

Welcome

It's a busy time for the Pyramid office, we have just published our workshop dates up to Summer 2011 covering a wide variety of locations in the UK and Ireland. Andy Bondy (co creator of PECS) will be in the UK once again to present his popular workshop 'The Language of Emotions', book your place online or contact our office for further information. Read on for more news and stay in touch at www.pecs.com
Best wishes from everyone at Pyramid UK

Adult Autism Strategy

The Adult Autism Strategy is the Government's plan to make sure that adults with Autism get the help that they need. This might involve help to get a job or help at home. The strategy also tells local councils and health services how they can help people with Autism. The key points of the strategy are to make sure more people understand Autism, to make it easier for adults to get a diagnosis of Autism, and for local councils and health services to write plans so that adults with Autism who live in their area get the help that they need.



For more details about what the strategy says, and what it will mean for you, visit www.autism.org.uk/dhstrategy

PECS Intensive Programme



The Kontzedakis family visited our clinic in Brighton to take part in the five day PECS Intensive Programme with their son, Thomas, after receiving a partial grant from the Pyramid Educational Trust. The family spent the week working with Zena Barton, Pyramid UK consultant, who was also joined by Sonia Vilaltella Verdes, a PECS consultant from the Spanish office who came to gain experience in carrying out the programme. Sonia commented "Throughout the week I have seen Thomas learning to communicate using PECS, he got on really well using the 'lets make a deal system', where he learnt to work

for his favourite reinforcers. It's great that the parents get to learn how to use PECS efficiently at home, and that we also had the time to work with Thomas's brother for peer based exchanges". The intensive programme is ideal for families seeking specialised support to help their child develop useful and effective communication skills quickly. The emphasis is to teach the child to communicate within functional routines and play activities. Individual goals for the programme will be developed for each child. Upon talking to Zena, Thomas's mum Nancy said "You survived tantrums, head banging and snappy parents! We have seen some golden moments of progress which we will build on— we can't thank you enough".



Pictured left to right Thanassis Kontzedakis, Thomas Kontzedakis, Zena Barton

For information on the PECS Intensive programme visit www.pecs.com

For information on funding available for this programme visit www.pyramideducationaltrust.org

Supporting Older Students & Adults using PECS and the Pyramid Approach

There are many adults with ASD or communication difficulties who could and should be communicating more effectively. Many of them were not introduced to PECS at an early age, or if they were, then their skills have been lost or may never have been taught properly initially. This workshop will show that PECS can be introduced successfully at any age. Case studies will be presented showing adults using PECS and the Pyramid Approach. Speakers will include parents of adults with communication difficulties, practitioners with adults, and PECS consultants. This is an interactive forum so there will be the opportunity to ask questions and take part in discussions. This workshop takes place in London on the 8th October 2010, book your place now at www.pecs.com

New 2010/2011 workshop leaflet now available

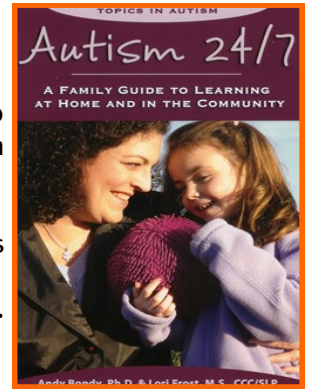
Over 60 training workshops throughout the UK and Ireland including a new Location, Llandrindod Wells. Plus after the success of our new workshop 'PECS Advanced Training' we are hosting a further three workshops in London, Birmingham & Manchester in 2011.

Visit www.pecs.com or call us on 01273 609555 for your nearest workshop or to request a brochure.



Pyramid Resources

If your son or daughter is over-stimulated by noisy places or has trouble communicating or interacting with people, then everyday activities may seem outside your child's repertoire. Authors Bondy and Frost show how it is possible to keep family life running smoothly and teach a child with autism to participate in important and routine family activities at home and in the community. These teaching strategies can be used during the course of everyday life. In a reassuring, easy-to-read style, *Autism 24/7* encourages parents to pinpoint times when their child's behaviour or lack of skills seems to interfere with family functioning. This step helps identify what to teach your child and what goals to set. *Autism 24/7* (£17.50) is available to buy at www.pecs.com



PECS in South Africa

Louise Malkin, Pyramid Consultant and Julia Biere, Clinical Director for Pyramid Educational Consultants UK recently visited the Vera School for Learners with Autism in Cape Town, South Africa. Here they carried out the PECS Basic Training two day workshop with three days of consultancy support. Louise commented "The workshop and consultancy support was enthusiastically received by the staff at the school. It was



wonderful to see pupil progress, but more impressive was the rapid acquisition of skills and confidence that the staff displayed after the training. I found the resulting dedication to encourage communication in every area of their students' lives inspiring". Fanie Minnaar, Principal of the Vera School had this to say "The workshop was very well presented and thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. The days of consultation in the classrooms were found to be of great value. The week was a great success, we would like to extend a big thank you to Julia & Louise for all their input and assistance".

Pictured left to right - Julia Biere & Louise Malkin at The Vera School, Cape Town.



International Update

The PECS Training Manual is currently available in the following translations:



English



French



Greek



Spanish



Japanese



Italian



Brazilian Portuguese

With plans to translate the manual into Russian, Arabic, German, Korean and Chinese in the near future, PECS is truly becoming renowned worldwide. To purchase the manual in any of the above translations please visit our website www.pecs.com

Full marks for PECS

PECS has the highest positive rating on www.researchautism.net Each intervention on this website is rated according to the amount and quality of scientific evidence which has been published in peer-reviewed journals that supports or does not support the effectiveness of that intervention.



Be in our Newsletter

Our newsletter reaches thousands of people, we would love to hear from you! Please send in your PECS stories, or photos you would like to share in future newsletters. Email Katie Spendiff, Events & Communication Manager, kspendiff@pecs.com or post them to the address at the top of the page. We look forward to hearing from you.

