

We had a fabulous time at our 10-year celebrations — if you missed the fun, read on for the update. After the party, it's been business as usual with a full autumn of workshops and consultancy visits. Now, always earlier than expected, we're into that holiday time of year when most of you will enjoy a well-earned break. However you celebrate, we wish you a wonderful holiday season. See you in 2009, when we welcome a new Pyramid Consultant.

*Best wishes from everyone at Pyramid UK*

## PECS photo contest—winner announced



A huge congratulations to the Avenue School in Reading for their winning entry for the 2008 PECS photo contest. We received hundreds of wonderful entries from all over the UK, from the Isle of Wight to Scotland. A display of the photo contest entrants travelled to the 10th Anniversary Talks and was truly a celebration of all the excellent PECS that is happening around the UK—thanks to everyone who participated.

## Case study from Denmark: using PECS with an adult

Anyone who has attended the PECS Basic Training knows that PECS is not “just for kids”. There's been some recent discussion on the PECS online forum on age-appropriateness of PECS so we thought we'd reprint this story that was shared at the Older Student Forum in April. Jette Hamborg Christiansen, Psychiatric Nurse, and Tine Buschmann, Speech and Language Pathologist, have written about their experiences introducing PECS to a 42-year-old man, Simon. Simon now uses PECS to Phase III with encouraging results. Tine and Jette write: “From our point of view Simon's life has changed from a life full of frustrations, challenging and destructive behaviour to a life where he has influence and possibilities to communicate some of his needs.”

Read more: [http://www.pecs.org.uk/general/documentsCasestudy\\_PECSwithanadult\\_000.pdf](http://www.pecs.org.uk/general/documentsCasestudy_PECSwithanadult_000.pdf)

## New resource: timed activity schedule

This new resource is a handy combined schedule and timer, to assist independent completion of activities. The digital clock, powered by a replaceable watch battery, can be set to either a count-down setting, with an alarm to alert the student when their time is up, or set to a cumulative timer to record time spent on multiple activities. Priced at £6.75, including VAT, and available at the online shop: [www.pecs.org.uk/shop](http://www.pecs.org.uk/shop)



**Pics for PECS 2009...** Get ready for the new edition of our picture symbol CD, which should hit the shelves early January. The current edition, Pics for PECS 2008, is available in the meantime.

## NAS phone service — parent to parent



Announcing a free confidential NAS phone service for parents and carers of an adult or child on the autism spectrum. Trained parent volunteers with personal experience of autism can talk through any issues, problems and feelings parents may be experiencing. Call 0800 9520 520 and leave a message. Calls will be returned as soon as possible.

## VAT reduction: change to workshop and resources prices

With the reduction in VAT from the 1st of Dec, there have been some changes to prices of resources and workshop places. The amended prices are on the website [www.pecs.org.uk](http://www.pecs.org.uk).

## More news...

### Tips from the PECS forum

[groups.yahoo.com/group/pyramid-pecs/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pyramid-pecs/)

Recently, there has been some discussion on the best way to help a child who is having difficulty removing the symbols from his communication book, due to fine motor issues. Some suggestions included: reducing the Velcro on the symbols so there is less 'catch' to pull against, using alternative materials for the pictures to make them easier to grip, and using a magnetic board with magnetic tape.

### Pyramid Educational Trust



The Pyramid Educational Trust has funding available for parents and families who want to access PECS support. Families can apply for partial funding to attend PECS training or the PECS Intensive Programme, held at our clinic in Brighton for children under eight.

More information: [www.pyramideducationaltrust.org/](http://www.pyramideducationaltrust.org/) or email [info@pyramideducationaltrust.org](mailto:info@pyramideducationaltrust.org)

## International Update



**Finland:** Pyramid Educational Consultants UK will travel to Finland in January 2009 to hold a Basic PECS Training Workshop in Vaasa.



**Saudi Arabia:** Julia Biere and Louise Malkin, two of our Pyramid UK consultants, presented a Basic PECS Training workshop in Jeddah in November. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet committed professionals from Saudi Arabia and to have an opportunity to share information about PECS.

## Here's to the next 10 years of PECS in the UK!

Thank you to everyone who joined us in September in London and Edinburgh for the Celebration of 10 Years of PECS in the UK. The co-developers of PECS, Andy Bondy & Lori Frost, visited from the U.S. to lead the celebrations. Dr Bondy launched an inspirational and informative talk about the importance of teaching communication around emotions. Lori Frost gave an update on the latest in PECS research from around the world. Birthday cake was enjoyed at both celebrations and we were delighted to hear from three guest speakers over the two events, who filled us in on how PECS has changed their lives, and the lives of their children and students.



## Workshop & Training Dates

We'll be announcing our Autumn 2009 training schedule soon, so all those people who plan ahead can have an early start to booking training! The next edition of our training leaflet will circulate in March but you can always find info about our courses online at [www.pecsevents.co.uk](http://www.pecsevents.co.uk).

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PECS and the Pyramid Approach