



# Conference

## Supporting Children and Young People with Down Syndrome

*Wednesday 28 June 2017*

You are invited to the Barnet Down Syndrome Leading Edge Group Conference  
At the **BEST Hub, Lanacre Avenue, Grahame Park, Colindale, NW9 5FN**



This year we are focusing on practical ways to support the learning and inclusion of children and young people with Down syndrome and other complex needs. We will have short presentations and a choice of workshops throughout the day.

## **Conference Purpose**

- To transform teaching and learning for children and young people with Down syndrome
- To understand the learning needs of pupils with Down syndrome
- To explore motivating ways of learning
- To provide guidance and support for educational settings

## **Barnet Leading Edge Group for children and young people with Down syndrome**

Barnet Leading Edge Group for children and young people with Down syndrome has been established for ten years. We are a small group of parents and professionals who work to support Barnet with Cambridge Education to take a strategic lead to help early years settings, schools, further education colleges and other provisions to improve outcomes for our children, young people and their families.

We study best practice and latest research and also use the expertise of the parents and professionals in the Leading Edge Group. We provide guidelines and training for the above settings. When possible, we research to try and find out the best ways to help our children make progress and to have successful placements. We meet once a term and try to influence professional practice. We all have different experience and we support the group according to our different perspectives and skills. If you are interested in joining us, please talk with a member of the group (for example, talk to any workshop leader).

## Outline of the Day

9.00 am        Arrival/Registration/Workshop sign-up

9.15 am    Welcome and Introductions  
              Sarah Geiger, Chair of Barnet Leading Edge group for Children and Young  
              People with Down Syndrome

9.45am    Adventures Raising a child with Down syndrome  
              Luci Rose

10.45am    Refreshments

11.00am    **Workshops**

12.00pm        Lunch

Book Exhibition from Richard Myers  
Barnet Parent Carer Forum, Rivka Steinberg  
Sense Toys, Lesley Burton

1.00pm        Panel 'Developing Our Expertise': "What Works?"

2.00pm        Coffee  
              Makaton Taster Session at 2.00pm. Please bring your drinks for a prompt start

2.15pm        **Workshops**

3.15pm        Summary and key messages  
3.30pm        Annalie Huberman        What's important?

3.45pm        Finish

## Who's Who?

### Keynote Speakers

**Luci Rose** has worked with children and adults with a wide range of special needs for 28 years, in the UK and Eastern Europe. She has worked as a teacher and senior manager in a special school for 16 years. During this time, she worked with children and young people with Down syndrome aged 3 to 19. After this, Luci adopted a baby with Down syndrome and spent three years at home. When her daughter started school, Luci returned to work part time. Luci is currently the Lead Advisory Teacher for Autism in Barnet. She is on the board of Trustees for Down Syndrome Educational International.

**Annalie Huberman's** interests are dancing and going out with her friends. Annalie loves drama and acting. She works at Barnet Mencap on Monday and Thursday, for Action for Kids on Tuesday, and Yo Sushi on the weekends. Annalie starred on the Kitchen Impossible TV Series with Michel Roux.

## Workshops

### Behaviour – Practical Tips & Strategies

Duffy is the Specialist Teacher for students with Down syndrome at Oak Lodge School. In addition to teaching commitments, she offers outreach to schools in and out of the borough and provides ongoing in-house training at Oak Lodge in areas such as curriculum planning, the learning environment, and helping students to access and achieve. Duffy has experience with young people with considerable needs and identifies practical ways to support and motivate our children and young people.

### Common health problems associated with Down syndrome and how they impact on a child's ability to learn

Anna Petsas is an intensive care doctor and anaesthetist at the Royal Free Hospital. Anna is mother to 2 children, her eldest (soon to be 4) is Alex and he has Down syndrome. Anna's workshop focuses on the health/education overlap. It will raise awareness amongst educators so they feel empowered to recognise and consider medical problems as potential causes for children who are falling behind or struggling. There will also be practical advice about how to adapt the learning environment to allow the child to better access the curriculum and overcome some of the health-related obstacles associated with Down syndrome.

## **Reading – Where to start and moving on**

Sandra Redman originally trained as a paediatric nurse and worked within the NHS for thirteen years. After having a son with Down syndrome, she changed career pathway, gained an MSc in Language and Communication Impairments in Children and has presented research projects. She has worked with Downright Excellent for ten years, providing Language and Communication groups. Sandra has worked with the Pre-School Teaching Team in Barnet for five years. Sandra's special interests are the impact of health on the education of children with Down syndrome and the role of reading in speech development.

This workshop will introduce the strategies for teaching reading using the See and Learn language and reading programme. We will discuss different practical strategies for progressing with reading and will explain the progression to the Reading and Language Intervention programme.

## **Making Learning Visuals**

Lindsey Harris is an Advisory teacher and works for Barnet Autism Team. Lindsey has considerable experience with children with Down syndrome and has been committed to support the leading edge group over considerable time.

Charlotte Woodbridge has experience of Primary School teaching, parenting a son with Down syndrome and home-schooling. She is experimenting with video-modelling for teaching independence and self-care skills as well as for some mathematical concepts and skills.

Lindsey and Charlotte's session will present ideas, activities and strategies to support children and young people in developing their memory and attention skills. Visual support is an important part of the learning process and strategies including video modelling for practical learning and as a memory aid will be presented.

## **Creating an Enabling Environment**

Joann Moore has worked in Special Education for over 25 years. She currently works as an Inclusion Advisory Teacher for Barnet and as part of the Pre-School Teaching Team. Previous to that, she was Assistant Head and Inclusion lead of a four-form-entry school. Her roles have allowed her to have extensive practical experience of working with young people with Down syndrome.

This workshop will look at practical strategies and tips to support you in creating an environment that will encourage success and achievement. We will explore a variety of strategies including ideas for supporting working memory. You will leave the workshop with a toolkit of ideas.

## **Medical Surveillance Of Children With Down Syndrome**

Dr Geetha Nagendran is a Community Paediatrician for the Royal Free NHS Trust currently working in Barnet. She has a special interest in Children with Down syndrome. This workshop is about her annual audit to assess the quality of medical care provided in Barnet in accordance with the National Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group Guidelines.

## **Makaton Taster Session**

This workshop is an opportunity to attend introductory training in Makaton signs and symbols. The workshop runs for 75 minutes from 2pm to 3.15 pm so take your coffee into the session.

## **Lunch-time Stalls**

*Barnet Parent Carer Forum* is a voluntary group of enthusiastic, committed parents and family carers in the London Borough of Barnet working with the local authority to ensure that the voices of children young people and their families are heard. Barnet Parent Carer Forum is part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) whose membership is made up of all Parent Carer Forums in England.

This lunchtime stall will provide information. If you want to be involved in shaping services for our young people then please talk with the representative at the conference.

*Book Exhibition* from Richard Myers

*Sense Toys*, from Lesley Burton

## **Panel Members**

Panel members will talk about activities and successes when working with young people with Down syndrome. There will be a chance for questions and discussion.

Sarah Geiger works with children and young people, Barnet educational settings, the Local Authority and families in Barnet to support attainment and emotional well-being. Sarah is a senior educational psychologist working in Barnet and she is an Academic Tutor on the UCL Educational Psychology Doctorate.

## How to Apply

To apply please book on line using the following link:

[http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1617/gen\\_cpd\\_pubview?p\\_cr\\_id=1617990131&p\\_style\\_id=113&p\\_edit=Y](http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1617/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=1617990131&p_style_id=113&p_edit=Y)

## Charges

The conference costs £95 for professionals. If you send three members of staff you only need pay for two!

Parents living in Barnet will be charged £20 to cover costs. Non-Barnet parents are also welcome and can attend at a cost of £20 if at least one member of staff from their child's educational setting also attends.

## Workshops

<b>Workshop</b> 11.00am	<b>Workshop</b> 2.15pm
Creating an Enabling Environment  Joann Moore	Creating an Enabling Environment  Joann Moore
Behaviour – Practical Tips & Strategies  Duffy	Behaviour – Practical Tips & Strategies  Duffy
Reading- Where to start and moving on:  <i>Sandra Redman</i>	Reading- Where to start and moving on:  <i>Sandra Redman</i>
Common health problems and their impact on ability to learn  Anna Petsas	Common health problems and their impact on ability to learn  Anna Petsas
Medical Surveillance of children with Down Syndrome  Dr Geetha Nagendran	Makaton for Beginners - <b>Taster Session</b> 75 minute workshop starting at 2.00pm.  Please bring your drinks for a prompt start
Visual Learning  Lindsey Harris Charlotte Woodbridge	Visual Learning  Lindsey Harris Charlotte Woodbridge

# Barnet Education and Skills Training (BEST) Hub

Directions and transport information

