

SPRINGBOARD NEWS

Supporting children with additional needs aged 0-5 and their families in North Somerset
Registered Charity 1025787 Established 1986 www.springboardweb.org.uk

May 2007

Dates for your diary:

2007/08:

Fri 25 May—last day Term 5

Mon 4 June — Term 6 starts

Sun 10 June—Friends Family Fun Day Portishead

Tues 12 June—Bristol Zoo Trip (closed)

Sat 30 June—Volunteers' Cream Tea, Weston

Thurs 12 July — Trustees meeting Clevedon 7.30

Sun 15 July—Friends Family BBQ—Weston

Tues 24 July—Leavers Party, Clevedon

Weds 25 July - last day Term 6

Mon 3 Sept - inset day **CLOSED**

Tues 4 Sept - start Term 1

CLEVEDON BUILDING PROJECT—PLANS GOING WELL BUT MORE FUNDS NEEDED BEFORE WORK CAN START—IDEAS

Following hot on the heels of Springboard's new facilities in Weston we are busy planning the extension to our Clevedon Centre. The additions include a new entrance and reception area, a resource room, toilets, storage and upstairs office with an indoor staircase! There will also be a playroom store for larger equipment which will at the far end of the playroom with access from outside as well.

With a fantastic more than £170,000 already raised, the last push for funds is proving to be more difficult than it was at Ashcombe. We have applied to over 50 charitable trusts and have more applications outstanding. In the meantime we are going to tender for prices from builders and the trustees will make a decision in mid July as to whether building work will be starting in the summer holidays or more likely, sometime in the autumn.

Potentially, the building work could bring considerable disruption to the smooth running of the organisation and will have major health and safety implications as well. For

example, part of the car park will be used for the builders site office, the entrance will need to be via the garden and very little parking will be available. The parents room will be unaffected but all of the office space will be out of use for several months and the little playroom will take on this role temporarily.

We have to raise £65,000 before building work can start



We will ensure that the effect on the children is kept to a minimum and will keep all parents informed of our plans and deal with any issues promptly. In order to cope with less space we are reducing the number of places available at each session from 10 to 8. All children who will be staying with us in September will receive their places as planned but any new children may have to be placed on a waiting list. We will monitor this situation closely and are prepared to re-think our plans at any stage if things are not working out. As soon as we have a clear plan and timetable we will let everyone know. If you have any concerns please speak to a member of staff who will be able to help you or make contact with Joanne Harris, Springboard Manager.

If you have any ideas or contacts for raising the final funds we need to complete this much needed building project we would love to hear from you!

INFORMATION AND NEWS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES:

Springboard is governed by the following Board of Trustees who were elected at our recent AGM:

Dr Jane Stewart — *Chair*
Sarah Iles - (Cdon parent) *Vice Chair*
Zoe Bebbington—(Cdon parent) *Treasurer*
Sue Goulding—*Weston parent & volunteer*
Dave Peddle— *Weston supporter*
Sarah Ridge—*Clevedon parent*
Caroline Stitfall— *Clevedon parent*
Anna Roberts— *Clevedon parent*
Charlotte Johns—*Weston parent*

Thanks to all of our trustees for standing again or for the first time. Trustees are essential to our function as a charity, a company and helping to shape our organisation for our current members and for future children and families in North Somerset. Two of our long standing trustees and parents stepped down this year, Jo Bevan and Dennis Coombe. Thanks to both of them for all their support over many years and in particular for their help with the Weston building project.

Our AGM this year was a bit of a departure as we held it at Ashcombe with children present and as a drop in morning. We finished the meeting with a big hokey-cokey around the canopy pole and the Springboard song, it was great fun! Many thanks to all who attended and all staff, volunteers and trustees who helped on the day and a special thank you to Julia for leading the singing.

Playroom news: This term the theme is wild animals, hence the Bristol Zoo trip. Don't forget that all parents and carers can follow their child's progress in more detail by looking at their child's Learning Diary at any time.



Shoes have been giving us a bit of a headache lately as Ofsted request all pre schools to take 'reasonable steps' to limit outdoor shoes where very young or vulnerable children may be crawling. We are trying to

use common sense to address this issue rather than introduce a set policy. We do request that all staff volunteers wear softer shoes or trainers rather than hard soles or boots to help with safety in general.

Weston parents may be aware that places are in demand and that we have a waiting list for September. Currently we cannot run a 7th play session as we do not have enough funding. We will be discussing this situation with our trustees and officers at North Somerset Council. Once we have more information we will let you all know.

Family Support: Springboard is fortunate enough to have secured a grant from James Tudor Foundation of £15,000 over two years to fund our Family Support Worker. This will be a great boost to our plans to improve family support to families at Springboard. We have also applied to the Big Lottery for funds for this work as well and we should hear in August, so fingers crossed. Thank you everyone who gave us feedback during our recent parental involvement and family support weeks. Some of it was used anonymously to support our funding bids as real-life personal experiences make a major impact.

Sun, Hats, What's in a Name?— with the sunnier



weather coming all parents are asked to apply sun cream to your child before coming to Springboard and providing a named sun hat. In fact, names on all clothes bags, shoes etc would be really helpful!

Staff news: We have a new Inclusion Support Assistant, Louise Brent, who joins us and will be part of our Weston team. Louise's first day with us was when all of the Springboard staff took part in a Forest School activity in Worlebury Woods. This was partly to have a team building session but also to help us focus more on outdoor play for the children. We had a very enjoyable day with a lot of fun as well as the serious aspect. Photos will be on display soon so you can see what we got up to.

Events/training:

Makaton Refresher	Tues 12 June 7.30 -9.30	all at Ashcombe Children's Centre
Makaton Beginner's Workshop 1	Sat 16 June 9.30-4pm	contact Diane for more details
Makaton Beginner's Workshop 2	Sat 7 July 9.30-4pm	01275 341113 diane@springboardweb.org.uk

Volunteer News: Springboard have managed to secure funding for three years to help pay for reasonable travelling expenses for all volunteers. It is from Mencap and is provided by an Opportunities for Volunteering grant. We are holding a Cream Tea to thank all our volunteers on Saturday 30 June at Ashcombe. Family members welcome. More details soon.