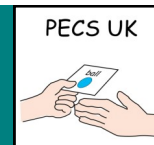
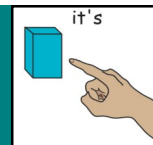


## Welcome

Read on for the latest news and stay in touch at [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com)  
*Best wishes from everyone at Pyramid Educational Consultants*



### PECS Resources Donated to the Gonzague Pierre Louis Centre in Rodrigues

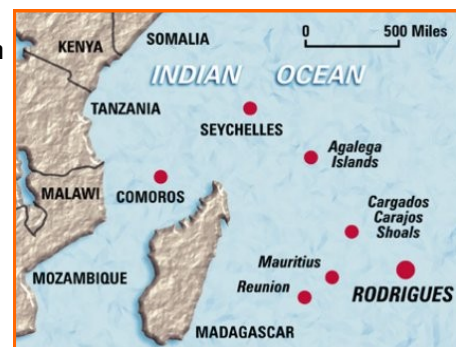


We received a lovely email from Helen Whitty who is a retired Education SEN Officer for Hampshire County Council. Over 30 years ago Helen worked as a volunteer teacher on the remote island of Rodrigues in the Indian Ocean. Her friend and colleague Susan Auguste, (pictured left with students) stayed on the island when Helen left, and went on to become Honorary British Consul for the island alongside being the Director of the Gonzague Pierre Louis Centre for Learning. After Helen had revisited the island recently, she wrote to us saying “ My own work as a SEN Officer in Hampshire, showed me how developed and sophisticated our own resources have become. PECS is widely used in Hampshire special schools and

units, and I myself have done the PECS training. I think it is such an amazing tool to unlock communication and speech. On my visit to the Centre for Learning, I discovered over half the students have either no speech or communicative methods. I am writing to ask you if there is any way that your organisation could donate some materials for the children. I am trying to raise money for a laminator, colour photocopier, and printer to help them develop a bank of photos and materials to help with communication in the classroom and as importantly, provide pictures for use within the home as these children are only communicating with pointing and occasional crying, grunting or basic vocalising”.

PECS UK were only too glad to provide some resources to assist the efforts of the team members at the centre. Susan wrote to express her thanks saying “Just after the parcels arrived, our advisor for pre-primary came to Rodrigues from London to give our teachers a month's course in early learning practices in the UK. She was pleasantly surprised to see that we had your material, and she made good use of it during her visit. She was also very helpful in suggesting to our teachers how to best make use of it in the classroom. We had a little boy come to us in August who had aggressive behaviour and no spoken language. He is now beginning to talk, and has settled into a routine and seems much happier. Between your aids and our patience, we have succeeded in improving the life of at least one child and his family so far.”

To find out more about the Gonzague Pierre Louis Centre for Learning visit their website [www.gplslc.webs.com](http://www.gplslc.webs.com)



### New 2012 Workshop Leaflet now available

We have released our training dates for the remainder of 2012. In this brochure you will find full details of all of our services, including information on in-house services such as ‘In-school Support’ as well as popular workshops such as Andy Bondy presents ‘The Language of Emotions’, ‘Guide to Managing Challenging Behaviour’ as well as our PECS Training series.

#### PECS Advanced Training

PECS Advanced Training will be coming to **London, Cardiff & Dublin** in 2012.

This interactive workshop is perfect for parents and professionals who have previously attended the PECS Basic Training, and want to address specific PECS implementation challenges and expand the use of PECS across a wide range of activities and settings. Pyramid's skilled instructors will lead group discussions and video analyses regarding practical and resourceful solutions, plus innovative problem solving strategies for complex PECS implementation situations. The workshop will further provide practical ideas for advanced lessons in expanding the learners' language and communication within functional activities, and essential tools for identifying communication opportunities across the day. Participants will leave the training with innovative and creative ideas on how to successfully problem solve PECS implementation and how to take PECS to the next level.

**London:** 26 & 27 April 2012 at Ramada London Ealing

**Cardiff:** 3 & 4 October 2012 at Future Inn Cardiff

**Dublin:** 19 & 20 November 2012 at O'Callaghan Alexander Hotel

Visit [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com) or call us on 01273 609555 for your nearest workshop or to request a brochure.



## My Grandson's PECS Success

Eithne McVerry Grandmother to Neil, wrote to us to share her PECS implementation story. "When I attended the 2 day PECS Basic Training workshop, my 3 year old grandson was awaiting assessment for autism (he has since been diagnosed). He had no speech at all and communicated by pulling an adult in the general direction of what he wanted. We had started to use images of his favourite things sticky-tacked to the fridge and he had quickly learnt to bring us the image of the item he wanted. This was just our own very basic way of teaching him to use visual images to communicate.

"The 2 day training for PECS literally opened up a whole new world. The training itself was comprehensive and everything was reinforced with practical exercises. The manual supplied has proved invaluable as a means of checking where we are at and moving on to the next phase. The enthusiasm and energy of the trainer made it an interesting and fun couple of days and I came away confident that I could implement PECS into Neil's life.

"Neil took to PECS like the proverbial duck to water. He progressed quickly from one level to the next and was travelling from room to room to make his many requests in no time. We were very fortunate that staff from his play group also attended the course and therefore used PECS with Neil in the classroom as well. As time goes on his 'vocabulary' increases and we find ourselves continually adding to his PECS book. Although we never insisted on speech, Neil now attempts speech almost every time he makes a request. To see the frustration that this beautiful child endured because he could not communicate effectively dissipate has been amazing. He is so much calmer and happier.



"Although PECS has been mentioned and spoken about in general terms by many of the professionals who are in and out of Neil's daily life, I personally feel that there is so much more to be gained from attending the training course and learning from the experts.



"I can say without doubt that PECS has been the singularly most effective change that we have introduced in Neil's life, and I would (and do) encourage anyone involved with a child with communication difficulties to invest in attending a workshop".

To find a PECS Basic Training workshop in your area visit [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com)

Pictured: Eithne McVerry with her grandson Neil.

## Help - My learner gets distracted by the shine on the PECS symbols.

We now stock and sell laminating pouches after receiving feedback from our customers, that for some learners the shine on picture symbols which are traditionally laminated and used when implementing PECS, can actually become distracting for the learner.

Zena Barton, Consultant for Pyramid Educational Consultants confirmed that she also thought this was a great new item to be made available to our customers. "I have found using matt laminate sheets for some students extremely helpful. For one of the children I worked with, he was very distracted by anything shiny and each time he picked up the symbols with the regular laminate he would bring it up to his eye and completely forget about whatever it was he had started to request; using the matt laminate completely changed this – and there was no longer a problem".

Visit [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com) to purchase or view our full range of resources.

## New: The Pyramid Approach to Education 2nd Edition

The Pyramid Approach to Education, 2nd Edition, presents Andy Bondy's integrative approach to teaching individuals with a range of educational needs, within any learning environment. This updated edition of the book guides professionals and parents toward asking the right questions and designing constructive answers as they develop powerful home, school and community-based programs. Frustrated by marginal student learning? New answers can be found in this book. In a straightforward manner it recommends how and what to teach to maximize learning. The final chapter of the book provides detailed examples of this approach with a number of students in various settings. The new edition is an easy read for anyone, reflecting Andy Bondy's acumen and experience. For full details of all the literature and manuals available to purchase visit [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com)

