



CHRISTCHURCH SPECIAL NEEDS LIBRARY

Visit us
109 Huxley Street, Sydenham
Contact us
03 322 0733
enquiries@specialneedslibrary.co.nz
www.specialneedslibrary.co.nz

News from our Chair

Hello,

We celebrate 40 years of the Special Needs Library this year. Watch out for information about our plans to commemorate this achievement.

It was National Volunteer Week in June and our 40 volunteers from many walks of life are the life-blood of the library. They are the people who ensure items are cleaned, repaired and shelved in the right place, to make the library a great place to come to. Thanks volunteers!

We hope eftpos has made life a little easier for you; 75% of New Zealanders are card users. We don't accept credits cards though or give out cash.

Chris has a great raffle under way so race in and get some tickets. All proceeds go into the library funds. We survive on grants, fundraising and donations.

Cheers, Gina M

Be in to Win Raffle!

A gorgeous hand-sewn patchwork quilt is the starring prize in our mid-winter fundraising raffle. Made by our multi-talented chairperson, Gina, the quilt will keep you warm or look stunning on your wall, bed or sofa.

There are 400 tickets and the raffle will be drawn on 25th July. Prices are \$2 per ticket or \$5 for three tickets. Second prize is a large basket of jams, canned fruit and vegetables, and third prize a large multi-photo frame.



10301 Teeter Topper

This large blue rocking board with suction cups on its base helps with learning balance.



10319 Large Tri Climber

The large wooden climbing frame provides an opportunity for practicing climbing skills in a safe indoor environment



10310 Wooden Colours-n-Shapes

Learn to match colours, animals and shapes with this colourful wooden and plastic resource.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT WITH RESOURCE ADVISOR CHARLOTTE



Parents are great! Whether they are mums, dads or guardians, parents are amazing. Throughout my working career I have come in contact with many people and families who, as part of their whanau, have a person with disabilities. Each and every one of them react differently to the difficulties encountered throughout the journey of dealing with a child who has a disability. Emotions can range from denial to being completely overwhelmed. This is true for mums of course but I have observed differences. Mums are usually with the child 24/7 and this adjustment process seems to occur faster with acceptance coming sooner. There is probably very sound reasoning for this i.e. the birth process, bonding opportunities etc. I am not trying to say there is a right or wrong way but there is however, always a way that is better for the child and family as a whole. Having both parents on the 'same page' and having access to knowledge and practical support for the child and family should help.

"Emotions can range from denial to being completely overwhelmed."

What I have noticed, is that usually males find it more difficult to deal with these situations. Dads may not speak up as much to ask for help or share their 'story' and again there are probably logical reasons for this. Unfortunate stereotypes exist in our society which ask males to be strong and not show any emotions. I would like to encourage dads or the person in a Dad role to ask for help and share their experiences and concerns. It is sad when I hear dads saying that they lose contact with their friends and it is hard for their friends to understand. There is help around us and whether we find it within a friend or family, or in a professional, it is encouraging to know that you are being supported.

The help offered is available for anyone in distress, but I do encourage dads especially to seek support. There are support groups in and around Christchurch, one being SmileDial. GP's, counsellors and Plunket are also very good places to go for advice. Also, please feel free to ask me questions. Either ask me when you see me around the library or phone or email me to book an appointment on 332 0731 or charlotte@specialneedslibrary.co.nz

Disclaimer:

The above 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.



Birthday Celebration Planned

Christchurch Special Needs Library celebrates 40 years of serving the community later this year.

Plans are afoot to celebrate this ruby anniversary in style on Saturday, 25th November alongside volunteers, some of whom have been with the library since its beginnings under the guidance of the late Helen Bascand.

Keep an eye out for updates on ticket sales for this special event.

This year is the 40th, yes, fortieth year the library has been in operation. It was started by educators in the field of special needs and we are very proud to be a part of it. There will be a celebration, yet to be arranged, later in the year.

New Resources



10249 Spin Again Stacker

The Spin Again Stacker creates a rainbow effect as it spins and wobbles. It's great for visual stimulation, identifying colours and for practicing hand-eye coordination by threading the different wheels onto the stick.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Come and enjoy working with our collegial team while supporting our community. We have room for more volunteers:

- For one Saturday morning a month, 10am to 1pm
 - cleaning, sorting and shelving returned resources
 - computer skills not necessary but could be useful
- For two to four hours weekly, on a Tuesday or Thursday
 - cleaning, sorting and shelving returned resources
 - computer skills not necessary but could be useful
- On Tuesdays, from 11am to 3pm
 - issuing resources to clients
 - good interpersonal skills and confidence using computer needed

Speak to Frances if you would like any further information 😊

Ask in library, email enquiries@specialneedslibrary.co.nz or phone 332 0733



Left: Marjorie celebrates a big '0' birthday at the library. Centre: Gina and Ngaire hard at work practicing their fine motor skills on a magnetic ping pong resource. Right: Catherine and Laurane check returned resources to make sure everything is present, clean and in working order

Get in quick for our last copies of The Entertainment Book! We've sold most of them already but there is still time to support the library earn a percentage of sales 😊



10311 Abiliweights

We have two pairs of weighted fabric wrist bands which are secured with velcro. They are used to enhance proprioceptive skills which is awareness of your body in space. The bands provide sensory feedback to the brain and assist with gross and fine motor skills.



10313 and 10314 Extra Bright Light Cube and Accessories

Create an amazing visual sensory experience with the remote-controlled and rechargeable light cube. The cube itself changes colour, and the accessories' kit, which includes animal x-rays and squiggle pipettes, provides extra opportunities for creativity and exploration.