

About Us

The Lilac Project is a four year funded service set up to support pupils with a physical disability in a school of their choice.

The Project is staffed by a Teacher, Occupational Therapist, Classroom Assistant, IT Technician and Clerical Assistant.

Our aim is to facilitate the inclusion of young people by providing support to schools. This support can range from suggesting simple classroom solutions to assessing and recommending larger pieces of equipment.

The support given allows the pupils access to the curriculum and can often promote independence.

More information about the Project can be downloaded from our website:

www.lilacni.org.uk

Up and Coming Events

F. F. S. Presents
'No Limits 2010'
23rd March Waterfront Hall Belfast



For more details contact The LILAC Office



LILAC NEWS

EDITION ONE 09/10

'supporting inclusion in education'

The Lilac Project is now in its third year and we are pleased to say that we have had the opportunity to support 65 schools throughout N. Ireland.

Our aim is to facilitate the inclusion of young people in the school of their choice by mirroring the good practice at Fleming Fulton School.

Last term we were approached by the Education and Teaching Inspectorate who plan to evaluate the service.

In preparation for this we sent questionnaires to school staff, mainstream school staff, board officers and health professionals for their opinion on the service provided. The feedback has been very encouraging. There appears to be a great need for collaborative working between education and health professionals in supporting pupils with a physical disability in mainstream schools

One school commented-

"Pupils best interests are better served with a joint team where various fields of expertise can be called upon and the right action taken for the children concerned."

This view was shared by many school staff and health professionals. We are therefore keen to continue supporting pupils in the school of their choice.

We hope this newsletter will inform you of the service we provide and keep you up to date with any new initiatives.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Loan Bank Established

Sharing Good Practice

South Belfast Area Learning Community

Up and Coming Events





Thumb Mouse



Magnetic Toys



My First Mouse



Electric Stir

Loan Bank

We are pleased to announce that we have acquired a variety of new classroom resources that could be used by pupils and staff in mainstream schools to promote independence. These resources range from simple desk top solutions to ICT equipment.

We have now established a loan bank and already schools are availing of this service. We hope to exhibit our resources at a road show in the west of the province later on in the year.

Feel free to pop in to the office to view the resources as there may be something that is new to you. Or better still let us know what resources or strategies you find particularly useful.

Sharing Good Practice

In late September a team from the Lilac Project went to visit the Ace Centre in Oxford and the Wilson Stuart Outreach and Inclusion Centre in Birmingham.

The Ace Centre provides personalised and independent assessment, research and development, advice and training services for people with severe physical and communication disabilities, and those who support them. Over the years the service has diversified in response to the demand from schools and parents. A loan library has been set up to allow individuals to trial a piece of equipment before a purchase is made.

The Ace Centre is self funding so it needs to cover all running costs which meant they have staff who specialise in raising money.

The following day we travelled to **The Wilson Stuart School** to their **Outreach and Inclusion Centre**. The main thrust of their input is advisory visits to schools, individual assessments and involvement in target setting through IEP'S and training. Barbara Hunter the enthusiastic and motivated Director of the centre gave us a very comprehensive and enjoyable talk about the work they do in the Birmingham area.

Wilson Stuart School is not unlike Fleming Fulton School so we found all the work they are doing very relevant to the Lilac Project. We found we were able to share our experiences which made it a very informative and interesting day.

Overall we all felt it had been a valuable experience to see what other Projects were dealing with and we made lots of new contacts which we feel will benefit The Lilac Project.

South Belfast Area Learning Community (S.B.A.L.C.)

The Lilac Project organised and hosted a conference for schools within the S.B.A.L.C in May 2009, Classroom Assistant: Valuable Resource.

It was attended by 27 representatives from 9 schools and was made up of Sencos, Teachers and Classroom Assistants.

Four speakers gave an overview of their roles within each of their respective schools.

Jane Lowry, the Inclusion Coordinator at Fleming Fulton School, gave a brief synopsis on her role, working to enhance the work of Fleming Fulton as a centre of excellence in supporting children and young people with a physical disability.

Maria Bell, a Classroom Assistant from R.B.A.I spoke about her role and how it has evolved over the years that she has been there. Her role has expanded as she develops extra-curricular activities for boys as well as seeing to their curricular work.

Chris Savage, a Learning Mentor, spoke about his unique role within Aquinas Grammar which is also funded from outside school resources in order to develop an increasing need within his school. He currently works alongside 20 Classroom Assistant's.

Gillian Douglas gave an insightful view into the multi-faceted role of a Classroom Assistant from her experiences in Park School. She drew on the pupil's experience and how they found their CA's to be helpful.

Ann Moore, the teacher responsible for staff development, teaching and non-teaching, at Glenveagh School, spoke about the developing role of the Classroom Assistant. They have a large team of CA's who participate in all aspects of school life and have a regular input into the development of the school.

Demonstrations of equipment, strategies and training resources were given and the participants then spent the remainder of the time in discussion groups.

All those who attended found the course to be relevant. The practical experience and expertise of the speakers was considered to be the most beneficial aspect of the conference. It was unanimously felt that the training for Teachers on the role/value of the Classroom Assistant should be a priority. It was also felt that Senior Leadership Teams needed to be more aware of the role/value of Classroom Assistants.

The conference proved to be a valuable and insightful day and will be repeated in January/February 2010.