

## communication intervention

speech and language therapy  
early intervention  
oral motor therapy  
occupational exercises



8 July 2009

Hi everyone,

Thank you to everyone who sent me kind phone calls, emails and letters of support. Hearing the stories of how much Release has helped your family has given me more strength than you will ever realise!

Let me start by saying I am sorry it has taken me this long to send you an update on what is happening with Release. To be honest, so many changes have taken place over the past two months you would have thought me crazy.

On 15 June Release found out our research, conducted in Dundalk in conjunction with The George Washington University has been accepted as Ireland's first emerging best practice in early intervention speech and language therapy at the American Speech Hearing Association's national convention. To give you an idea of the scale of this convention, Ireland has approximately 735 speech and language therapists—12,000 speech and language therapists and audiologists will be in attendance at this convention from all over the world. This is a hugely significant achievement for Release and for Ireland.

We are all so proud of the work you helped us to achieve and I want to thank you. Since 2005 Release parents have proven that if parents are included in their child's speech and language therapy, their children do better.

**Company**  
Release  
Communication  
Ltd

This research has been greatly anticipated and because of the acceptance, I have been invited by Autism Speaks, The George Washington University, New York University, Harvard, NGO's and Foundations in New York, Boston and Washington DC to discuss the further research and implementation of the programme there.

**Registered Office**  
11 Ashley Court  
Tullamore  
Co. Offaly

e-mail  
info@release.ie

Internet  
www.release.ie

Registered in Ireland  
No. 379007

Directors  
T Cunningham  
M Cunningham

The next phase of research will require approximately €1.5, which as you can imagine is very difficult to achieve in the current climate. But we will do this. I will be in the States from 12 July – 16 August pursuing this.

The goal is to complete the next phase of research in Dublin, and with thanks to Irish Autism Action and Sancta Maria College, they are allowing us to keep our premises (rent free) in the hopes we will be back in action shortly.

We will keep you posted on all updates on when Release will reopen.

Now for the bad news.

Firstly, due to the current economic climate, and two increases in personal taxes, we were beginning to see a major decrease in the amount of students being able to attend the programme. In addition, where I used to get donations from Foundations and individuals to subsidise the programme, these too have been hit hard from the recession.

Secondly, we are currently involved in a High Court action against the Health Service Executive and are very hopeful for a positive conclusion based on evidence we have collected through the Freedom of Information Act.

Please forgive me for having to temporarily suspend our services from 31 July 2009. I have invested six years of my life and my family's savings into Release because I believe in the programme, and I believe in Release parents. We will be back and we will be stronger, louder and more powerful. We will help the children with disabilities in Ireland get their voice.

Thank you and I hope to see you all again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tara Cunningham'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Tara Cunningham  
Managing Director