



Chat Room

Its so nice to see the chat room being used so well and so often by so many of our members.

For those of you who have never been in you can access the chat room by clicking the 'live chat' link at the top of the forum pages.

Keep an eye on the calendar to see when the next chat event is coming up.

There is also a thread in the general discussion section which includes the times, rules and some more information.

Some people are put off by how fast the chat can go, it can be confusing to begin with but most people get the hand of it very quickly.

See you all in there soon.





Do To Learn

www.dotolearn.com - a Website review

This is a website that is well worth a look.

It provides lots of free tools for use with children.

From symbols to games and songs.

It really does have something for everyone.

It also includes some non-free items which you can buy and use on your PC at home.

The book section is very good showing some books that you may not even know about, books about emotions and ones for improving fine motor skills.

If you have 10 minutes to spare one day I would advise you all to take a quick look and see what the site has to offer.





Centre for Autism may close!

The future of an all-Ireland centre for children with autism has been left in doubt after some of its financial backing was withdrawn.

On Monday, the Irish government said they could not fund the expansion of the Middletown Centre of Excellence because of financial pressure. Education departments in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic have been equally financing the project.

The centre was approved in 2002 but has only opened in a limited way.

It is understood that £6m has already been spent on the centre.

It currently carries out research and training for professionals who work within the autism field, but the eventual aim had been to take children in. The next stage of building a residential block for assessment and therapy, and employing extra staff, is now in doubt because of the shortage of funds.

Building work was due to begin in the autumn with the facility to open in 2010.

The Irish Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keefe, said it was unfortunate that the pressure on government finance meant he could not provide the funding required.

Read the full article at

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8056444.stm





What's happening in Wales

Educational institutions in Wales are "not meeting the needs" of young people with autism, a study suggests.

A report by the Welsh assembly's cross-party autism group (CPAG) revealed 75% of schools surveyed felt there was a lack of adequate local help available.

Some 58% described further education provision in Wales as inadequate. The National Autistic Society Cymru said the absence of support for autistic young people and their families was "sometimes devastating".

The study,

A Snapshot of Autism Education Provision in Wales, is based on information gathered from 33 education providers.

These include special schools, mainstream schools with autism resources and further education (FE) colleges.

It follows concerns raised in a number of CPAG meetings that young people with autism in post-16 and further education were missing out due to a lack of organisation, awareness and understanding.

Read the full story

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8056043.stm>





Fun and Quiz Page

Congratulations

To everyone who got last months dingbat correct.

The answer was....
Jack In The Box

	6				5	7		2
		4		9	6		1	
8	7	1	3		2			
5				7	1	3		
	3			5			7	
		7	8	2				5
			5		9	6	8	7
	8		2	6		1		
7		6	4				2	

xmascara

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

