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Fledglings Helpline
0845 458 1124

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 13 August 2009



Dear Mike

Well, the summer holidays are here again and, although the long range weather forecasts were good we seem to be having a lot of rain here in Eastern England- just as I remember in my childhood. Nevertheless, holidays were always fun then as I hope they are now. In this issue we include some ideas for activities you may enjoy whenever rain keeps you indoors this summer.

Have fun!

The great news for Fledglings is that with all your support and votes we have made it through to the final three of the **National Lottery Awards Best Voluntary/Charity project**. The winner will be announced on a special BBC TV show on Saturday 5th September, which will include a film about the work of Fledglings and will feature some of the families we have helped. We are very excited about this because the associated publicity will help us to reach more families and will help to improve the public understanding of children with disabilities and the help they need and deserve.

So please take the time to vote for us again in the final, full details on how to vote are below and encourage your friends, relatives etc to vote for us as well.

Thank You

Ruth Lingard Executive Director

National Lottery Awards - Best Voluntary/Charity Project - Finals



Please vote **again** for us by going to the website:

[click here to vote](#)

or call 0844 686 6754

closing date for votes mid-day Friday 14th August

Thank you so much for your support, including the Evetts family (pictured here) who were filmed and photographed for Woman magazine and the other

families who agreed to be filmed for the BBC programme about our work.

You can view a short film made of our work by

[clicking here](#)



Clearance Sale

Fledglings has a number of discontinued items, which we need to sell to make way for new stock. Keep an eye out in future Swift e-news for more of these bargains.



'Shepherdess' Conventional Terry Towelling Feeders

Medium Size L32 cm x W 28 cm - Pink with blue binding

Previous price £6.50

Sale Price £4.50 + p&p while stocks last



'Seen In' Red Towelling Bib

Size - Small L22cm x W 29cm

Previous Price - £5.00

Sale Price - £4.00 + p&p while stocks last



Hairy Magneez

Hairy Magneez are irresistible. These brightly coloured characters with a multitude of expressions and magnetic properties can be used to teach colours, emotions or just to keep fingers busy!

Previous Price - £1.95

Sale Price - £1.50 + p&p



Emotions Matching Pairs

A set of 12 matching pairs of wooden tiles depicting facial expressions, can be used to encourage children to share their feelings and/or to identify different expressions in others. Matching can be remarkably tricky if the whole set is used but by using fewer pieces the game can be adapted to the needs of those playing.

Previous Price - £12.50

Sale Price - £5.00 + p&p

Rainy day play



We were recently sent this lovely picture drawn by Lucy. Lucy was struggling to draw as she suffers from Juvenile Arthritis but Fledglings was able to help by supplying our Triangular/Handhugger Pens and Pencils.

We have listed below some of our special writing and drawing products that might help to keep the children amused on those occasional!! wet summer days.

Triangular/Handhugger Pens & Pencils

Steadtler Pencil 2 pack	DT0015	£0.50 + p&p
Coloured Pencils 12 pack	DT0016	£6.25 + p&p
Pen - blue or black Single	DT0017	£1.00 + p&p
Coloured Felt Tips 12 pack	DT0018	£6.50 + p&p



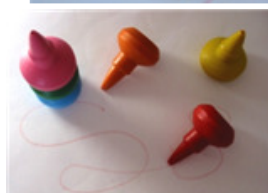
Crayon Colour Ball DT0013 £3.25 + p&p

Great for helping children with limited dexterity to hold and use a crayon effectively. Six coloured crayons in one easy-to-hold device.



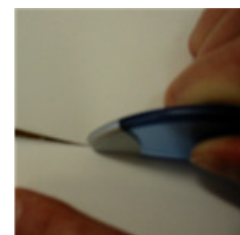
Mushroom Shaped Crayons DT0014 £3.25 + p&p

These hollow crayons have similar benefits to the crayon colour ball. Children may grip the chunky top to draw but may progress to a pencil grip with their index finger tucked inside. Pack of 6 stackable crayons.



Magic Cutter DT0107 £2.50 + p&p

With the magic cutter children can safely cut around pictures in magazines and make picture collages by sticking them onto plain paper using a paste made with plain flour and water- or alternatively by pressing them onto a piece of sticky Dycem cut from a roll.



Dycem

Non-slip material with a variety of uses which grips on both sides.

Roll 2m x 20cm GC0004 £18.60 + p&p

Squares 20cm x 20cm £2.00 + p&p



Phoebe's Play Den

Phoebe's Mum, Medeni, recently sent us this lovely idea for indoor play. Phoebe is 8 and half years old. She is a very funny, loving girl with severe learning difficulties and complex needs. She has very limited play skills and needs one to one support.

Medeni writes: "I wanted to create somewhere in the house Phoebe could be where she could be left and be happy without losing interest in her environment. She loves balls and especially the ball pools in soft play places but unfortunately all the ball pool tents are aimed at 3 year olds and too small for Phoebe to get into.



Phoebe is a tall girl and so I found the aptly named Mega Mansion which takes up a considerable area in her room but Phoebe can fit inside comfortably with me or her younger brother and sister. Inside the tent I've used a paddling pool filled with ordinary ball pool balls which she loves throwing into a big basket - and then having me tip them all over her. I've also Velcroed **acrylic mirrors** onto the inside of the tent as she loves her reflection! The novelty warehouse is brilliant for little bits and bobs for children with special needs. I bought a whole variety of stretchy, bouncy and weird and wonderful balls to try out. The most successful have been the fragranced balls with a range of fruity smells from banana to strawberry, the flashing maracas and the space blanket - which we lie underneath and play with all the coloured lights. This is the first 'toy' Phoebe has actively sought out - and I hadn't realised how inclusive it would be as her brother and sister love going in it too. I hope this will be helpful for other parents as it has been great for me."

Fledglings has a limited stock of **acrylic mirror roll** and is able to supply a variety of textured and coloured balls. Do enquire if you can't find what you need locally.

Bag Books

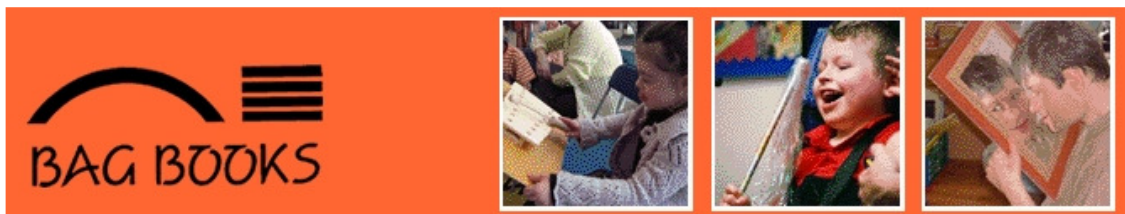


Another great activity at any time of year is reading/story telling and Bag Books helps this become a fun and enjoyable experience for those who might otherwise be excluded. Established in 1993, Bag Books, an organisation with charitable status, was set up to make multi-sensory story packs available at an affordable price.

The books are not conventional but each 'page' is an A3 piece of card to which is attached a sensory object to touch, hear, smell or see and comes with a laminated card containing the story line.

There is a wide variety of materials available for children, teenagers and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities and for young mainstream children with visual impairment. Since January 2007 Bag Books have been gradually introduced to libraries around the country and staff trained in multi-sensory story telling. So, take a trip to your local library this summer and enquire about Bag Books.

I hope they will bring you lots of fun and enjoyment. Visit their website www.bagbooks.org



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.

Donate
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