



CHRISTCHURCH SPECIAL NEEDS LIBRARY

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News from Chris

Well here we are spring at last!

Our cataloguing department has had a very exciting and busy few months receiving some wonderful new resources due to the generosity of The Lamar Trust and Maurice Carter Charitable Trust. Keep an eye on our shelves as new resources go out very quickly.

Our library's 40th birthday is nearly here, and we're holding a cocktail party to celebrate it and Christmas this year. You will find more information in the newsletter about the celebrations, which include a month of balloons for children during November and a birthday cake to share when you visit during the week of 20th – 25th November. Come on in and celebrate this great milestone with us!

You will see we have put a suggestion box on the returns counter; your input is valued. It is your chance to tell us if you have an idea or two, or maybe you would like to address an issue you may have.

Next newsletter Gina will have returned from her well-earned rest and recreation in Hawaii.

In the meantime, enjoy!

Chris

Library shut this Saturday for voting 😊

The library is closed this Saturday (23 September) as its being used as a polling booth. We've tried to make sure no-one's items are due then, but if they are listed on your account as due back on Election Day, then you have an automatic week's grace to return them.

While the library is closed for normal services, you can still support it while the voting goes on; our volunteers will be outside in the car park raising library funds with a sausage sizzle.



New Resources



10327 Dental Care and Teeth Book Pack

Practice good oral hygiene with the giant toothbrush and giant set of teeth. The book explains how to get rid of food and plaque as well as best food choices, what happens when baby teeth fall out, and how visiting the dentist isn't scary..



10334 Rock n Fish Tactile Path Kit

This coordination game helps with muscle control, eye-hand coordination, social communication skills and creativity.



Rātā Foundation



FOOD FOR THOUGHT WITH RESOURCE ADVISOR CHARLOTTE



Thank you to people for their positive feedback on my last 'words of wisdom', and a reply from one dad which is included in this issue* – it's great to know that people are reading the newsletter!

A national campaign has just been launched called Love Grows Brains. Nathan Wallis, a neuroscience educator involved in this campaign, says the campaign's aim is to communicate with Kiwi parents the critical importance of talking, reading, singing and interacting with babies and young children. The first 1000 days are very important to the development of the brain and love is a main ingredient.

Spring is a good time to look forward, be energised and inspired so I am enclosing some of my favourite quotes related to my area of work and hope these inspire you as well.

- "Play turns out to be so stunningly essential to childhood, it's like love, sunshine, and broccoli all juiced together" (anon).
- "You never fail until you stop trying" (anon).
- "The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance" (Alan Watts).
- "There is no GIANT step that does it, it's a lot of LITTLE steps" (anon).
- "Play is the highest form of research" (Albert Einstein).
- "Your speed doesn't matter, forward is forward" (Mary Tortoise).
- "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination" (Jimmy Dean).

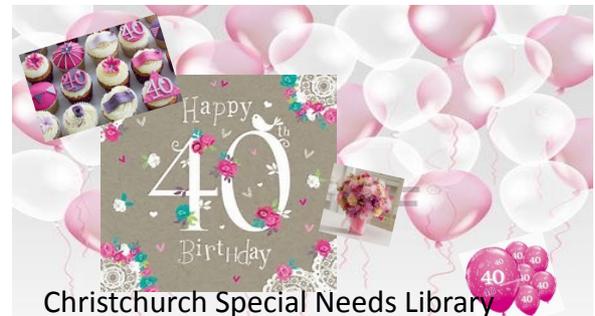
As always please feel free to ask me for any advice and I look forward to seeing you in the library.

Charlotte 😊

*See A Reader Responds on page 2

Disclaimer:

The Food for Thought ideas are just my own observations from my nearly ten years at the library and as always this will not be applicable to everyone.



Christchurch Special Needs Library

Cocktail Party

40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday 25th November 2017

5pm - 8pm

Rata Lounge

Cashmere Presbyterian Church

Cnr McMillian Ave & Dyers Pass Road

5pm-6pm meet, mingle, drinks and nibbles

6pm Entertainment by Women in Harmony Choir

6.15pm - 7.15pm canapes served

\$20 per head, drinks provided



Find our suggestion box at the returns counter and drop in any feedback you have about the library. It can be anonymous, or you can leave us your name and contact details if you would like us to get back in touch with you.

Donators and Volunteers Keep Library Going

Much to many new members' surprise, the library receives no funding from government sources. Instead it keeps going thanks to community funders, kind donations, our modest membership and resource hire fees, and the hard work of our volunteers. Here are some recent photos of our supporters (plus see back page for more):

Above right: Members of the Inner Wheel of Christchurch West make a welcome visit, with a donation for purchasing resources, as part of their ongoing support for the library.

Right: Saturday coordinator Carolyn gets a hug and an impressive stash of cash from Philip McGrath. He came into library to give us his proceeds from doing an alcohol-free 'Dry July'.



A reader responds (to Charlotte's previous column about fathers)

Just a quick note to say thanks for the column you wrote in the latest newsletter. It's good that you've acknowledged dad's/step-dad's as I do often feel we are forgotten or not listened to because we don't have that 'motherly instinct'. We may take a different approach, or have different ideas, but it doesn't mean to say they are wrong - just different. I certainly feel I'm at the bottom of the pecking order.

To be honest, when Christopher* was young I went to some of the Autism NZ support group meetings - but it's depressing because all you talk about is autism! That's the only common thing. And guys being guys don't know how to make small talk on other things. Autism is the last thing you want to talk about when you've been dealing with it all week. We did form our own little group from a course we went on, with some other parents, and that was good. The earthquakes put an end to it, but we keep in touch with one of the families, and we have built up a relationship where we talk about other things.

You are right - I've lost touch with friends, and, except for two people, people at work either aren't interested or don't know what to say. The two at work have both had medical traumas in their families, so they have some appreciation of what it is

like. I think it's also a symptom of the world - people are less caring, more insular, more tied to a screen rather than the people around them.

We just keep plugging away, and while we have a lot of trying times with Christopher, we know it isn't his fault that his brain is broken. My biggest worry, and one that seems lacking in information / guidance, is what happens to him in the future. In five or maybe 10 years at the most, when he is too big for us, and finishes school, where does he live? How does he keep himself busy and interested, day in, day out? It seems like parents are left to figure out a lot of stuff themselves. And we don't know what we don't know. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be someone like a social worker that we can contact even once a year to work out plans for the future

*Name changed



10331 Recycling Bean Bag Game

Practice sorting and recycling, and learn about environmental sustainability with bean bags and three compartments for recycling, compost and rubbish. The resource also helps with matching bean bag pairs, practicing throwing skills and making decisions.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Come and enjoy working with our collegial team while supporting our community. We have room for volunteers on a Saturday morning. Our Saturday team work one morning a month from 10am to 1pm. Tasks involve cleaning, sorting and shelving returned resources. Computer skills are not necessary but could be useful.

For further information, contact Frances on enquiries@specialneedslibrary.co.nz or phone 332 0731

Our Donators and Volunteers Continued



Above: The BNZ Closed for Good volunteer team catch some sun while supporting the library on the bank's Closed for Good volunteer day. Their annual support is much appreciated.



Left: Saturday volunteer Janelle checks and cleans a returned resource. Right: Volunteers Bernadette (with the pink car) and Ash keep the library running on the third Saturday of the month.



10320 Lock Activity Box

For developing fine motor skills and dexterity, the box has a variety of doors and openings which can be accessed by 10 different locking mechanisms.



10325 Dress up Doll

This double-sided, multi-gendered, colourful fabric doll can be used to practice the skills of getting dressed and undressed



10225 What's My Change?

This card game helps with learning the important skill of paying for items and knowing what change to expect.

