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*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 16 November 2009**

Dear Friend



Today has been a very dreary rainy day here, the sort of day when all you want to do is to curl up in a nice warm room and hide away from the world outside. But just now I received an email from someone which lifted my spirits. It made me realise that there are others out there who care and that tomorrow is another day when the sun will probably shine again and the world will look so much fresher after the rain.

With Christmas coming many young families say they feel stressed and daunted at the cost of gifts for their children, or the price of traditional festive foods. But if this is how you feel, just think how much pleasure young children find from playing with the box their gift arrived in as much as from the gift itself. Enjoying a simple meal in the company of those you love at Christmas (or at any other celebration) and maybe playing a few games or singing a few songs will be what your children remember. These family moments are worth far more than the expensive gift or a large turkey dinner. Hopefully the economic problems the world has encountered in 2009 will have taught us all to value family and friendships before wealth and possessions.

Good luck in your preparations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth".

Ruth Lingard Executive Director

**[New – iseeka child tracking device gives parents peace of mind.](#)**

We are always on the lookout for innovative products to meet children's and families' needs. We cannot always help immediately when you come to us for answers to difficulties but we don't stop searching for solutions to these unsolved problems.

One of the products we have been asked to find many times in recent years is a device to 'tag' children who wander off and who, particularly if they have limited speech, may be very vulnerable. We have identified one or two potentially helpful products but they have usually been extremely expensive and none have received positive feedback.

Now, however, we believe we have found a product which should help many families. The **iseeka** child



tracking system consists of a lockable child 'wrist-watch' receiver and a parent control which can set the distance you are happy for your child to move away from you up to a distance of 400metres. If the child goes beyond the set limit, an alarm sounds on the handset alerting the parent who, by pressing a button on the control is directed to the child's location.

We have tested this product here and, although it required a little time and patience to set up, it clearly worked as described. We believe this will help families who want to allow their child a little freedom e.g on a beach or out in a park but who will feel reassured that the child may be easily located when required.

This is a very new product but it is already receiving accolades from thankful parents, and the iseeka company has kindly agreed to offer these units at a £10 reduction to Fledglings' customers who order online and in addition the company will make a donation of £10 to Fledglings. To obtain the discount use the code **FLEDGLINGS** on their online Order form.

To find out more, to view a video or to place an order go to their website [click here](#)

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### Special offer

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#### Envelope Neck Vest

We have a small supply of cotton envelope neck vests with popper fastening in this discontinued size.

white,navy, pink **size 12-14yrs only**

**£5.00 + p&p**

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### Stocking Fillers

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We have a limited selection of stocking fillers available this year. We can supply a random selection of 5 items, examples of which are illustrated here.

**£10.00 for 5 items + p&p**



Wooden Clapper



Squirty Bath Fish



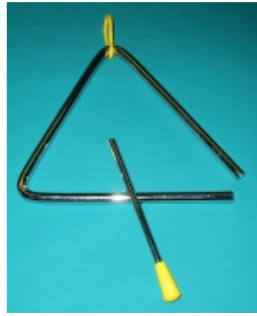
Hairy Magneez



Sound Key Ring



Flying Angel



Triangle



Balloon Ball



Hand Mirror



Sound Box



Finger Puppets



Shaker



Bell Stick

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### Christmas Stocking

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These bright decorative Christmas stockings would please any child on Christmas morning. We have three designs in stock at present – a red one featuring Father Christmas and Rudolf, the red nosed reindeer, a blue one featuring Father Christmas and a snowman, and a green one showing a large Father Christmas (shown) carrying a big sack of toys.

**SD01247 £3.00 + p&p** please state colour preference – red, blue or green if ordering.

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### Need a Tomcat Trike for a child 8+ ? Contact us for a chance to win one

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A family known to Fledglings has a Tomcat trike in good condition which their son has outgrown. As they were themselves helped by a local charity to purchase this trike they have very kindly contacted us as they wish to donate it to another child who may continue to enjoy it. The trike, pictured here, can be adapted to grow with a child until approximately 14 years or a height of 5'5". The trike has a supportive seat, attachments on the pedals and a parent rear steering and braking column. It would be particularly suitable for an active child with a learning disability. Anyone wishing to enter a draw for this trike should [email Fledglings](#) giving the child's name, age and special need, and the address and phone number/email address of the nominee, by Friday December 4. The child need not be already known to Fledglings. Any child who has a need for such a trike may be nominated. All names will be entered into a hat and the winner will be informed by Fledglings.

The trike is currently located in East Anglia. Arrangements for collection/delivery will be made with the donor family but the recipient must be willing to cover the delivery



expenses.

## Treat Yourself

Some time ago, Lesley and I each received a lovely gift from a grateful parent – a bar of lovingly crafted home-made soap. The soap was just wonderful- it smelled divine and after washing we both noticed how soft our skin felt. Recently I discovered that Suzanne, who sent us the gift, has continued to expand her range of toiletries which can now be viewed online [click here](#) to visit her website.

Why don't you treat yourself this Christmas ? – as they say on the ads - YOU deserve it.



## Have you a special item for sale? New Free Website helps families.



We have recently come across a new website which has been created by Graham, a former Motability employee, to help families who have a disabled member to sell on their used equipment. Advertising on this site is free.

[click here](#) for further information on how to sell – or buy.

**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.*

Donate Now

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