

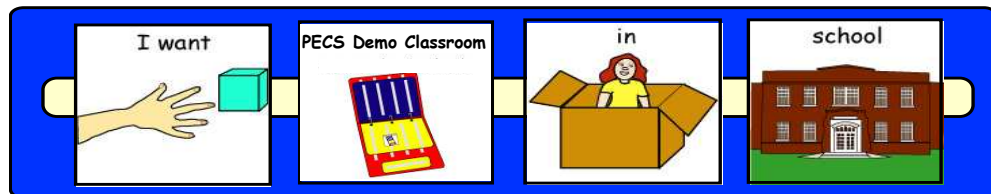


As usual, the summer has flown by and we are now preparing for a busy autumn with consultancy and workshops around the UK and Ireland, including our first parent-only workshop in London in October. Check out our website www.pecs.org.uk or our blue workshop leaflet for workshop locations, including advanced one-day PECS courses, near you.

Best wishes from all the Consultants at Pyramid Educational Consultants UK

New Initiative: Developing a Demonstration Classroom Using PECS & the Pyramid Approach: A Pilot Project for 2007/2008

If you have established basic PECS in your school, like the results and want to extend the approach, this initiative could be for you!



This intensive programme involves training all staff in one classroom in PECS and the Pyramid Approach, followed by consultancy visits to support the high quality implementation of this approach. Demonstration Classroom status will be achieved when the key elements of PECS and the Pyramid Approach to Education are at least 80% in place within the classroom, according to criteria established by Andy Bondy and Lori Frost. In September 2007, Hatton School in Redbridge will be the first school to pilot the Demonstration Classroom, and about 6 further schools have expressed interest in joining this new initiative. If you are interested, contact our office or email me directly: sbaker@pecs.org.uk
Sue Baker—Clinical Director

Autism Experts Agree Early Detection is Crucial

Most parents worry at one point or another whether their baby is developing as it should. Since babies do not achieve developmental milestones at exactly the same time there can be a fine line between unnecessary worrying and legitimate concern. In many cases, however, parental awareness leads to an earlier diagnosis than would otherwise be possible. Although people with autism benefit from appropriate intervention at any age, research has shown that early intervention can dramatically improve a child's future.

Parents are now encouraged to track their child's behavioural development along with physical growth and development. This can then lead to earlier detection of autism and other developmental disabilities.

The following are some of the "red flags" parents can look for as they track their child's behavioural skills:

By the end of 3 Months

- does not respond to loud noises
- does not babble
- does not pay attention to new faces

By the end of 7 Months

- seems stiff with tight muscles or floppy like a rag doll
- reaches with one hand only
- refuses to cuddle and shows no affection

By the end of 1 Year

- says no single words
- does not point to objects or pictures
- does not use gestures such as waving and shaking head

If a child experiences a dramatic loss of skills at any age, seek professional advice.



More news.....

PECS – A Family's Story.....



James arrived in our clinic in Brighton as a frustrated three-year-old with a diagnosis of ASD. His speech was limited and he was having difficulty expressing himself, which led to behavioural issues. With the right reinforcers, however, James was a

fast learner! He quickly moved through the phases of PECS, latching on to his new ability to request, comment and ask for help appropriately. His speech improved dramatically so James was eventually able to discontinue PECS.

His mother recently filled us in on the next chapter of the story of James, who is now 8:

James moved from his special school last Easter to a prep school. He has gone from strength to strength and now no longer has a statement of special needs. He is very happy and, although academically a year behind, fits in with his peers who accept him for who he is.

He has played at the homes of his classmates and goes to parties without my support. His speech is good – though still behind when compared to his non ASD peers – and it is hard to believe that he went to a special school. You helped James realise that communication is so important. He still remembers you and his PECS communication book which we keep to remind us all of how far we have come.



We hope to stop by soon so you can see our miracle boy in person as he is a testament that PECS works and those principles we learnt all that time ago are still being used in our lives to help him.

Emma (parent)

Updated Basic 2-Day PECS Training Workshop

Our basic PECS workshop is constantly being field-tested and evolves to incorporate new research findings and feedback. We will be introducing an updated version of our workshop this September, with new videos featuring a wider age-range of students. We want to provide the best possible training, with important concepts clearly explained in a way that is useful for you! Please let us know should you have any suggestions.

REMINDER: Family Only 2-Day PECS Workshop



There are still places left at our first-ever family only basic PECS training workshop, open exclusively to parents, grandparents, siblings, etc.

When: weekend workshop on 13 & 14 October 2007

Where: London, The Resource Centre

Price: 1 delegate £140 or a special offer of 2 delegates for £200 inc. VAT. For the special offer, bookings must be made together. Book online at www.pecs.org.uk or call us on 01273 609555.

PECS Training Workshop Leaflet

From 2008, Pyramid will be publishing two editions of our Workshop leaflet per year, giving you the dates for the workshops further in advance. Hopefully this will make it easier to plan ahead for your attendance at any training. If you would like to join our electronic newsletter email list, please sign up at : www.pecs.org.uk/general/newsletter.htm



PECS Intensive Programme – book your dates now



We are delighted at the interest in the PECS Intensive Programme this year with the summer 2007 sessions selling out and the autumn sessions filling up fast. A reminder to register your interest early for these programmes, held in our clinic in Brighton during school holidays.

The PECS Intensive Programme is a five-day programme ideal for families seeking specialised support to help their child develop useful & effective communication skills quickly. The emphasis will be on teaching children to communicate within functional routines and play activities. Individual goals for the programme will be developed for each child.

For more information on the PECS Intensive Programme, visit our website www.pecs.org.uk or contact the Pyramid office: 01273 609555, email: christy@pecs.org.uk