

The PACE newsletter

summer/autumn 2011

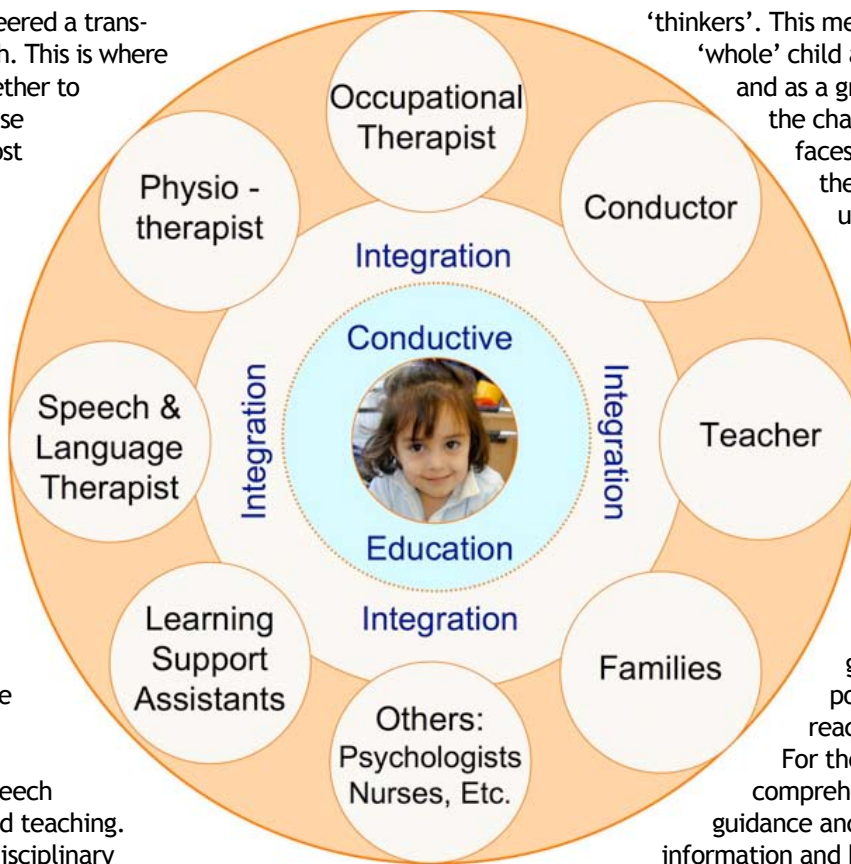


www.thepacecentre.org

It's all about team work

The PACE Centre has pioneered a trans-disciplinary team approach. This is where all professionals work together to pool and integrate expertise in order to provide the most effective intervention for the child. In practice this integrated team work together in chorus with the child and their family in group based programmes. More specifically, at PACE we carry this out through the practice and principles of Conductive Education.

The members of the Transdisciplinary team work together and integrate knowledge and skills from their respective disciplines; Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Conductive Education, Speech and Language Therapy and teaching. They develop into trans-disciplinary



'thinkers'. This means that they see the 'whole' child and are able, individually and as a group, to recognise how the challenges that the child faces, are inter-related and therefore require a 'joined up' approach.

Trans-disciplinary working ensures that all aspects that may affect the child's learning are addressed, thereby providing a holistic approach. This way of working makes sure that all programmes are designed and differentiated specifically for the needs of each child, giving them the best possible platform to reach their full potential.

For the family, it provides comprehensive support and guidance and a diverse wealth of information and knowledge.



A perfect summer's day

For the last three years, PACE has held a summer family garden party to help our families socialize, have fun and gain support from each other. Over 160 guests enjoyed picnicking in the shade of the trees, live folk music, swing boats, 'Vintage

Scoops' ice cream, not to mention our special guest entertainer: Dave Benson Phillips, star of children's TV. The weather was absolutely perfect all day, providing an opportunity to complete a circular countryside walk during the morning.

A charity providing intensive programmes for children with physical disabilities
Currently one in every 400 children in the UK is affected by cerebral palsy...
help PACE to reach more of these children.

Inside this issue:
Sophie's Story
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World record broken

FAQ's: How is PACE funded?

In basic terms PACE children of school age are, in the main, placed at PACE with a high percentage of costs being met by their Local Education Authority (LEA).

A child attending as young as 6 months old, and until *Statemented age (3years+) will receive no statutory funding, as none is available. Yet, at this age input from PACE can mean that a child can gain skills, abilities and the confidence to blossom despite often complex disabilities.

The 'bottom line' gives us @65% funding from statutory sources, leaving 35% to find. PACE really can't provide without the kindness and commitment of donors of all kinds.

For further reading about PACE visit www.thepacecentre.org

**sets out a child's needs and the help they should have. It is reviewed annually to ensure that any extra support given continues to meet a child's needs.*

Sophie's story

by Debbie Tandy

Sophie was born nine weeks early and spent seven weeks in neonatal care. After a brain scan we were told that she had abnormal cells showing, but no one could tell us at this stage what it would mean for her future. I kept comparing her facial expressions to "normal" babies of similar age at our NCT class which we joined. The final diagnosis of cerebral palsy came some time later when we attended a check up at the Children's Development Centre when Sophie was eight months old.

At first I was angry, mainly because we were kept in the dark for so long with no one giving us any indication Sophie has a disability. And of course I was very upset. We

were seen regularly by our local hospital. The sessions in those first years were more about managing the condition, and not solving Sophie's inability to do simple tasks. Their attitude was never positive, and I would always go home feeling negative and very sad that Sophie would never walk, a question I asked frequently.

It was only when Sophie was three years old that we heard about the PACE Centre and what it could offer. We were amazed by the positive approach the Centre had towards cerebral palsy, seeing each child's individual potential helping them to achieve their goals, something we'd not seen before.

At first we were sceptical, having only had a negative approach, however, at PACE I see children walking independently, and the parents always tell me how they were like Sophie at first, unable to put one foot in front of the other. PACE gives me hope and I know Sophie looks forward to going there every week because she learns independence in tasks such as dressing, standing from sitting and eating. Sophie is now four years old, and has benefitted enormously from attending PACE, every Thursday and Friday since January 2011.



The obvious thoughts of, 'what did Mummy do wrong during pregnancy' and 'Why did this have to happen to us?' went through my mind, and still do at times. However, when I look at Sophie now and see how far she has come, I just smile. I feel very protective of her and just want her to have the best in life, like any other parent I'd imagine. And yes, Sophie is different to most children of her age, but she's so loveable and can be adorable when she's behaving!

Her face lights up each time I go and collect her after her day at PACE, and she's full of chatter about her day. She clearly loves her time at PACE.



Read more at:

www.thepacecentre.org/extranewsletter

Calling in at Number 10

Keith Edwards (father of Charlotte who has attended PACE for the last 8 years) recently met with Prime Minister David Cameron during a Carers Week reception at 10 Downing Street.

Keith explained: "I was invited in recognition of my work in raising the profile of, and supporting, carers. My name was put forward by Imelda Redmond CBE (Chief Executive of Carers UK). The invitation came completely out of the blue."

"The PM was very supportive of the work that carers do. He said the government needs to cut down on bureaucracy, commit funding and show more understanding. He urged carers not to stop the work we all do - otherwise 'the consequences for the country would be disastrous'. Keith

discussed caring for his daughter. "Of course the PM had a disabled son who sadly died and he could, therefore, empathise with our experiences. He said we all do our best, but we never feel it's enough."

Earlier in the week, Keith also met Ed Davey, MP and Minister for Employment, at an event to launch the results of a recent employee survey on 'caring at a distance'. "He revealed his son has cerebral palsy and we discussed our shared experiences of finding therapy and special schools for our children."

"Both events were great, and highlighted the Governments awareness of the challenges carers face, the desire to tackle the issues and provide more help and support."



PACE children help break world record!

Over 90,000 schoolchildren from the UK and overseas broke the Guinness World Record™ earlier this year, for the most people signing and singing a song simultaneously. The children all learnt to sign The New Seekers 1970s song 'I'd like to Teach the World to Sing' for the record breaking attempt.

Children from Rowan and Maple groups joined hundreds of others at SignHealth's flagship event at Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium in Aylesbury to smash the previous record of 13,418, which now stands at an amazing 98,498! SignHealth



is the healthcare charity for deaf people, providing health-related services for all deaf people.

Steve Powell, Chief Executive at SignHealth, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to have achieved the Guinness World Record™ sign2sing project for the most people singing and signing a song at the same time, with the help of PACE."



New PACE signage is unveiled by Elder group children led by head boy, Sohaib (middle)

Hot off the press...

Congratulations to PACE staff member Vicky for achieving her ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) level 2 award in Team Leading.



A trans-world experience

A Message from the Director, Heather Last...

As this newsletter is a focus on our Transdisciplinary approach I thought I had better embed the concept in my title too. As it happens "trans-world" is appropriate as I am crossing the world at the end of this year to spend time in New Zealand. From the 'land of the long white cloud' to Aylesbury and back again is certainly a journey!

For some years our family has planned a return to my roots and now as my father enters his 90th year it is time to turn a dream into a reality. My father who is still busy on the farm and chainsaws all the firewood for his neighbourhood certainly does not need me to look after him!! But I would like to enjoy his company - and get some tips about how to still be so active at 90.

This big move for me is only possible because of the hard work, dedication and



commitment of the staff at PACE. We have been carefully planning for this event over the past five years and the team at PACE led by Amanda as the new CEO will continue to deliver and develop high quality services using a Transdisciplinary approach. A new post of Director of Finance and Resources along with our Heads of Services, Early years, Primary, Secondary, Community Support and Training and my own continued part-time input as clinical specialist will ensure a very strong infrastructure to take PACE forward.

I will be back at PACE for the Summer term 2012 so look forward to seeing many of you at the special Olympic/Paralympic year, Children's Challenge.

So a heartfelt thank you for supporting me through my 21 years as Director of PACE. It has been a story of growth and at the 'bumpy' bits I, and PACE, have been truly supported by you all.

A perfect summer's day

From page 1



A charity providing intensive programmes for children with physical disabilities

You can give more than ever before by making your support tax efficient

Leave a gift to PACE in your will,
or donate in the workplace through payroll giving



the PACE centre

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