- make sure we have enough time to copy down homework and that we have copied correctly. If possible we would like handouts that can be collected from the teacher's desk without any fuss.
- understand that writing things down is very difficult. Stories are very hard.
- understand that even if we don't get work finished we have tried hard.

The children wanted teachers who didn't shout at them for getting things wrong. They wanted teachers who marked work on content and not on spellings.

They wanted teachers who didn't embarrass pupils in front of others.

They wanted teachers who appreciated they had worked hard with homework although it may not have been finished.

“Don't get in a stress when I get something wrong. I want to know that when I am stuck I can put up my hand and not get shouted at for not listening. I can have it explained again.”

The survey summed up that the key to achievement for all pupils comes in understanding how each pupil thinks and feels.

SESDA President Jean Hutchins

Jean Hutchins operates an automated announcements-only E-mail list for SESDA. She sends BDA notices, reminders of SESDA meetings and items from the Press about dyslexia, on average once a week.

If any SESDA member, who is not already on the list, wants information sent please contact Jean.

E-mail: JeanHutchins@compuserve.com

We are very grateful to Jean for providing this service.

Useful telephone numbers in SESDA

Helpline: Sheena Heppenstall Tel: 01737 556 173

Chairman: Sheena Heppenstall Tel: 01737 556 173

Treasurer: Jackie Dias – Jayansinha Tel: 01737 213 704

Speakers: Sandra O'Brien Tel: 01883 653 508

Bookshop: ???

Library: Jacqui Chaddock Tel: 01737 767 457

Hulya Di Paolo Tel: 01737 643 117

Membership

Secretary: Sheena Heppenstall Tel: 01737 556 173

Assessment

Materials: Jane Hayward Tel: 01737 218 628

Adult Support

Group: Michelle Phillipson Tel: 01737 766 456

SESDA Website

www.sesda-dyslexia.co.uk

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sesdadyslexia@hotmail.com

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