

[Can't read this email properly?](#)

To guarantee delivery of this email please add Fledglings@cmp.ctt-news.org to your address book and safe senders list.



Swift e-News

Fledglings is a national charity which supports parents and carers of children with special needs by finding affordable solutions to everyday practical problems. We offer a free of charge bespoke information service which addresses individual needs of each child and family.

Issue 22 May 2010



Dear Friend

Well, what a month May has been with all the political uncertainties, but now we have a new government. Whatever our political persuasion, I'm sure we all hope it will govern well. It is certainly an innovative idea to have a coalition government and I expect it will bring some new ideas and new ways of working. Here at Fledglings we are also looking at new ways of working to improve our service. In order to help us achieve this we are delighted to announce a new addition to our team - another Ruth!

Ruth Webster has joined us as Services Manager to help streamline our operations to ensure that, as the number of families coming to us for help increases, our services will continue to run as smoothly as possible. Last year we dealt with over 7,500 requests for information and/or products from families and professionals, keeping our small team of dedicated workers exceptionally busy. Ruth's background in the commercial world and her personal experience of disability will bring new perspectives and efficiencies to our work, and we are all looking forward to working with her to grow and improve the service we provide.



Ruth Lingard Executive Director

Ruth Webster

Cool2Care

cool2care
for families with disabled children

Some time ago I heard about this service which I thought would be helpful to many families we know so I contacted Phil, the founder of the service and we have subsequently had a couple of meetings. Like so many helpful services for families of disabled children, Cool2Care has grown out of Phil's personal experience. The service has been developed to make



it possible for families to find carers who really want to work with disabled children and to ensure that the carers receive training before they enter into work with disabled children. The service is now growing and becoming more widely available. Rachel Thomas, Family Liaison Manager at Cool2Care writes:

“Could the lives of you and your family be enriched by employing a care worker to help out at the busy times of your day, or during school holidays? Would you like to employ a care worker to care for your child or be a buddy for your teenager? If so, Cool2Care can help. Here’s how..... We take referrals and enquiries from families and the service is accessible to any family with a disabled child or teenager. We recruit, train and place skilled care workers and PA’s with families, to help look after and work with disabled children and young adults. The family’s requirements are considered throughout and they are supported and are in control of the employment process. Cool2Care is compatible with Direct Payments and Individual Budgets, or families can use their benefits and private income to pay for care.”

For more information on employing or becoming a care worker visit www.cool2care.co.uk or telephone 07850 709446.

New Products

Swimsters

Swimsters are waterproof-lined unisex swim briefs which can be discreetly worn under any swimming costume. Fledglings has been aware of them for some time but we were unsure how reliable they would be for many children whose families come to us looking for this type of protection. However, over time we have been asked for them on many occasions and we know that several schools recommend them to their parents. We have, therefore, decided to add these to our portfolio of swim products for this summer, and, if successful, we will add them to our list of standard products for the future. Initially they will only be available in blue.



These products are available from Fledglings.

Swimsters

Size	Age	Waist	Upper Leg	Price
XXSmall	4+	17-22"	12-15"	£11.00 + £2 p&p
XSmall	6-8	17-24"	11-17"	£13.60 + £2 p&p
Small	8-10	18-27"	12-18"	£13.60 + £2 p&p
Medium	10-12	20-30"	13-19"	£13.60 + £2 p&p
Large	14-16	21-32"	14-20"	£13.60 + £2 p&p
Colour:	Blue			

Buggy Clip and Lock



These items, designed by two policemen, are proving a big hit with families of young children and we think they could work equally well with wheelchairs. We supplied a buggy clip to the Newton family who kindly gave us the following feedback:

Buggy Clip

“The buggy clip has been brilliant....it is nice and sturdy. It leaves my hands free to concentrate on pushing the buggy and attending to Phoebe and stops me struggling with shoulder bags or having bags slung on my wrists and forearms - life is just that little bit easier. Thank you so much” Sarah Newton

The Buggy Lock

The buggy lock is of a similar construction to the buggy clip but is fitted with a combination lock which allows you to lock a buggy to



Buggy Clip

Buggy Lock

a railing just as you might lock a bike, useful when popping into a school or doctor's surgery with your child. As buggies and wheelchairs are so expensive these days it becomes increasingly important that they are able to be left securely when not in use.

These products are available from Fledglings.

Buggy Clip £4.95 each + p&p

Buggy Lock £7.95 each + p&p

Gravity Tube Feeding – How do you manage?

We have recently heard from the Morris family that every day one family member used to spend up to 7 hours holding a feeding tube for their child before Grandad found a solution. Is this a common problem? And how do you deal with this task? Do you have any equipment to hold the tube? If not, is there a reason why? If a piece of equipment to hold the tube were available, would you find it helpful?

We would really like to hear from anyone who has information on this subject.

Holidays - A Special Place to Stay



We know that many families caring for a disabled child have difficulties finding suitable holiday accommodation, so when we heard from Wendy Butterfield, we were delighted. Wendy is a registered childminder with 22 years' experience, and she lives near the sea in Cornwall. Her husband is a builder and some years ago they embarked on a project to make holiday accommodation available to families of children with disabilities adjacent to their home.

The accommodation is now complete and they have asked Fledglings to inform families. Wendy writes: *"I have been childminding for 22 years and much of that time we have been lucky enough to look after children with additional needs, everything from autism through to cerebral palsy. We have always included everyone in every activity and believe, like Fledglings, if someone wants to do something then there is always a way. We often look after an eclectic mix of children and we find that all benefit from this."*

"Several years ago my husband and I decided to build a holiday let specifically with families with children with additional needs in mind. We have now completed the accommodation and are now working on an indoor heated swimming pool and jacuzzi. I have an extensive knowledge of available attractions and beach accessibility, Also we can provide CRB checked childcare."



Wendy with children she cares for

For further information telephone 01872 573182 or visit their website: www.poolhousecornwall.com

View our video. As publicity for reaching the Lottery finals for Best Voluntary/Charity Project a film was produced about our work [click here to view](#)

Fledglings relies heavily on donations and grants for the income we need to continue our work. We're extremely grateful for all the help we receive. The money is all put to good use helping children and families.



Has this email come to the right person? If you would like future issues to be sent to an alternative or additional person at your address tell us by using the email link below.

If you know someone who would benefit from reading Swift click : [Forward this email](#)

For more information about Fledglings:
For more information about our products:
To contact us by telephone:
To send us an email:

visit [our website](#)
view our [latest brochure](#)
0845 458 1124
[email Fledglings](#)



Fledglings Charity No. 1112618 Fledgling Family Services is a company limited by guarantee No. 4592971
Wenden Court, Station Approach, Wendens Ambo, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4LB

[Want to unsubscribe or change your details?](#)