

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Newsletter June 06 Volume 1, Issue 1

INTRODUCTION

Hi to All you Readers!

This is the first issue of the Child Development Services (CDS) Newsletter and my first attempt at being an Editor. So all comments are very welcome!

The aim of the newsletter is to keep you informed about the Services offered from the CDS Team, inform you of new developments and provide useful information for families / whanau. The style and format is certainly for discussion and I'm sure it will be an evolving process. I would like it to be an interesting / informative read but one which is also fun and enjoyable.

The long-term aim is to provide an issue each term. However, the frequency and continuation of future issues will depend on feedback from you all.

Hilary Exton - Novice Editor

ROLE OF THE CDS

The CDS is part of Nelson & Marlborough District Health Board and aims to provide a service across the whole region for children with disabilities.

The CDS team is committed to helping children achieve optimum function and well being. Our team of Occupational, Physio and Neuro-developmental therapists are able to provide advice and support at home and in the community, working in partnership with caregivers.

NELSON TEAM (based Nelson Hospital)

The Team at CDS has changed significantly over the last two years, with many new faces arriving. So who are we?

Heidi Cooke - Team Leader



- Fran Andrews - Occupational Therapist
- Frances Basset - Visiting Neuro-Developmental Therapist
- Hilary Exton - Physiotherapist
- Lucy Pearson - Physiotherapist
- Bernd Wachter - Physiotherapist

MARLBOROUGH TEAM (based Wairau Hospital)

- Michelle Driffill - Physiotherapist
- Sam Ehrlich - Occupational Therapist



PERSONAL PROFILE!

The aim of this section is to tell you little more about each member of the Team and their role within CDS. So Heidi Cooke, our Team Leader is first!

I came to New Zealand in January 2002 with my trusty companion Thor (German Shepherd Dog) and part time visiting furry therapist.

Initially I worked part time for both the hospital and Group Special Education, which gave me an excellent introduction in to the delivery of therapy services for our children.

I have been a Paediatric Physiotherapist for 17 years, and worked in many parts of the UK. In 2003 I took over the role as Team Leader of Paediatric therapy and soon after we re-named the service to Child Development Services, which reflected our future goals.

My vision for the service is to create a centre of excellence. To bring together a multi-disciplinary team of skilled paediatric specialists to deliver the best possible service for our children and their families.

I am proud to say we are well on the way.

INFORMATION CORNER

Are you aware that the Travel Assistance Allowances have changed? Look out for the new leaflets and check with your Therapist / Social Worker.

A Focus for children and Families is to be Active. Why not have a look at www.sparc.org.nz and discuss with your Therapist all about Active Movement

The Starship Foundation and the Paediatric Society of New Zealand have developed a Joint Parent Information Website. Here's the address if you want to have a look:
- www.kidshealth.co.nz

Special Olympics have a good website highlighting the sports and activities they offer. There is a local contact in Motueka called Arthur Fisher -03 528 0228 who can discuss the sports options available in the Area.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HPCA

The commencement of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act in 2004 brought public safety to the forefront of health legislation in New Zealand.

A key part of protecting the public is ensuring all Health Professionals are competent and fit to practise. Therefore Recertification Programmes have been introduced and all Therapists at CDS are part of this programme.

The Therapist's at the CDS are expected to maintain their competence and must keep themselves up-to-date by means of life long learning throughout their careers, to reflect changes in practice. Regular in-service training, mentoring, supervision and appraisals are undertaken.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS AT CDS

This year we are proud to welcome 2 new specialist Paediatric physiotherapists to the team. Michelle Drifill, who has joined the Blenheim team, brings many years of experience to the post. We are very glad that she has chosen to live in Blenheim with her family.

Lucy Pearson has also specialised in the field of paediatrics and joins us from Auckland where she previously worked for GSE. I am pleased to report that both have settled in extremely well and are great assets to the team

SWOP SHOP

To start this section off we thought it might be useful to offer an equipment / toy amnesty. If anyone one has old equipment - walkers, chairs, rolls, wedges etc that they no longer want please email / phone and let me know. We can arrange to collect them or you can drop them off at the Centre. Also if anyone has any equipment, toys, books etc that their child no longer uses please let me know and I can put the information on the newsletter and up on the notice board in the CDS Reception.

For example if a child has outgrown a trike and the family either wishes to sell it or donate to another child we can put this up on the board / newsletter.

KIDS CORNER

The newsletter can be shared with you child and they may wish to send in their own comments, suggestions or ideas on how we can improve our service. Please feel free to send any comments - good or not so good and we will aim to address them.

ACTIVITIES RUN BY CDS

PRE-SCHOOL HYDROTHERAPY GROUP



IDEAS CORNER

This section is one I hope will develop over time. Any ideas and practical suggestions on any topic can be sent and I'll add it here. You have a wealth of information that may be helpful to us and other families. Please let me know.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Not sure about this one and whether anyone would like to meet up for a coffee, BBQ, walk, games night, information evenings, pool evening etc. So I need feedback if this is to work.

What I thought I could do first is have a simple meet the CDS Team at the Centre for coffee and we can set up the gym as a play area.

So how about Tuesday 9.30 - 10.30am on 25th July. This is before the preschool pool session. So you can come for a swim afterwards.

I'll gladly have an evening session if enough children and families are interested - so let me know. I'm also more than willing to organize out side agencies to come and talk about any topic.

So send in any suggestions you may have.

Hilary Exton

