



Training Brochure
For Parents, Carers & Families
2017 - 2018

SPECIALIST TEACHING AND LEARNING SERVICE

The Specialist Teaching Team for the Gravesham District advise and support early years settings and schools to build the capacity and confidence to deliver high quality provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Mrs Amanda Braisted, Assistant Head and Director of Inclusion, Ifield School

Mr Jason Owen, Specialist Teacher, Social, Emotional & Mental Health

Ms Ruth Cubitt, Specialist Teacher in Cognition & Learning

Mrs Helen Cottage, Specialist Teacher for Communication & Interaction

Mrs Claire Noordally, Specialist Teacher for Communication & Interaction

Mrs Julie Hawkins, Specialist Teacher for Inclusion

Ms Hannah Day, Specialist Teacher for SEND in Early Years

Mrs Julie Bruce, Specialist Teacher for Hearing Impairment

Mrs Pam Shetra, Specialist Teacher for Physical Impairment &
Multi-sensory impairment

Mr Andy Taylor, Specialist Teacher for Visual Impairment



Mrs Abigail Birch, Executive Headteacher, The Cedar Federation, Ifield School

Foreword

Welcome to Ifield Smile.

We deliver a wide range of training sessions for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs.

Most courses are free, although some do have a nominal charge to cover some administrative costs.

The Ifield Parent, Teacher and Family Association (PTFA) also hold coffee mornings throughout the year at Smile. Please look on the Ifield website for dates of forthcoming events. We would warmly welcome any new guests and feel that it is an informal way of meeting other families of children with special educational needs.

We also have a small library of books that can be loaned.

We look forward forward to meeting you.

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To book a place, please telephone 01474 536924 and request a booking form. On booking, an email and contact telephone number must be given.

Booking forms are also available on the Ifield website @ www.ifieldschool.com

Please note that you can only book one term in advance for any workshop. If there is a charge, this should be paid 2 weeks before the date of the workshop.

Please refer to the Booking Cancellation, SMILE team and Booking information at the back of the brochure for further details.

The Smile ASD Parent Support Group

Claudia Goodman

Sessions will take place on Thursday mornings 9:30 -11:45am

5th October 2017

9th November 2017

8th February 2018

19th April 2018

17th May 2018

5th July 2018

We welcome all parents/carers/family members of children or young people with ASD, Asperger Syndrome or Social Communication Difficulties. You might still be awaiting a diagnosis or going through the process of a diagnosis for your child at this time; if so, this group is also for you.

It will be an opportunity to meet with other parents and gain further knowledge to support your child in a caring, nurturing environment; share and exchange ideas and strategies which work well for you. Parents will also be signposted to useful local services, activities and facilities.

These sessions offer a mixture of helpful presentations by experienced guest speakers (eg from the Kent Autistic Trust) focusing on topics of interest and real concern to parents as well as more informal, social sessions. All sessions aim to provide opportunities for discussing specific issues together.

What do parents/carers say?

'This group is very friendly and welcoming'

'It's great to meet other parents who understand and share the same struggles'

'I feel so isolated as I'm new to all this...'

'I've come away with some good ideas to try'

Sessions are free and include refreshments.

Flyers containing further details about individual sessions will be sent out to all local schools, nurseries and other organisations

To book a place, please telephone 01474 536924 and request a booking form. On booking, an email and contact telephone number must be given. Booking forms are also available on the Ifield website @ www.ifieldschool.com

Refreshments will be provided

STARTING THE AUTISM JOURNEY

Thursday 28th September 2017
09.30-12.30

Workshop Objectives:

A supportive and informative introductory session for parents going through the process of a diagnosis for their child or for parents whose child has been recently diagnosed.

- To gain greater understanding of Autism and the Autism Spectrum and what this might mean for you and your child.
- To identify your child's strengths and difficulties; becoming an expert on your child
- To provide some useful strategies to support your child's needs
- To support you as a parent on the start of this journey

Workshop Content:

- What is Autism/ASD?
- The Diagnostic Process
- Language and Communication
- Sensory Issues
- Behaviour
- Some Tips and Strategies to Manage and Support your Child
- Pre –School/School; working together with staff
- Benefits and Access to Services and Support
- Family Life and Looking after your own Needs

Target Audience

For Parents/Family Members/Carers:

- Currently awaiting for an initial appointment with Paediatrician
- In the process of undergoing a diagnosis for your child
- Who have a child that has recently been diagnosed with Autism/ASD

Presented by:

Helen Cottage, Gravesham Specialist Teaching and Learning Service

Handouts and refreshments are provided

Bookings to be made in advance

UNDERSTANDING DYSLEXIA

Tuesday 31st October 2017
09.30-12.00

In this workshop parents and carers will be:

- Given an opportunity to understand some of the difficulties that children and young people with dyslexic type difficulties can experience
- Introduced to some of the approaches that can be used to help

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for parents of pupils in mainstream schools with dyslexic type difficulties.

Presented by:

Ruth Cubitt

Gravesham Specialist Teaching and Learning Service

Handouts and refreshments are provided

Bookings to be made in advance

DYSPRAXIA & COORDINATION DIFFICULTIES

Thursday 16th November 2017
10:00-12:00

In this workshop parents and carers will:

- ✓ Learn about Dyspraxia
- ✓ How it feels to have Dyspraxia
- ✓ The overlap between Dyspraxia and other conditions
- ✓ Find out about practical strategies that can help
- ✓ Recommended books/resources and websites

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for parents and carers who have children who have a diagnosis of Dyspraxia or who are experiencing coordination difficulties.

Presented by:

Eileen Bristow, Highly Specialist Occupational Therapist

This workshop is £10.00 per person to attend
Handouts and refreshments are provided

Bookings & payment need to be received at least two weeks in advance

EXPLORING SOCIAL COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES & MAKING VISUAL RESOURCES

**Wednesday 22nd November 2017
9.30 – 3.00**

In this workshop parents and carers will be:

- Exploring what we mean by ‘communication’ and a chance to get to grips with some common speech and language terms
- Exploring different special educational needs e.g. Autism/Down Syndrome and the benefit of using visuals
- Introduced to a range of strategies and resources that can be used within the home environment
- Given the opportunity to create some personalised visual resources to take away

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for parents of children with ADHD, Autism and organisational difficulties.

Presented by:

**Helen Cottage, Gravesham Specialist Teaching and Learning Service
& Julie Hawkins, Gravesham Specialist Teaching and Learning Service**

This workshop is £6.00 per person to attend with lunch, refreshments and resources included.

Booking & payment needs to be received at least two weeks in advance

BASICS FOR BEHAVIOUR

Friday 24th November 2017

10.00 – 12.00

Workshop Objectives:

This workshop will give parents of children at a mainstream primary school the opportunity to:

- Reflect on their own practice in relation to positive behaviour management at home
- Explore interventions that can be used within the home to promote positive behaviour

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for parents of children who experience difficulties with behaviour.

Presented by:

Jason Owen, Gravesham Specialist Teacher and Learning Service

Refreshments are provided

Bookings to be made in advance

AUTISM IN THE EARLY YEARS

Thursday Mornings

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th January & 1st February 2018

9:30-12:30

This is a 5 week training course that seeks to inform parents/carers about autism. It will provide strategies and insights into the condition that will equip parents/carers to meet the needs of their children. The course is aimed at parents/carers whose child has received an early diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and who has not yet started school.

The sessions will cover

- What is Autism?
- Developing communication and interaction skills
- Developing play
- The importance of structure, predictability and visuals
- Managing tricky behaviours

It is anticipated that parents/carers will attend all 5 sessions.

This course will run with 6 -8 families.

NB: National Autistic Society (NAS) Early Bird is no longer being delivered in North Kent. This course seeks to fill the gap in training and support available to parents and is delivered by an experienced Early Bird presenter

Presented by

Claire Noordally, Specialist teaching and Learning Service – (Communication & Interaction)

MAKATON

Tuesday 23rd January 2018
09:30-11:45

Aim:

This introductory workshop provides a practical introduction to the Makaton Language Programme. Over 100,000 children and adults use Makaton symbols and signs, either as their main method of communication or as a way to support speech.

Workshop Content:

This workshop includes hints and tips for effective signing in school and at home. Participants will learn a small core vocabulary of everyday signs that are relevant for children.

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for parents of children with communication difficulties.

Presented by:

Carol Parry, Speech & Language Therapist, Ifield School

Handouts and refreshments are provided
Bookings to be made in advance

STARTING THE AUTISM JOURNEY

Tuesday 20th February 2018
09.30-12.30

Workshop Objectives:

A supportive and informative introductory session for parents going through the process of a diagnosis for their child or for parents whose child has been recently diagnosed.

- To gain greater understanding of Autism and the Autism Spectrum and what this might mean for you and your child.
- To identify your child's strengths and difficulties; becoming an expert on your child
- To provide some useful strategies to support your child's needs
- To support you as a parent on the start of this journey

Workshop Content:

- What is Autism/ASD?
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Target Audience

For Parents/Family Members/Carers:

- Currently awaiting for an initial appointment with Paediatrician
- In the process of undergoing a diagnosis for your child
- Who have a child that has recently been diagnosed with Autism/ASD

Presented by:

Helen Cottage, Gravesham Specialist Teaching and Learning Service

Handouts and refreshments are provided

Bookings to be made in advance

BASICS FOR BEHAVIOUR

Tuesday 17th April 2018

10.00 – 12.00

Workshop Objectives:

This workshop will give parents of children at a mainstream primary school the opportunity to:

- Reflect on their own practice in relation to positive behaviour management at home
- Explore interventions that can be used within the home to promote positive behaviour

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for parents of children who experience difficulties with behaviour.

Presented by:

Jason Owen, Gravesham Specialist Teacher and Learning Service

Refreshments are provided

Bookings to be made in advance

CYGNETS Training

The Cygnet programme has been developed by Barnardo's to support parents who have a child diagnosed with Autism.

The training is co-delivered by Early Help and the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service. The training consists of 5 sessions, and parents needs to commit to attend each week.

This training will be available three times during this academic year.

Topics covered are as follows;

Session 1 – Understanding Autism

Session 2 – Communication

Session 3 – Sensory Differences

Session 4 - Understanding Behaviour

Session 5 – Managing Behaviour.

There is a waiting list to attend the course but if you would like further information please contact Early Help admin on GraveshamGroups@kent.gov.uk for further details.

CANCELLATION CHARGES

Workshop Cancellation Charges

Most of our parent workshops are free to parents and carers. **We do respectfully request that cancellations are made with more than 48hrs notice so that staff can be notified.**

Where charges apply these are to cover costs to Ifield SMILE, such as providing external presenters, lunch and/or resources.

There will be no charge for cancellations made with more than 48hrs notice. Please note that non-attendance or cancellations made within less than 48hrs notice will be charged the full amount.

THE SMILE TEAM & BOOKING INFORMATION

If you would like to make a booking, be added to our mailing list or require further information, then please do not hesitate to contact the Smile Team:

Mrs Catherine Hall, Smile Centre Administrator, Ifield School

Mrs Susan Ashby, Smile Centre Administrator, Ifield School

Email: Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

Telephone 01474 536924 / Fax 01474 329189

Ifield School and Smile Centre, Cedar Avenue,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 5JT





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