

Dear ELI Parents,

We want to welcome you back from the Christmas break with a copy of our latest newsletter.

### News

- ❖ We have made an application for recognition (and funding) as a pre-school from the Department of Education and Science. An application was originally sent over two years ago, but it took us until this past December (and requiring a Freedom of Information Law request) to find out why our request was refused. This letter has been sent to the Inspector of Schools, as it was his letter which led to our rejection. We will keep you informed of the progress of this request.
- ❖ For those of you who avail of the Home Tuition Grant you will be familiar with the change in processing which the Department of Education imposed on us late last year. We received a call when we got back last week telling us that, since Deirdre's name was used for all of the grant applications, the Department could only process refund payments with her name. Rather than start at the beginning and process a new application for each child, the Department agreed to substitute the name of the teacher providing the therapy for Deirdre's name. The names and qualifications for all of the teachers went to the Department on Friday, 5 January, so this will hopefully not delay processing of the December grants.
- ❖ As some of you are aware, we had a break-in to our Blanchardstown pre-school just before Christmas. While a digital camera and less than €50 was taken, the thieves' vandalism will cost more than €1,000 to repair. We are hopeful that our insurance will cover most of the cost. We want to thank the Blanchardstown Parents for being so understanding when they received the phone calls that morning telling them the school was closed; hopefully this will not happen again.
- ❖ As many of you are aware, we have been trying to obtain Registered Charity status for the past year, in the hope that we can attract government funding and to make donations more tax efficient. We finally succeeded in getting Revenue approval and, on 19 December, Express Yourself Limited (Registered Charity No. CHY17010) was born. The first order of business was to receive a grant of almost €20,000 from the Independent Living Support Programme under the auspices of the Department Of Justice, Equality And Law Reform. We had applied for this money, to be used to purchase a number of Therapy Chairs, Speaking Kits, Soft Play Boxes and Mechanical Stenders for each school, earlier in December and were very happy to have it awarded so soon. The first of the equipment should be received in the next two weeks.

### Parent Training:

We have a couple of programs that will be of interest to you.

- ❖ We will repeat the behaviour training course that was presented in Monkstown last Autumn, in Blanchardstown. The course runs for 8 Tuesday's and covers all of the behaviour principles. This course is not just for parents of children in the ABA classrooms (though parents of children on ABA programmes are expected to attend). It is for managing the behaviour of all children and includes looking at what keeps behaviour happening and why. It also will give you ways to manage difficult behaviour and will include how to design and implement a plan for the reduction of behaviour that you don't want to see. We hope to see many of you at this valuable course. The start date for these sessions is January 23rd from 7-9pm
- ❖ Jack Stokes, M.S.Ed., BCBA , will talk about "Functional assessment and the treatment of challenging behaviours associated with Bipolar Disorder, ADHD, and Prader-Willi Syndrome" in Walton Theatre in Trinity College. John ("Jack") Stokes is President of the Greater Boston Association of Behavioral Analysis and a member of the Board of Directors of the Berkshire Association of Behavioral Analysis and Therapy. The cost for the two hour session, to be held on Thursday, 25th January, 7-9 pm, will be €40, payable at the door. We think this will be an enlightening and entertaining evening and look forward to seeing many of you on the night.

# Early Language Intervention



## Fundraising:

We have held a couple of events and will be holding some more over the coming weeks.

- ❖ We packed bags in Dunnes Stores in Cornelscourt on 10 December and raised over €2,000 on the day. We want to thank all the volunteers who helped with the bagging on the day.
- ❖ The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual ELI Pub Quiz will be held on 27 February 2007 in the Stillorgan Park Hotel. This has always been a fun evening for all. We will be looking for prizes to be raffled and auctioned on the night; please let Adrienne know if you can provide us with any goods.

## Staff

- ❖ We are hosting seven Psychology students from the University of Delaware. These students, who will be assisting in both the Pre-School and Behaviour classrooms, will be with us for the month of January while working toward their Bachelors Degrees. While with us they will be under the direct care of our Teachers and Directors.

Many thanks to you all for your continued support.

*Deirdre M. Muldoon*