

More volunteers needed to support parents whose children have Special Educational Needs!



60 Independent Parental Supporters (IPS) are presently enjoying the opportunity to offer assistance or a listening ear to parents whose children have Special Educational Needs. Would you like to join them?

Many people do not realize that one in five children have Special Educational Needs at sometime during their school career .

The Parent Partnership Service of the Oxfordshire LEA run a successful scheme of support for parents whose children are experiencing difficulties. Parents may need someone to explain to them what the official letters mean or need help preparing for a meeting. Having someone who understands the process can make a big difference to an already worrying time.

The Independent Parental Supporters meet together monthly to share experiences and often an interesting speaker talks to the group. All Independent Parental Supporters are offered training in:

- .How the assessment system for children with Special Educational Needs operates in Oxfordshire
- .What the jargon means. What the relevant legislation says
- .Negotiating and mediating skills
- .The extent of the Independent Parental Supporter's (IPS) role

Support, consultation and expenses will be provided for all volunteers. You could make a positive contribution and enjoy it at the same time.

If you think you may be interested in becoming an IPS, please ring:

Parent Partnership Helpline on 01865 810516

DOUGLAS HOUSE

A chance meeting with the parents of Douglas of "Douglas House", the hospice for young people in Oxford, led to a determined effort to raise some money for the hospice.

A rummage sale in Milton in October raised a total of £532.36.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard on the day, and/or donated money and foods which helped to raise such a large amount.