

- **PenCRU** have announced the publication of their annual report 2018, to view the report click [here](#). The report celebrates progress and achievements over the last year. If you have any questions about any of the content email: pencru@exeter.ac.uk or Tel: 01392 722968.
- **Avery: the little bird helping children understand genetic illness.** An illustrated children's book aiming to help parents and children start difficult conversations about their conditions. The book, produced through a collaboration between the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University, tells the story of a young bird who is born to be different from other birds. The book was originally produced as a thank you to families taking part in a research study, but can now be purchased independently of this for £8. To find out more go to: <http://imagine-id.org/>
- **Thrive Together** For families with children aged 0-8 years who may suffer from social anxiety, isolation and those who may feel uncomfortable in a busy community environment. The Nurture group offer gentle family support and sign posting to agencies, services and resources relevant to need. It focuses on parent/carer and child emotional development and relationships and models positive interaction that is then encouraged in the home. Mondays 9.30-11am Torrington Children's Centre, Tuesdays 10-11.30am Holsworthy Children's Centre, Fridays 1.30-3.30pm Bideford Bay Children's Centre. Referral form required. For further information Tel: 03300 415494.
- **RNIB's Talking Books**, talking newspapers and accessible school curriculum content are now available on EasyReader. Created by assistive technology developer Dolphin, the app will allow you to browse and download content from three different RNIB reading services: RNIB Talking Books (currently available through RNIB Overdrive), RNIB Newsagent, RNIB Bookshare's Education Collection. EasyReader is available on both iOS and Android devices. RNIB worked with Dolphin to ensure the app is tailored to readers with a visual impairment or dyslexia. The app offers a simple interface and access to downloaded content in one place, on a smartphone or tablet. To find out more click [here](#)
- **Spoonie Book Boxes** Spoonie Book Boxes was set up with the aim to send free care packages containing books to those who are living with a Chronic illness/Mental illness/disability within the UK. Anyone who wishes to be a recipient can apply by getting in contact through their social media networks. To find out more click [here](#)
- **Event Reminder: Kids Matters Drop-in** Information Session for Professionals. Exeter launch event of the Kids Matter free parenting programme for vulnerable families. Over coffee and cake, go along to experience what a Kids Matter parenting programme is like by taking part in a Taster Session. Meet the Exeter team and find out how your organisation can work with them to effectively support disadvantaged families in the community. Friday 8th March 2019, Rougemont Hotel Exeter, Drop in between 10.30am - 12.30am. To RSVP or for more information about the event contact: kidsmatter@transformdevon.com
- **CrackerJacks Children's Trust** provides grants to disabled children and young people throughout the UK. It is able to offer grants between £250 and £1,000 towards specialised equipment. This might include a specialised wheelchair, bikes and trikes or sensory toys. The charity also has a respite home near Bream sands in Somerset - "Ray's Sunshine Holiday Home". It has ramped access and a pull-out bed in the living area for a child in a wheelchair. A supporting letter is required from the child's doctor, social worker or special school. To apply download an application form from their [website](#)
- **Exeter, East Devon Down Syndrome group (EEDDS)** DS Active football Saturday 9th March 11-12noon at Wonford Sports Centre, Rifford Road, EX2 6NF Skills matches and fun for boys and girls provided by FA-qualified coaches. The 'official' age range is 5-16 years, but if your girl/boy is older/younger than this and would like to take part, this is often possible. Ample free parking at the Centre. Spring Event, Sunday 10th March at Charter Hall, Market Street, Okehampton, EX20 1AA. Entertainment to suit everyone from 9:30am with Magic Martin from 10:30-12 noon. Cost: £1.50 for each individual with Down Syndrome, parents/adults/carers/enablers free. Snacks and drinks available – modest donations appreciated. Further information contact Harriet on 01392 410817 or 07480 301 244.
- **Affinity Devon in Bideford** is opening up nominations for its chosen charity of 2019. The chosen charity will be able to use the shopping centre throughout the year for any fundraising events and initiatives they require as well as take part in fundraising opportunities at centre events at key seasonal periods like Christmas.

Centre manager Jean Sharples said: “We are delighted to announce the opportunity for us to partner with a local charity this year and very much look forward to asking our community to nominate the charities close to their hearts. “We chose to select a charity partner this way as we want to include the local community in this decision and give all charities, big and small, the opportunity to be considered.” Send nominations before March 22 to Nicola Cann at Affinity Devon either at Nicola@affinityoutlets.com or in writing to Affinity Devon, Charity of the Year, Clovelly Rd, Bideford EX39 3QU. The winner will be announced next month.

- **CHIPS**, the charity of the casino and gaming industry provides specialised powered wheelchairs for children and young people with varying disabilities. It will only fund powered wheelchairs not provided by the NHS. Applications can be made using the preliminary online application form. Each application is considered on its own merits and depends on available funds at the time of the application. For more information go to: www.chipscharity.org



Find us on Facebook.....like the SIGNPOSTplus page for regular updates on all things related to children with additional needs.

An archive of the previous four weeks of snippets can be found at the SIGNPOSTplus page on the Devon Integrated Children’s Services website: <http://devon.integratedchildrenservices.co.uk/signpostplus/>

If you no longer wish to receive these bulletins please let me know and I will remove your details from the mailing list.

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