

Family Newsletter

Issue 2

04/05/2020



Hi its the Voice and Influence Team here! Welcome to the second Children with Disabilities Newsletter. We have decided to start making weekly newsletters so you can be up to date with any new information as well as fun activities you can try at home!

Hello Everyone!

We hope that you are all keeping well, staying safe and healthy and more importantly, managing to keep yourself busy and entertained during the lockdown. Hopefully these newsletters and the posts from the Disability Matters and Local Offer Facebook Groups are helpful in giving you and your family some ideas to help pass the time.

All staff from the Children with Disabilities Service, including our Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Short Break Facilitators and Home Support staff continue to work hard during these difficult times to provide support to our families within Middlesbrough. The CWD staff are working to maintain regular contact with all of our families during the pandemic but I would like to ask that if you have any questions, concerns or need someone to talk to, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your Social Worker or Short Breaks Facilitator and they will do all they can to help.

It has agreed by Middlesbrough Council that funding which is already in place to provide Short Break services will continue to be provided even if these sessions have had to stop due to government restrictions. This means that external providers such as MAIN, Daisy Chain, etc. will continue to receive the payments they would have been expecting in order to minimise any potential financial hardships, this also means that Direct Payments will continue to be paid as normal for those who employ workers. If you have any questions about what this means for your support please do not hesitate to contact your Social Worker/Short Break Facilitator who will be able to explain this in more detail.

Ben Lee

Senior Short Break Facilitator

CWD Team Service Updates

2 new social workers have joined the team!

2 workers have also returned from maternity leave. 1 resource worker and 1 social worker, welcome back!



Click on the image to find 10 ways to children with complex health needs safe during COVID-19. Put together by WellChild UK

Makaton Board Game



Play this Makaton Board Game with your family to help you practice and learn Makaton signs!

Click this link to find the printable game:

<https://www.makaton.org/Assets/Store/FreeResources/TheTigerWhoCameToTeaBoardGame.pdf>

Colour Scavenger Hunt

Have a scavenger hunt around your house, garden or on your daily walk!

Find items that are all the different colours of the rainbow:

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Green
- Blue
- Indigo
- Violet



The first person to have an item for each colour wins!

National Autistic Society Top Tips



The National Autistic Society have come up with 5 top tips for families on how to stay calm during COVID-19

Click the image above to take a look!

Makaton Coronavirus Social Story



Share this Makaton Coronavirus Social Story to help young people understand coronavirus a little bit better!

<https://www.makaton.org/Assets/Store/FreeResources/Coronavirus-social-story.pdf>

Coronavirus Guidance for Carers

Carers UK have provided some guidance and advice on what support is available to unpaid carers during COVID-19

Click the link to find out more-
<https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19>