



Dyspraxia/DCD Assoc.
DEVELOPMENTAL COORDINATION DISORDER

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Annual Report 2008

The first open meeting of the Association was held in The Rochestown Park Hotel in January 2008. This meeting was also the AGM. This was a very well attended and informative meeting where all outstanding business was discussed and prospective new committee members were nominated. Officers of the Association were elected. The committee now is comprised of

Chairman: Andrew O'Neill

Secretary: Oona O'Shaughnessy

Treasurer: Ber O'Neill

Committee members: Siobhán Corcoran, Bernice Twomey, Doreen Santry and Catherine O'Hara

Why is my child Awkward?

Elaine Kelly and Erin Reilly gave a presentation to the 250plus people who attended on 31st January. They provided very useful information and guidance to parents and professionals alike and were very well received. Harry Conway and Patricia O'Flynn of They Dyspraxia Association of Ireland made the journey from Dublin to be with us on the night and were made very welcome. Having developed this presentation the team of Psychologist Elaine and Occupational Therapist Erin have delivered it on subsequent dates in other venues.

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Family Fun Day

We held another very successful event for families in the Kinsale Outdoor Education centre on 8th May 2008. Having taken feedback for the staff in the Outdoor Education Centre this year the parents stayed off site. The main group of children travelled from outside the DCD Unit to Kinsale in a bus with committee members. They then spent their day in the care of the staff of the centre. The committee and some parents who dropped children off went to a local hotel for lunch and then wandered leisurely through the town. The children were exhausted on the way home but a great day out had been had.

Chuckies

A fun-filled session in Chuckies play centre was held on 22nd June for the under sevens. There were over 40 children who came to the party style afternoon and all the parents enjoyed meeting up. Parents of the younger age group children had a lot in common and a contact list was drawn up to circulate later so that people who wanted to keep in touch, could.

Basketball

The hall in Ballinlough Boys School was the venue for an eight week session of basketball training. The boys and girls taking part really enjoyed themselves and were getting great exercise into the bargain. A parent who is a coach in Neptune Basketball Club gave of his time and brought along another coach each week. At the end of the eight weeks the families were invited to a basketball match in Neptune. This turned out to be a great night out and the children got autographs and photographs.

Practical Tips for Parents

We ran out of our booklet for the second time so a third print run was ordered. We took delivery of 5700 booklets in December 2008. To date over 13000 booklets have been requested and many more downloaded from the website. We are most grateful yet again to Colorman printers for their help with this on-going work.

We also now have a Spanish version of the booklet available electronically.

Mini Marathon

As ever, a big thank-you to those who did the Cork Women's mini-marathon. Having funds in the kitty allows us to subsidise activities and to support the DCD Unit as necessary.

Fred Claus

Red FM offered us a morning screening of Fred Claus in December. They gave us a total of fifty places and everyone agreed that it was a lovely way to kick off the Christmas season for the children, both young and not so young.

New Style Meetings

One of the biggest changes this year was the shift to having an open session each month. The association now meets on the second Thursday of the month, every month in the bar area of the Rochestown Park Hotel. People can come and go as they please and parents who feel like a chat will find other like-minded Mums and Dads there.

Signed _____

date _____

Signed _____

date _____