

Welcome to the
**Southwark Hearing
Support Service
(SHSS) 2024
Summer Newsletter.**



WELCOME

Welcome to the Southwark Hearing Support Service (SHSS) 2024 Summer Newsletter.

For those of you with facebook, there is a group you may be interested in joining. It's called 'Southwark & Lambeth Deaf Children's Group and is run by parents of deaf children. It's a group for local families with deaf children who are interested in coming together to support one another.

The focus of this newsletter is our great Under Five's group and the benefits you and your little ones can get from coming along. We run the group once a month. It is held at 1st Place in Burgess Park. We have a lovely large space where your child can explore and take part in different activities.

At our most recent group we focused on a sea theme. We linked all activities to this theme. By having a theme children are better able to link information to their experiences. It enables them to see that there are many ways to learn about a subject.



This sensory tray contained coloured rice, shredded paper, loofas, cups, and an assortment of sea creatures. It allows the children to experience a variety of textures and encourages chat, which in turn helps to build up vocabulary.



Water play is another great way to build up vocabulary. "pour" "splash" "full/empty". We used lots of things in the water play that you would find around the house such as a lemon squeezer, spoons, cups. We also include scent in the water to stimulate more senses.



The craft activity we did was to make paper plate fish. They look like the Rainbow Fish as this was the book we shared at the end of the session. Craft activities are great for fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Again, it supports vocabulary; “stick”, colour names for example.



Music is a big part of the sessions.

There is lots of evidence of the benefits for using songs and music to support development of deaf children. These include; building skills in language, communication logic and creativity, developing memory and cognitive development, increasing confidence and connecting with other people exploring emotions. We encourage the children (and parents) to join in with songs, using actions and instruments.

We try to include sensory play, craft activities and opportunities to explore sounds. The activities change each session to ensure that you and your child can enjoy something new when you come along. All the activities are created using things that you can easily use at home. We are always happy to hear of any fun activities you may have created at home that we can share with others during the sessions too.

The sessions begin at 10:30am. We then allow everyone to arrive before coming together at around 10:45am to say hello to one another and sing some song and take part in some musical activities linked to the week’s theme. When the songs and music has finished everyone is free to explore the activities, chat and enjoy the time. Just before the session ends at 12:00pm we all come together again to share a story and say our goodbyes.

This group doesn’t just benefit your little ones but also offers benefits for you as parents. It gives you the opportunity to talk to your Teacher of the Deaf and other members of the team. We have invited Specialist Speech and Language therapists and recently we hosted a representative from the National Deaf Children’s Society. You can ask questions and gain useful information.

It also allows you to talk to other parents. You can share experiences and give each other tips. Maybe one parent has a way to keep hearing aids on their little one that you hadn’t thought of. Maybe you have an activity that you do with your little one to support their listening that you can share.

So why don’t you come along to our next session on Monday 13th May. The theme is going to be Jungles.

If you have any questions about the contents of the newsletter, please do get in touch. We hope to see you soon.

Best wishes

Southwark Hearing Support Service

A REMINDER OF HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US

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