

Natters extra news

Starburst Charity Performance

Apparently this performance has been cancelled - if you have booked tickets, please get in touch with Caz Robertson on 07739 750702.

NAS Christmas guide

The NAS have produced a handy guide to Christmas for parents and carers of children with autism, which you can download by going to www.autism.org.uk/christmas For most people, Christmas is a fun and exciting time. But for children with autism and their families, it can be very stressful. Children with autism often become confused or distressed by the change in routine or the increased social activity, and this can be upsetting for the rest of the family.

Fortunately, there are plenty of ways you can reduce the impact of Christmas on your child and your family. The new guide to the festive season includes advice about how to handle guests, siblings and giving out presents. Remember that every family and every child is different, so please adapt and implement these tips in the way best suited to your child.



SOS! SEN talk in Aldershot

On Tuesday 19th January 2010, 7:30pm - 9:30pm at The Games Shop, Aldershot, Hampshire (opposite Costa Coffee) Marion Strudwick from SOS! SEN will be giving a presentation about the charity.

SOS! SEN offer a free, friendly, independent and confidential advice for parents and others looking for information and advice on Special Educational Needs (SEN). They concentrate on helping people to find their way through the legal and procedural maze which is so daunting to so many, who try to obtain satisfactory provision for a child's special needs.

Marion and her team of volunteers help with:

- interpreting official letters
- interpreting the SEN Code of Practice and other related documents
- checking proposed and revised Statements of Special Educational Needs
- helping prepare letters of request, comment and complaint
- finding independent professional advice e.g. independent Educational Psychologists, and lawyers
- giving guidance on the next available procedures which may be suitable
- in special cases they may act as a "friend" to accompany parents on visits to the offices of officials in the education, health and social services and to meetings in schools
- advising on preparation of Appeals to SEND (previously SENDIST - Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal)
- helping with complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman
- organising training workshops and other opportunities for parents and carers to come together.

Come along and be empowered and enlightened!

Tickets are £5 each and all money raised is going to the SOS! SEN helpline so that other parents can benefit from their advice and experience and keep the charity going. SOS! SEN will not accept offers of finance from Local Authorities or any other sources where there could be a conflict of interest. Their funds, therefore, come from the usual range of events - social evenings, jumble sales, coffee mornings, workshops and donations.

To reserve your place, call into The Games Shop before January 10th with your money. Spaces will be limited due to space.

For more information, contact The Games Shop on 01252 311 443.

SOS! SEN



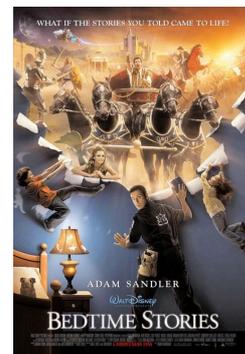
Special needs cinema sessions

'A for Film' is a club for all families with special needs children, siblings and parents too! The ethos is very simple: the lights will be up a little, the sound slightly down and all young people can clap their hands, shout express themselves and move around as much as they need.

The next session is on Sunday 6th December 2009, 9.30 - 11.15am at The Vue Cinema, Oracle Shopping Centre Reading. Doors open at 9am to buy popcorn & refreshments. All special needs children must be accompanied by an adult.

Running time: 95 minutes. Rating: PG Cost: 95p per ticket

Please be aware that this film may contain fictional talking animals



'The Big Film Club' - a brand new club for all adults with additional needs. The club will show the latest releases, enabling members to watch them in a new environment created to promote integration, whilst giving 'preference' to individual conditions. Any member of the general public who wishes to purchase a ticket to the screening, will be made aware of the differences and are welcome to join in if they so choose.

The next session is on Thursday 3rd December 2009, 12 - 2.10pm at The Vue Cinema, Oracle Shopping Centre Reading. Arrive by 11.30am to buy popcorn & refreshments.

Running time: 130 minutes. Cost: £5.75 per ticket

Rating: 12A (contains moderate fantasy violence and horror)

All carers must ensure suitability for their additional needs companions.



For more details on either club, contact Chris Roberts on 0771 100 4034 or chris_standby@hotmail.com

Cambian Group - free parent workshop

The Cambian Group invite you to attend their free parent workshop on strategies to support young people with Autism. On Wednesday 28th April 2010, 9.30am to 2.30pm at St. Bride Foundation, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 8EQ.

Topics include therapeutic support for children with autism; positive behaviour support strategies; what to look for when finding a school and communication support for children with autism.

To book your place, register online at www.cambiagroup.com/workshops or call 0800 288 9779.

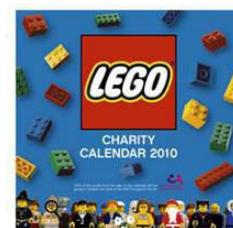
Turtle music

A week of music and drama workshops for children (10 - 14 year olds) with high functioning autism and Asperger syndrome. Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2010 (Spring half-term), 10am - 1pm at The Baytree Centre, 300 Brixton Road, London, SW9 6AE.

Go to www.turtlekeyarts.org.uk for more information.

Lego Calendar

The LEGO NAS Charity calendar is now available, marking the latest initiative as part of the National Autistic Society's partnership with LEGO UK and all profits from the sales will be donated to the NAS. This is the very first calendar LEGO have ever produced and would make an ideal Christmas present! To see pictures of the calendar or to order a copy please visit: <http://shop.lego.com/Product/?p=2853505>



Tell us if you know something we should pass on to other parents!