



Forum Information

As I am sure you are aware by now the forum has recently undergone a re-organisation. I think we can all see its a lot tidier now and more organised.

The biggest change is the introduction of a new sub-section for pre-diagnosis related topics.

Before diagnosis (as well as after) the world of ASD can be very new and quite scary. With this new addition people a an area for their pre-diagnosis questions as well as still being able to read all the post-diagnosis posts for hints and tips on life with ASD.

There is also a medical section for non-ASD medical problems of people with ASD and siblings. With so many co-morbids being diagnosed these days its really going to be handy. Epilepsy to OCD, Dyslexia to glue ear, there is a place for everything.

And the see me not my illness is still only visible to members.





PECS.ORG.UK Pyramid Education - a Website review

Pyramid is the source for PECS: an alternative/augmentative communication system that teaches students to initiate spontaneous communication in a social context from the outset.

Under the resources section of the site you can find many useful products such as the original (and in my opinion) best PECS book, symbols, boardmaker, timetables, pocket books and the packs of sensory toys.

From personal experience I would say they are a very friendly and well organised company. I recently had to replace a broken PECS book and my order was dispatched within 24 hours and being delivered to my house within 48 hours.

The site also contains some easy to read information on the company and the way it works. As well as communication with people who have additional needs.

For those of you interested in alternative ways of communication its really worth taking a look at this site for ideas, information and products.





March 14th 2009.

Oxygen therapy benefits autistic children.

In 6 centres in the United States, 62 children aged two to seven with autism were randomly assigned to receive 40 hours of treatment over a month with 24% oxygen at increased atmospheric pressure or normal air in a slightly pressurised room.

Children who received the treatment showed significant improvements in overall functioning, receptive language, social interaction, eye contact, and sensory or cognitive awareness. 30% of the children treated were rated by doctors to be improved or much improved, compared to 8% of those in the room with normal air.

It is not known if these improvements are long or short term at the moment, or why some children respond to the treatment better than others.

Study leader, Dr Dan Rossignol from the International Child Development Resource Centre, in Florida was initially sceptical, but he was prompted to look into it further as he has 2 sons with autism.

Professor Philip James, an expert from Dundee said that that oxygen was the "controller of inflammation" but also had other effects on regulation of genes and tissue regeneration.

It may not be for everyone, it certainly isn't a cure. "All the oxygen is doing is bringing things towards normal."

Read the full article at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7940149.stm>





Yoko Unveils Original Mural for Autism Awareness.

Yoko Ono, the 76-year-old widow of slain former Beatle John Lennon, will unveil a mural at UN headquarters next month in honour of World Autism Awareness Day, an advocacy group. Yoko is an avant-garde artist and has named her mural 'Promise'. It will be auctioned off to raise money for the advocacy group 'Autism Speaks'. It will be unveiled on the 2nd Annual World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) on April 2.



WAAD was created by a UN General Assembly resolution in December 2007 to increase public awareness about autism and to stress the importance of early diagnosis and intervention.

Yoko was born in Tokyo into a wealthy banking family. She was raised in both Japan and the United States before becoming known as an avant-garde conceptual artist and musician.

She is perhaps most famous for having married rock-and-roll legend and Beatles co-founder Lennon in 1969. He was murdered in New York in December 1980.

Thank you Wills Dad

Thanks to Wills Dad for passing us this link which holds lots of recent news on Autism and Aspergers

www.autismconnect.org





Autism Awareness Rally Lead by Parents of Autistic Child.

Hundreds of parents are expected to attend a march on Saturday which was organised by Mr and Mrs Hawkins who have a 6 year old autistic son, Edward, to call for more support for families with autism and further research, acting under the name Open Your Eyes to Autism.

Lara and Mark Hawkins, of Crayford, are concerned that autism often goes unrecognised and thousands of children are excluded from school or just don't go at all. They feel that specialised schools are overwhelmed and do not have enough spaces for all who need them. They believe that the government are not taking enough action.

Recent results from Cambridge University research suggests that autism rates are nearly twice as high as the traditionally accepted rate of one in 100 children.

"Some 30 years ago they said autism affected one in 10,000 children. Today, we think the figure for boys could be as many as one in 38."

A letter from each parent march, has been prepared to be handed in to 10 Downing Street.

Christine Bett, deputy chair of Bromley Autistic Trust, said that on top of schooling needs not being recognised too little money was spent on research into autism.





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She added: "Autism costs £28 billion to the country each year through care and lost working hours.

"Everyone knows what cerebral palsy or leukaemia is, and while autism affects more people than those put together, it receives half the attention.

"The huge effect it has on families is not being recognised."

For more information on the London rally, visit www.openyoureyestoautism.com

London Autism Rally



A Parent's Initiative





Autism through my eyes - Love

People don't often talk about the positive love a person with Autism can feel and share. Maybe its because we are bad at showing it.

Parents often crave to hear "I love you mummy" or to have a cuddle and kiss goodnight.

It must be hard waiting and hoping for us to show these emotions and feelings to you but just because we do not show them does not mean they are not there.

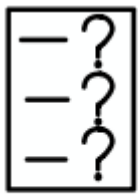
Your not just a slave or thing to us, we do recognise you as an important person in our lives, someone we both need and want. We do miss you when your not about. Even if we would happily take the hand of a stranger and wander off from you doesn't mean we will not miss you when your not there.

We really try to let you in our world but its just so hard. There are many things that cause us pain. All the sensory things around hugging and kissing kind of put us off it.

But we love your smile, a pat on the head, a tickle or a kiss on the top of our head when we are sleeping. The way you cut the crusts of our sandwiches and the way you always try so hard to understand us.

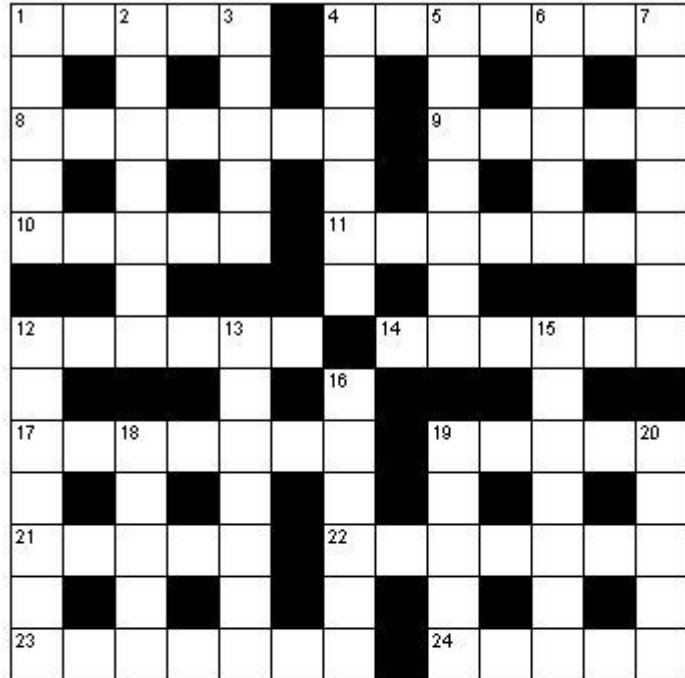
Look in to our eyes and you can see our love for you. A smile creeping out the corner of our lips and a giggle at your silly mistakes. Its our way of saying I really do love you.





Fun and Quiz Page

Congratulations
To Janey who got
last months dingbat
correct. The answer
was....
Hot Dog



Across

- 1 Dock (5)
- 4 Sore (7)
- 8 Rubbish (7)
- 9 Sacred song (5)
- 10 Boulders (5)
- 11 Sincere (7)
- 12 Real (6)
- 14 Blemished (6)
- 17 Ancient Japanese warrior (7)
- 19 Concur (5)
- 21 Ashen (5)
- 22 Before (7)
- 23 Least difficult (7)
- 24 Viper (5)

Down

- 1 Bet (5)
- 2 Fruit (7)
- 3 Emblems (5)
- 4 Fragments (6)
- 5 Endanger (7)
- 6 Fire (5)
- 7 Restricted (7)
- 12 Relieve of blame (7)
- 13 Abbreviate (7)
- 15 Concerned (7)
- 16 Straightforward (6)
- 18 Relocates (5)
- 19 Main artery (5)
- 20 Mistake (5)

don't klat

Send your answers
to this months
Dingbat by PM to
Munchkin.

