



Making A Difference

By Lizzie Saint,
IPOP Support Playworker

I started working for IPOP in January of this year, so I am a new and young member (my colleagues keep telling me!) of the great organisation of IPOP! I am presently in my gap year before going to study social work and nursing at university in September. I wanted to use these precious months to work in job that would be challenging but rewarding, and being a support playworker has definitely been both!

As adults we sometimes think that we are the ones who always do the teaching and that children only learn from us and what we do, but over the past couple of months I have

learnt so much from the children I've worked with and they have actually been the ones to teach me things. For example I've learnt new ways of communicating, as most of the children I have looked after cannot verbally communicate and that in itself has been amazing. It has greatly opened my eyes to things that before I was so ignorant of, and the training I received in the beginning before I started working just made me so much more aware and knowledgeable.

When meeting a new child for the first time it can be quite nerve-racking as you can never pre-plan how things might be, but one of the greatest things about my job is then



Lizzie with Neal at camp

getting to know the children individually and being able to communicate and connect with them when others might not be able to. To see them have fun at playschemes and interacting with other children is amazingly rewarding, and you can't say that about a lot of jobs! Everyday is different and sometimes children can come to clubs in challenging moods but it is these times which make others so much greater.

In February half term I got an opportunity to go on residential with some of the children who had never been away from home before. At first, naturally I was a little bit apprehensive, as I didn't know what to expect however I can honestly say they were the most fun 3 days!! Over that short amount of time I watched some of the children totally transform and conquer their fears and gain such confidence and independence because of this. This experience just bought me so much joy. This job has prepared me so much for my future career and some of the work I will be doing later on and it has been a delight in getting to know the parents of these incredible children and to be given a chance to share an important part of their lives. I hope I can continue doing this for many years to come.





COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR

I recently attended a conference for charities called Grow 07. It highlighted how the charity sector is going through some major changes. For example, 'direct payments' give families the power to choose what services they receive, so charities need to be able to tailor their services appropriately. We've been accepting direct payments for some time now, and we'd like to help others make the transition. The changes mean that charities need to work together even more closely to make the most of their resources. We already have a strong network of not-for-profit organisations that work with children, young people and families. With even stronger links we can really begin to grow our organisations with confidence. Does any of this mean that IPOP's mission and core work will change? No way! We will continue to meet the needs of our children and families. We want to continue the discussions generated by Grow. If you are a voluntary sector director/coordinator or an interested parent and would like to meet with others to discuss how we can move forward, please contact me to register your interest. We will be holding a workshop at our AGM on June 17th where all are welcome.

Chris Sanford

COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR?

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New dance teacher

IPOP would like to say a warm welcome to our new dance teacher Patricia. Below is a little bit about her...

"Hello everyone, my name is Patricia Vieira and I am the new IPOP dance teacher.

I first started working with disabled children when I was studying for my Dance degree at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (2000) and decided to specialise in

dance for disabled children and young adults. Since graduating I have been awarded an MA in European Dance Theatre Practice from Laban Centre and have worked with many groups of children with all kinds of abilities. I also perform regularly in shows around London and I'm Frenzic Theatre's Co-Artistic Director. I am really excited about joining IPOP and I look forward to working with you and meeting you all in the future."

Youth news

Young Volunteer Training at May Half Term. Tuesday 29th May– Friday 1st June. 4 half day sessions for disabled young people who want to learn about being a playworker. The course will include communication skills, basic playwork, and health and safety. It's suitable for all young people with a wide range of learning and physical disabilities and open to those aged 14-18 years old. To find out more and book a place email Peggy on youth@ipop.org.uk

Summer 2007 Residentials

We will be supporting young people on Doit4real summer holidays and our own residential between Sunday 22nd July and Friday 24th August again this year. If you are aged between 11-17 years old and on the IPOP mailing list you will shortly be receiving a form to let us know if you would like to go on one of these holidays with IPOP support.

Who's who on the IPOP committee?

Trustees are the unsung heroes of the charity world. Below, four of our seven trustees tell you a little bit about themselves and what motivates them to work voluntarily for IPOP. They all had lots to say, and as promised here is the second and final blurb!

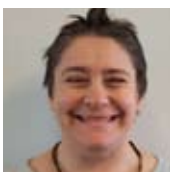
KIRSTIN AUSTIN



I became involved with IPOP because of my daughter Katherine who has learning difficulties and global delay. She is now 19 years old and has

moved on to specialist residential college Derwen in Shropshire. I am continuing with IPOP because I feel passionately about disabled young people and children who need a social life and their parents need respite. I also have met some very committed parents and workers who have helped me get a perspective into the world of disability. I also have enjoyed having discussions at the Management Committee meetings about what is appropriate for IPOP to be working on. Its great stuff! I am hoping that IPOP will be able to extend the age group beyond 19 to be able offer some activities in the school holidays and/or a holiday away in the summer.

GIULIA CETRULO



I wanted to become a trustee for IPOP because I am interested in inclusive education and I would like to contribute to the ongoing success and

upcoming changes of IPOP

PARUL PATEL



I have been a trustee for the past few years. I work part-time in a school as an LSA. I have two sons. My younger son has benefited from the

opportunity to experience a variety of activities like football, music and drama provided by IPOP and enjoys after school clubs, playschemes etc. supported by IPOP.

ANDREA DARWIN



I have two children who have Asperger's Syndrome and two other children. IPOP has given me and my family a lot of support over the

years. Because of this I decided to give something back. I became a parent committee member and after a year I became a trustee. The meetings are always friendly and relaxed and I feel I give a parental perspective.

ipop AGM

Annual General Meeting, Sunday, 17th June 2007, Queenswell Infants School, Sweets Way, N20 0NQ 1pm to 3.30pm

Come and find out more about IPOP, what we have been doing during the past year and our plans for the future.

An entertainer from Pizzazz will be around to entertain and amaze your children! There will also be free play and IPOP support workers will be on hand

with games and to help out. An art and craft table will be set up if anyone would like to make a card for Fathers Day or if you need some time to relax, a chill out room and quiet space with some of our sensory equipment will be on hand.

Come along and enjoy a lovely cream tea at 2.30 followed by our Annual General Meeting at 3pm-3.30pm. Our accounts are presented and trustees elected at the meeting.

IPOP TEAMBUILDING & TRAINING

Come along for a great day of fun activity to meet old and new workers before summer playscheme begins **Saturday 14 July** At Log Cabin Adventure Playground 10am - 4pm

HABS MENCAP FUNDAY 2007

Sunday 24th June 2007 at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School. 10.30am - 4pm. For a booking form pop into the IPOP office. Closing date for registration is Friday 18th May.

IPOP FOOTBALL CLUB...

...are recruiting for new players of ALL abilities. We are rearranging our sessions on Sundays to fit the needs of more disabled children and their siblings. We train **every Sunday** in term time between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. If you are interested please contact the office.

BARNET MENCAP & PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Relaxation Techniques to help you to deal with stress. **Monday 11 June** 10am - 12 noon at Avenue House, 17 east End Road, N3. To book a place contact Jackie or Anna at Mencap on 020 8349 3842.

HARINGEY AUTISM...

...at Somerford Grove Adventure Playground. Park Lane Close, Tottenham, N17 off Park Lane. 2 hours of autism friendly family fun. **Saturday's** 10am - 12 noon. Contact Somerford Grove for details of dates on 020 8889 8422.

INCLUSIVE LEARN TO SWIM

Inclusive Learn to Swim after-school sessions at Underhill Junior School. Call Sarah Hale on 020 8351 4413 for more details

Sensory toys & equipment library

We are really excited about fully rolling out our sensory toy and equipment library this term. After school clubs, playschemes, and families will have the opportunity to borrow our range of equipment for children and young people. If you are interested in finding out more about this great service please contact Audrey at the IPOP office.



Vacancies

We are looking for energetic and responsible people to enable disabled children/young people to attend inclusive activities.

If you believe that disabled children have the right to join mainstream groups and clubs, would like to work in a play or youth setting and are available then we would like to hear from you.

CURRENT OPENINGS:

Support Group Leader

Two Support Group Leaders for the summer holidays. You will be supervising a group of Support Playworkers while supporting disabled children in a small group. Some administrative work at the IPOP office is required.

Closing Date: 25th May 2007

Interview: Wed 30th May 2007

Salary: £9.50 per hour

Hours: Up to 35 hours per week

Contact us for more details on 020 8441 0404. These jobs are subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced CRB disclosure.



Dates for your diary

IPOP DATES:

Parent coffee mornings:

Parent coffee mornings: Every Wednesday 10am – 12noon, term-time only

Disability awareness training:

Tuesday 22 May 6.30pm - 9.30pm at Wesley Hall

Autism and diet Training:

Monday 4 June 10am - 4pm at Wesley Hall

OTHER DATES:

Brazilian Football Coaching.

Free for 8-18 year olds on 3rd & 10th March from 10pm – 12noon.
Call Jon on 020 8359 7818.

Table Tennis

At Barnet Table Tennis Centre. Every Monday & Wednesday for 8-15 year olds, from 5pm - 7.30pm.
Call Ray on 020 8449 7845.

Archery Club

Every Friday during term time 3:45pm - 5:45pm at QE Girls School Sports Centre for 8 - 16 year olds.
Call Ally on 07908 611590

Tennis for a tenner

Ten week tennis coaching for boys and girls aged 6-16years
Tel: Barnet Sports Development Unit 020 8359 7817

Call the office to book a place or book online www.ipop.org.uk

MISSION STATEMENT:

IPOP's mission is to provide opportunities for children of all abilities to play and socialise together, to offer support and information to families of disabled