

WordsWell

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Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of our newsletter...

Autumn is here, the leaves are falling and there is a definite nip in the air. With Christmas only a matter of weeks away we are all busy preparing for the festive season. Why not sit down, relax and make some time for yourself and enjoy reading our latest newsletter.

NEWS



Janet has been particularly busy this Autumn being involved in training and presentations to both parents and professionals. She has given a talk in Cambridge to parents organised by the National Autistic Society, taken part in the annual Education Day for the Twins and Multiple Birth Association in Basingstoke, to SAID in St Ives, Cambridgeshire, the Medico-Legal SIG in Boston Spa, Yorkshire and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists AGM in Durham. Next May Janet has again been asked to talk on report writing and presenting at Tribunal as an expert witness to parents and professionals in Teddington. If you would like more information on this event please look at the website or contact SEN!SOS on 020 8979 8853 or e-mail: sossen@blueyonder.co.uk

Janet is currently in discussion with local nurseries in and around Cambridge and Ely to set up specific sessions for pre-school children with speech, language, communication and learning difficulties - watch this space! It is also hoped that Janet will be involved in supporting families with children with autism in the Stowmarket area.

For the first time Wordswell will have a waiting list from January 2005 for both therapy and medico-legal assessment as our reputation grows and Janet becomes busier. However, our free discussions will still be available to new clients immediately.

We are seeking part time and bank speech and language therapists, speech and language therapy assistants and administrative staff to work from our clinic base in Little Downham near Ely or from your own home on a temporary or permanent basis. We are looking to recruit people who are committed to providing a high quality service for children and their families. We can offer a supportive team, time and support for preparation and writing up case notes, designated time for personal study, mentorship, clinical supervision, continual professional development and regular in service training directly related to the needs of the client.

Please contact us if you are a qualified SLT, assistant or typist for an informal discussion with Janet O'Keefe on 01353 698156 or email: janetokeefe@wordswell.co.uk

[Visit our careers page](#) but don't forget to return to the newsletter.

Free Legal Advice!

Maxwell Gillott, solicitors specialising in Education Law and Community Care Law are running a new telephone advice scheme in conjunction with the Children's Legal Centre and funded by the Legal Service Commission. They can offer 30 minutes free legal advice to anyone telephoning **0845 345 4345** with casework. They can also grant emergency legal aid while making an application to the Legal Services Commission for Public Funding to eligible families.

www.maxwellgillott.com



Calling all Chatterboxes!

Chatterbox Challenge is an annual event, run by I CAN with the support of Tesco Baby & Toddler Club and LeapFrog Toys, to raise funds to support the 1 in 10 children in the UK who struggle to communicate. The sponsored 'Chat-along' takes place in January and February 2005 and challenges children to learn and perform rhymes, songs and stories to the best of their abilities. To get involved, log on to www.ican.org.uk/chatterbox

Can you spare a minute or two?

The Afasic Parents' Survey 2004 has now been published. The survey is an online multi-choice questionnaire that should take minimal time to complete and will help us to get a fuller picture of people's experiences of speech and language services. The survey can be viewed at www.afasic.org.uk/survey

'Ibrahim – Where in the Spectrum Does He Belong?'

This is the story of Shahidun Rahman and her son, Ibrahim, and tells the story of a mother's struggle to bring up a child with a Semantic Pragmatic Language Disorder, part of the autistic spectrum of disorders. The following is an excerpt from the book:



Ibrahim imitated the good and bad behaviour of other children, not knowing what was right or wrong. He didn't listen to what the other children were saying to him and some children didn't like Ibrahim getting too close. He was unable to read the signals they gave him and didn't understand peoples' feelings and so he was unable to respond to them. He talked at children rather than with them and he made irrelevant comments which baffled those around him. Children found his behaviour strange because they were too young to realise he had communication problems. I think most people who knew Ibrahim labelled him as being strange, which is a difficult thing for a parent to accept. In role-play situations he imitated things he had seen adults doing because he lacked imagination. Although he was able to accurately mimic others, he was unable to develop his own ideas. Ibrahim didn't really establish friendly relationships with the teachers and helpers because he didn't show any interest in them or in what they were doing. He had developed some very bad behaviour traits and would bite people, not realising how painful this was. He did this to me many times and he also hit me during his many tantrums. I realised it was part of his behaviour and something I had to learn to accept until Ibrahim was mature enough to control himself.

http://www.spldinfo.com/buy_the_book.htm Ibrahim - Where in the Spectrum Does He Belong? is currently available as a printed book or as a downloadable e-book - ISBN 190418135X . The Price is £7.99.

You can also order a copy from the author directly at the following address: Shahidun Rahman, 23 Maitland Avenue, Cambridge, CB4 1TA. It is also available from every major internet bookstore.

You can find further details of Ibrahim's story at www.spldinfo.com www.spldinfo.com



A poem from a friend ...

...a Friend does most or all of these...

(A)ccepts you as you are
(B)elieves in "you"
(C)alls you just to say "HI"
(D)oesn't give up !! on you

(E)nvisions the whole of you (even the unfinished parts)
(F)orgives your mistakes
(G)ives unconditionally
(H)elps you
(I)nvites you over

(J)ust "be" with you
(K)eeps you close at heart
(L)oves you for who you are
(M)akes a difference in your life

(N)ever Judges
(O)ffer support
(P)icks you up
(Q)uiets your fears
(R)aises your spirits

(S)ays nice things about you
(T)ells you the truth when you need to hear it
(U)nderstands you
(V)alues you

(W)alks beside you
(X)-plains thing you don't understand
(Y)ells when you won't listen and
(Z)aps you back to reality