

Speech and Language
Therapy

Occupational
Exercises

Early Intervention

Oral Motor Therapy

What's New

- Release Gets Attention of Ministers Mary Harney and Tom Parlon
- Irish Autism Action Chooses Release to provide Speech and Language Therapy
- FREE Theatre Program Announced
- Trek Cork and Help Release go Nation-wide

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- Over 240 children
- Over 2600 hours of speech and language therapy delivered
- Consistent parent and family focused therapy
- Play-based
- Low-cost

Release

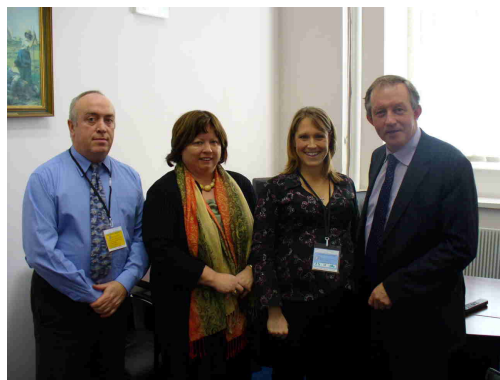
Communication Intervention



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Release gets Attention of Ministers Mary Harney, T.D. and Tom Parlon, T.D.



Tom Kelly, Special Advisor to Mary Harney, Minister Mary Harney, T.D., Tara Cunningham and Minister Tom Parlon, T.D.

Thursday, 23rd November 2006, a meeting took place between Managing Director of Release Communication Intervention, Tara Cunningham and Minister for Health, Mary Harney T.D. The meeting was arranged by Minister for State Tom Parlon T.D.

A number of weeks ago, Minister Tom Parlon, T.D. arranged to meet Tara when he heard of her speech therapy programme which could help the State meet their needs for children with communication disabilities.

Following a detailed presentation by Tara in Minister Harney's Government Offices (Jenny was unfortu-

nately unable to attend as she had Release classes to teach), Minister Harney praised her for the hard work she had put into making Release a viable option for children in need of speech and language therapy.

Minister Harney was up to speed with Release's previous dealings with the HSE.

Minister Harney went on to state she was impressed with the approval ratings from the parents and their hard work in participating with the program.

Sign up today for the Winter Session

10 January—16 March

On a positive note, Minister Harney has instructed her officials to further consult with the HSE on the program.

Release is looking forward to a positive outcome to these continued consultations.

Please continue to write to your Ministers! Let's keep this momentum going!



We're Moving

St Mary's Secondary School is closing in May 2007. Therefore we are looking at new premises. We'll be letting you know shortly of our new location.

Irish Autism Action Chooses Release as their Provider for Speech and Language Therapy Assessments

Irish Autism Action is an organisation of Parents for parents. They have first hand knowledge of discovering autism in our families & learning to cope with it.

Since the inception of the Irish Autism Action in 2001, members have benefited from information sharing, campaigning collectively.

Irish Autism Action (IAA) exists to campaign at a national level for the rights & entitlements of people with Autism, we can also help with

advice across a wide range of topics.

Tara Cunningham met with the IAA's MD, Kevin Whelan to discuss how the two organisations can work together to progress the facilitation of assessments for children exhibiting signs of the autism spectrum.

Release will be providing speech and language therapy assessments at Solas, their national as-

essment centre located in Clontarf, Dublin.

We are extremely excited about being able to provide this necessary service to parents of children who feel their child needs an assessment.

For more information on the IAA visit www.autismireland.ie.

FREE Theatre Workshop Announced

Release will be holding a FREE theatre and drama workshop during the Winter Mid-Term Break, from 19 – 23rd February 2007.

The workshop is opened to all children who have previously been assessed by Release, aged 4 – 16, as we must know the children and their skills in order to place into groups.

There will be a cap of 26 children due to small class sizes necessary.

The children will improve their language through singing, their coordination through dance, and their thought processes and communication through drama. Each area will bring learning opportunities to children with disabilities in a fun and exciting way.

As always, parents are invited to attend the workshops and help with the costumes and sets. The end of the week will feature an evening performance of the work they have completed thus far, which will be an excellent opportunity to showcase Release children's skills to their families and friends.

Release will be closing down our regular private session work in order to facilitate this theatre workshop.

If you are interested in participating call Jennifer Wetter TODAY, 01.667.8084. Participants will be held, first come, first served.

Assistance Dogs Fundraiser

Two of our Release students have been helped by Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, and so we have offered to use the evening performance as a fundraising opportunity for this very good cause!

Jenny's Picks of the Month

CD's of the Month:

"Singing Sounds" and "Tunes That Teach" both by Cathy Bollinger, a Speech-Language Pathologist from the USA. These can be found at www.superduperinc.com

"The Sneezing Song and Other Contagious Tunes" by Jim Gill, a child development specialist. Can be found at www.jimgill.com

Release Team Raises €1000+



Pictured,
Jennifer Wetter, Michelle
Quinn and Catherine
Scott

Release staff helped to raise over €1000 for Relay for Life in October

St Paddy's Weekend 2007

Explore West Cork and Raise Much Needed Funds for Release



Calling all Families, Caregivers and Friends:

Since opening our Dublin doors in January 2005, Release has worked with over 240 parents and children with speech disabilities and provided over 2600 hours of speech and language therapy. A number of our children are moving out of special needs schools and attending mainstream; some were non-verbal and are now saying their first words all due to their hard work with the program.

Release is on tract to grow Release to a National Level—Cork, Limerick, Galway and Mullingar, by the end of 2008. In order to fulfil our goal, we will need to raise over €250,000 to cover new staff, locations, classroom and assessment tools. We need all our friends to help to raise this money!

Next St Patrick's Day Weekend, Release will be beginning a massive fundraising effort to see the programme go nation-wide by the end of 2008.

St Patrick's Day Sponsored Trek

Colette O'Sullivan has organised a fabulous 3-day Trekking event from 17 – 19 March, featuring the stunning landscapes of Casteltownbere, Bere Island and Adrigole in West Cork.

Day One will see you take a ferry to Bere Island, where you'll participate in your first walk challenge—a four hour trek around Bere Island, which is guaranteed to take your breath away with the panoramic views of the island, Bantry Bay and the Slieve Miskish Mountains.

Food is organised on the night and there will be a session at a bar on the Island. When you return from the ferry at Midnight, the session can continue into McCarthy's Pub, (yes from the book) or you can get some rest for Day Two.

On Day Two, after breakfast, you will be taken on a bus to Adrigole where you will trek some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in Ireland, which afford breathtaking view of Cork, Kerry and the sea over seven hours back to Casteltownbere. Lunch will be served during your trek.

When you return, there will be a celebratory banquet followed by a Céilí which will be opened to the local community—to ensure great craic on the night!

A full information pack of the event will be available shortly.

Please note this itinerary may be subject to change slightly.

What's Included?

- Accommodation for three nights in Casteltownbere
- All meals
- Ferry crossing to Bere Island
- Transportation to Adrigole
- Celebratory Banquet on the last night
- Céilí on the last night
- GREAT CRAIC GUARANTEED!!!

How much do I need to raise?

Each participant on the walk needs to raise €800 to cover their expenses and provide the funds necessary for Release's National Expansion.

Colette O'Sullivan is on hand to help you come up with fundraising activities, from pub quizzes, auctions and speed dating nights to bucket and shop collections. Colette can be reached on 086.827.5582 or via email on colette97@hotmail.com.

When you blame others, you give up your power to change. — Douglas Noel Adams