

WELCOME

**UPDATE
BENJAMIN
ZEPHANIAH**

MEMBERSHIP FEES

A STAR IS BORN

**PAUSE FOR
THOUGHT**

KIDZ CORNER

**PARENT
PARTNERSHIP
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DIFFERENCES

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear Members

Happy New School Year!!

Hope all went well with your children starting/going back to new schools/classes.

It is not always the easiest time for both children and Parents/Carers so please do not hesitate to call the Helpline during opening hours if there is anything you would like support for regards your dyslexic child/children. Hopefully we will have an information sheet that addresses the query and if not we will always endeavour to come back to you with the information.

As always ...Thank you for your support

UPDATE...UPDATE

We are delighted to tell you that BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH, acclaimed Author and Poet has agreed to be a Patron of the Association. This is wonderful news and as a dyslexic, Birmingham born Benjamin has obviously more than an insight into the world of dyslexia.

To find out more about Benjamin why not look at his website:
www.benjaminzephaniah.com

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership fee has not risen for many years but we now find ourselves in a situation where if we are to maintain the standard of the service, we need to increase the fee to continue to do this. The BDA Contact magazine which we send out

3 times a year to you costs £3 per issue, so as you can see there is not an awful lot left for other costs e.g. postage, sending out information etc.

We have always tried to keep your costs to a minimum and therefore the new fees are:

Family membership £12

School and other interested professionals £20

Teachers/Assessors £20

No Income £7-50

The fees will not be increased officially until the New Financial Year-April 1st 2005, however if you feel when you receive your membership renewal you would be happy to pay the new fee we would be very appreciative.

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A STAR IS BORN

TWO lucky children as part of the Young Readers Birmingham poetry competition got the chance to meet Benjamin Zephaniah and one of the winners was **Shannon Quinn aged 9**, one of our members.

This is her poem.

Dyslexia Dearest

**When I am at school I
hate you,
You make me feel so
frustrated,
Why did you pick on me?**

**Why couldn't you pick on
my other friends?**

**But when I am doing music
or art you're my hero
You have made me better
than the rest.**

**Why couldn't you pick on
my other friends?**

**I wonder what it would be
like...
Free of you?**

**So I could spell and write
perfectly.
That's a dream come true
for me.**

**Why couldn't you pick on
my other friends?**

**But if I hadn't been born
dyslexic,
I would never have known
how it felt,
Don't think I like you any
better,
But at least I understand.**

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT...

It is not wise to allow trouble in the past... missed opportunities, disappointments, resentments, jealousies etc,.....to unduly affect our living in the present, or our hopes for the future.

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KIDZ CORNER

SYLLABLE DIVISION

In words of more than one syllable there are a number of different syllable division patterns. The most common are:

VC/CV

(Vowel, Consonant)/

Consonant, Vowel)

short vowel sound followed by at least 2 consonants...

e.g. LETTER

L ETTE R

VC/CV

And

V/CV

(Vowel/Consonant, Vowel)

Long vowel followed by 1 consonant...

e.g. ACORN

ACO RN

V/CV

In reading-

If you see 2 consonants after the first vowel, you can be fairly sure that the vowel is short.

If you see only 1 consonant after the first vowel, you can be fairly sure that the vowel is long.

To help you read the word, mark the vowels, Then the consonants between the vowels.

If there are 2 consonants between the vowels (VCCV), divide the syllables between the 2 consonants (VC/CV) e.g.

DINNER

(note the short vowel sound... 'i')

If there is only 1 consonant between the vowels (VCV), divide the syllables after the first consonant

(V/CV) e.g.

DINING

(note the long vowel sound...i

IN SPELLING-

Listen for the first vowel sound.

Is it long or short?

If it is short, remember to write 2 (occasionally 3) consonants after it.

If it is long, remember to write only 1 consonant after it.

SHORT VOWELS

Apple (a)

Egg (e)

Ink (i)

Octopus (o)

Umbrella (u)

LONG VOWELS

Acorn (a)

Emu (e)

Ivy (i)

Oval (o)

Uniform (u)

PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

What are they?

Many parents of children with special needs are still unaware of the help they could be getting from their local parents partnership service. These services were first established in Local Education Authorities following the DfES publication of the Code Of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs in 1994. the aim was to provide information, advice and support for parents of children and young people with special needs, particularly during statutory

assessment and the issuing of a statement.

In January 2002, the SEN and Disability Act made the setting up of parent partnership services a statutory requirement. From now on, every local authority had to have a PPS, funded by central government. But it was left up to the local authority exactly how the service operated.

Justin Simon is the development officer for the National Parent Partnerships Network, and his job is to encourage services across the country to talk to each other.

All of them provide information for parents on special educational needs, individual support where needed, and access to local authority officers when problems arise.

They may run a telephone help line and drop in facilities; they may refer parents to a counsellor, to other local services (e.g.

health or social services), or to local support groups.

They are encouraged to recruit and train independent parental supporters- often people with direct experience of children with special needs- who work usually on a

voluntary basis to help families in difficulties.

Parents are helped through the process of what to do when a child has special educational needs. Parent Partnership are a link helping parents through the maze to find the services they can utilise. The special educational needs process is complex and new to the majority of parents, who may contact the service or be referred by their school or local authority, because they have concerns about their child and are unsure of what steps to take.

When a statement is contested by the local authority, the PPS may

support a family through the appeal process, or, in some cases, through careful discussion with the family. The PPS role is always to mediate and conciliate, rather than to make decisions.

For further information contact:

Nasreen Hussain
PPS
The Martineau Education
Centre
Balden Road
Harborne
Birmingham
B32 2EH

Tel: 0121 303 5004

Fax: 0121 464 3137

Email:

SEN.ParentPartnership@birmingham.gov.uk

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DIFFERENCES

Different kinds of problems
And different kinds of tools
May require different talents
And favour different kinds of brains.

Thomas West
'In the Mind's Eye'

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VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to join our Helpline team in the New Year please contact Denny for further details.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

May we be the first to wish a great Christmas and a 'Happy New Year' as our next edition is not until the end of January.

The Christmas Commandments For The Festive Season

- 1. Thou shalt not be perfect, nor even try to be.**
- 2. Thou shalt not try to be all things to all people.**
- 3. Thou shalt sometimes leave things undone that ought to be done.**
- 4. Thou shalt not spread thyself too thinly.**
- 5. Thou shalt learn to say no!**
- 6. Thou shalt schedule time for thyself and thy supportive network.**

7. Thou shalt switch off and do nothing regularly.

8. Thou shalt be boring, untidy, inelegant and unattractive at times.

9. Thou shalt not even feel guilty.

10. Especially...thou shalt not be thine own worst enemy, but be thine own best friend.

Thanks to 'Link UPP' for these wise words!!

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**HAVE A
WONDERFUL
TIME**