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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 14 September 2009

Dear Friend



This month is always a very significant month in my family's year as in the first two weeks we celebrate our wedding anniversary and the birthdays of two of our sons, one of whom added another celebration this year by getting married himself. However, it seems from numerous conversations with friends that this is not uncommon. September and October seem to be months when many babies are born. So, just as children and teachers return to work after the summer holidays, there are gifts to buy and parties to attend. At the same time the new term and cooler weather brings the need for new uniform and warmer clothing -so much to think about at once.

If we at Fledglings can help with any of the issues this raises, do give us a call. We have gifts for birthdays, musical birthday flowers, Polo popper shirts for school, warm fleece capes and woolly socks- and a host of other items, many of which we cannot feature in our brochure. We always try to help but if we can't we can often point you in the right direction whatever you need.

Ruth Lingard Executive Director

National Lottery Awards - Best Voluntary/Charity Project - Finals



Katie, John, Melanie & Richard with Katie Walsh from The Apprentice at the BBC National Lottery event on

Thank you so much to all who supported our bid to win the award for Best Voluntary/Charity project. It was so heart-warming to hear Val on BBC Northamptonshire, and Melanie, Sara and Karen on the BBC film singing our praises. Kate in Suffolk and Yvette in Norfolk also offered their services willingly and I know many others like Marion at Unique encouraged their members to vote for us. Knowing that so many families were behind us was an enormous boost to our morale, so, although on the day we didn't get enough support from the general public to win, we felt uplifted by the support we received from all of you. **Thank you.** In addition, we received a share of the money raised on the night, almost £1,500, which is

September 3rd.

much needed.

View our video. As publicity for the Lottery finals a film was produced [click here to view](#)

***New * The Trabasack – a portable laptray bag**

Designed by Clare Edwards, a wheelchair user, artist and busy mum of two, this useful product has been tested for us by Nathan, aged 8 years, who is also a wheelchair user - and he loved it. So did his Mum and brother! There are two versions of the Trabasack, one with a curved edge which hugs the body's contours and the smaller Trabasack Mini, just right for holding A4 paper. Both are bags with one flat side and a bean bag cushion insert on the other, allowing the bag to sit comfortably on the user's lap while maintaining stability on the table. Both styles can be carried on the back, over the shoulder, or attached to a buggy or wheelchair. These very versatile products are suitable for all ages and situations.



Clare with Trabasack mini



Original Trabasack

I met Clare and her husband for a drink at their local pub and saw how useful it was for Clare, having her own table to hand. I realised that both wheelchair users and more physically active individuals could pop lunch or artists materials, games or symbol sheets into the bag, carry it comfortably to any destination, remove the goods from the bag and hey presto, have their own table to work at. Great for kids on school visits or snacks in the playground. Sam and his mum liked the larger version with the detachable washable soft cover but older kids may prefer the wipe clean leather effect finish. Both are smart and stylish. Our staff here at Fledglings feel that both would make an ideal gift for a teenager.

Clare and her partner, Duncan, have kindly agreed to make a donation to Fledglings for every one sold if, when ordering, you state that you heard about the Trabasack from Fledglings. They will even give us a 10p donation if you take a look at their website from ours!

For more information visit their website www.trabasack.co.uk

Changes to our Product Lines

We have recently changed the supplier of our wheelchair bags as we felt the quality of their product was not consistently of a good standard. The replacement we have selected, illustrated here, is the same colour and size but has a rounded top more like a conventional backpack. We are able to supply this at the same price as the one illustrated in our brochure.



However, if the design of the new product is not suited to yours or your child's needs, please let us know as we are able to supply a number of different styles.

**New Wheelchair bag
CW0116 £14 + p&p**

New NHS Carers Website

The government has created a new website with carers specifically in mind, and it is surprisingly good. Under the Case Studies section is a short video featuring a family who have a young daughter with Downs Syndrome which we think would be particularly helpful to those who have a newborn child with this condition.

Keep an eye on this site - We hope Fledglings will be featured on it soon.

Visit their website www.nhs.uk/carersdirect

Christmas Toys

Christmas is now only 13 weeks away and in our next issue of *Swift e-News* (October) we will be featuring a selection of gift items suitable for children with special needs.



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.



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