

Partnership for Children



Partnership for Children
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Registered Charity Number 1089810



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MISSION

To help children and young people, throughout the world, develop skills which will enhance their present and future emotional wellbeing.

Coping with traumatic events

Major disasters are quickly screened on television around the world, and the most spectacular images are shown time and time again – the Twin Towers collapsing on 9/11, the Asian tsunami washing away homes, people staggering out of stations after the London 7/7 bombings.

One result of such extensive media coverage is that children who were not directly affected by an event can become worried and disturbed by it. Will a plane hit the tall building where daddy works?

Will a big wave kill us when we go to the beach? What if a bomb explodes when mummy is on the train? Parents and teachers can find it difficult to reassure children and answer their questions.

The University of Coventry has recently completed a review for Partnership for Children, and found that research in this area is limited and that most treatment programmes have not been evaluated. There is a lack of easily available, user friendly advice and resources for parents and



London, July 7th 2005

teachers, and what little is available has an American focus.



Programme Director
Caroline Eggar

Programme Director Caroline Eggar said: 'If we can find a sponsor, we plan to fill this gap. We want to help parents understand how their child may be affected by a traumatic event, give them information and resources they can use, and explain what to do in the rare event that a child becomes seriously worried or disturbed.'

'The key will be to make the resources readily and freely available and easy to understand. Sadly, there will be more disasters, and when they happen parents and teachers want to find help quickly and easily.'

International Zippy's Friends workshop



Zippy's Friends is a school-based programme that helps young children to develop coping and social skills. It has been extensively evaluated in different countries and cultures, and is helping almost 100,000 children this year.

Delegates from 17 countries will gather at Worcester College, Oxford, next month, for the Zippy's Friends second International Workshop.

come together and share their ideas and experiences. More than 50 delegates will attend, including at least one person from every country in which Zippy's Friends is running.



Worcester College, Oxford

Teachers trained in Mauritius



The latest country to launch Zippy's Friends is Mauritius. Teacher training courses took place last month, and classes have now started in ten schools, helping about 1,000 children.

The programme is being managed by the Catholic Education Bureau, which runs 48 schools on the island, and funding has come from local sponsors, principally Mauritius Commercial Bank.

New Trustee appointed

Randi Talseth has become a Trustee of Partnership for Children. Randi is

Secretary General of the Norwegian agency Voksne for Barn,

which promotes children's and adolescents' mental health. Her organisation provides a range of services, champions children's rights, and manages Zippy's Friends in Norwegian schools.



Zippy goes Dutch

Marion Panis, a psychologist and mother of three young children, has spent the past three years doggedly trying to find a way to introduce Zippy's Friends to primary schools in the Netherlands. Her persistence was finally rewarded in January with the launch of the programme in 12 schools in Rotterdam and The Hague.

A total of 28 teachers have been trained, and 840 children enrolled. A foundation, Kids and Emotional Competencies, has been set up to manage the programme, with the cooperation of GGD Rotterdam-Rijnmond, the municipal health service.

Director Chris Bale said: 'Marion has had a real battle to find funding, and her determination has been extraordinary. Quite simply, the programme would never have started without her. But now it has, and we hope it will expand rapidly over the next few years.'



Website improved

The front page of our website has been re-designed, to make it easier for visitors to find what they want. The site attracts more than 10,000 visitors each month, many of them parents looking for advice and resources. If you have any comments on the site, or ideas for features that we could add, we would be pleased to hear from you.

More Friends needed

Friends give us money monthly, quarterly or annually. Their support rose by 50 per cent in 2008 and now accounts for almost 10% of our budget, but, in these difficult economic times, we urgently need to recruit more. To become a Friend, call us, email us, or go to the website and click on the Friends logo.



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