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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 20 March 2010

Dear Friend



We had a number of very positive responses from last month's e-News that you will be hearing more about in future issues. However one of the issues raised by Jacqui Law, a parent who has been known to Fledglings for many years, needed our urgent attention. Jacqui is now a parent representative for Contact a Family in Scotland and has been invited to gather stories from parents to take to an important conference in Edinburgh in April on the Human Rights of disabled children. For further information about this conference please see:

www.cfr.ac.uk/events/disabledchild.html

Jacqui needs your stories by March 30th, so please do your best to respond to her as soon as possible (see full details in article below).

Thank you

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

Ruth Lingard Executive Director

New Products

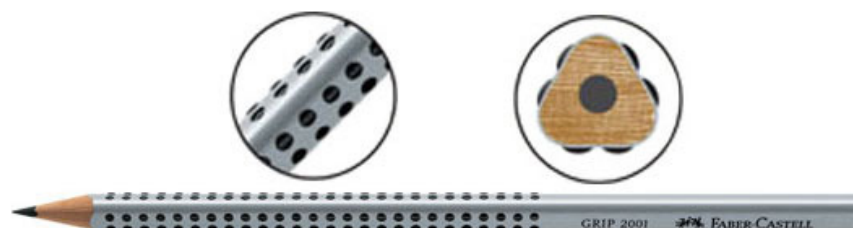
Inflatable Sheet Bumpers

We thought these bumpers which fit inside a special sheet and are then inflated would help children with different needs and in different situations. Those with brittle bones and/or who bruise easily would benefit from the soft sides, particularly if their bed is placed next to a wall. Also, children who may have a night-time seizure would be protected from falling out of bed. These bumpers could also be used inside a bed such as the Zak's bed or the Comfort bed illustrated in our brochure (P.29) to prevent children putting their arms through the bedside rails. Also, when travelling these may be particularly helpful as they are lighter than most alternative products to keep your child safe and sound through the night.



Inflatable Sheet Bumpers GC0140 £38.00 + p&p
Extra Sheet for Bumpers GC0141 £23.00 + p&p

Jumbo Grip Pencil - OT recommended



Winner of many design awards these pencils were recommended to us by an occupational therapist who found that the chunky triangular shape and the dimpled grip helps children to write more easily and tirelessly. A slimline version is also available on request.

Jumbo Grip Pencil DT0133 £1.00 + p&p
Slimline Grip Pencil DT0134 £0.80 + p&p

De-tangling Comb

I can still remember how painful it was as a child to have my long blonde curls combed after a hair wash. My screams made my mother decide to give up and cut my hair short. If your child is upset by hair combing after washing or swimming you may find this de-tangling comb helpful. I have tested it myself and it works!



De-tangling Comb GC0138 £5.00 + p&p

Chewelry Wristband



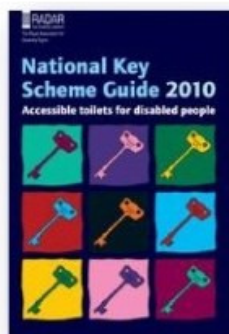
We have had requests for Chewelry from a number of parents, so we have decided to stock these wristbands, which are non-toxic chewing aids that also stimulate oral - motor activities. The wristbands come in a random variety of colours. Please ensure that they are always used under adult supervision.

Chewelry Wristband GC0139 £6.00 each + p&p

RADAR - the Disability Network, there to help

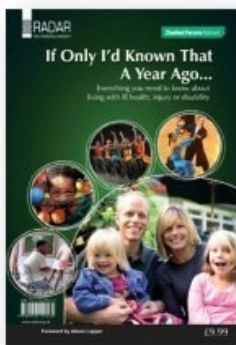
1 in 5 people in the UK is affected by ill-health, injury or disability. RADAR, the Royal Association for Disability Rights, is the leading UK pan-disability charity. They campaign for justice and equality for disabled people. Well known for their RADAR keys, which give access to 8000+ disabled toilets including some playgrounds for disabled children, they also support families living with ill-health, injury or disability, with a range of publications.

Two brand new books published in April 2010 support freedom and independence for families living with disability. The **NKS (National Key Scheme) Guide 2010** is a complete guide to accessible disabled toilets around the UK. Their popular '**If Only I'd known that a Year Ago - Everything you need to know about living with ill-health, injury or disability**', contains up-to-date useful practical advice on essential services you might not know about if new to disability or circumstances change, for example when a disabled child is born. It contains a section on disabled children and support to help them have full and independent lives pre and beyond school.



They are offering an introductory 20% discount from standard prices for their new books, for the first 1000 copies of each book sold. Buy the **National Key Scheme Guide for £7.99, If Only I'd Known that a Year Ago for £12.99 or both books together £17.49** at

<http://radar-shop.org.uk/>



or by calling 020 7250 3222 or e-mailing rpl@radar.org.uk

Folding Changing Mat - Problems Resolved

The problems some people have encountered with the folding changing mat (page 15 in our product brochure) now appear to have been resolved. The new mats are made from a stronger wipe-clean fabric and the edges are more firmly welded. Currently we have only blue available in the new fabric.



Padded PVC Folding Changing Mat CC0024 £15.50 + p&p

What Do Human Rights Mean for Disabled Children in the UK? Jacqui Law

Jacqui Law writes:

"The UK's 700,000 disabled children are widely recognised as facing disproportionate discrimination in realising their basic human rights, such as: The right to life; The right to a family life; The right to play; The right to an effective education & The right to health care. The Edinburgh conference will look at the human rights of children living with disability in the UK, in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The organisers would like to hear parents' perspectives.

My name is Jacqui Law. I have agreed to collate those stories. I need parents, carers and family members to tell me about situations where they believe their son or daughter was denied their Human Rights. It could be a few lines saying what happened. As we also want those people attending the conference to see that parents are vital to resolving problems can you also, if possible, say what could have been done to make the situation better. I am hoping that some other parents will join me that day to present their stories. I will not identify the parent, the child or the region. Those stories which are not used during the presentation will be written up and will be available for the delegates to read later.

We know that as parents and carers that we are constantly being asked to give our views. This is an opportunity to give your perspective on this issue, and to do so in a way which is safe and comfortable."

You can email your story to Jacqui at Jacqui.law@cafamilly.org.uk

Or if you want to speak with her then you can call her on 01387 263 563.

Or post to her at: Jacqui Law, Contact a Family Scotland, Craigmillar Social Enterprise & Arts Centre, 11/9 Harewood Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4NT.

Rose



If you are used to speaking to Katie when you call you may be surprised to hear a new voice on the phone in future as Fledglings is growing its team of helpers. On Monday we were delighted to welcome Rose who we are sure will soon be completely 'au fait' with our range of products. Incidentally Rose is a fluent French speaker so, if we have any French clients who wish to use their own language she will be able to help!

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.

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