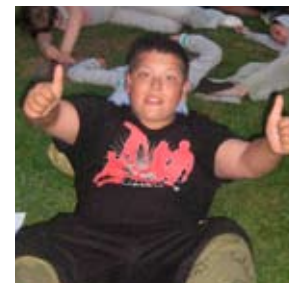
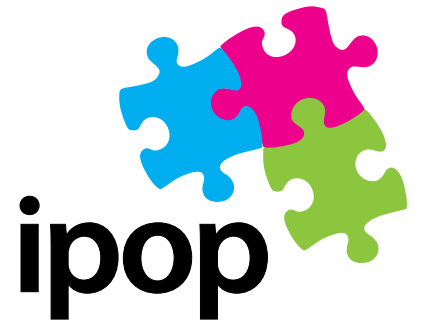
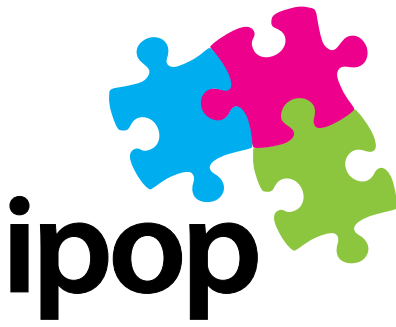


the Jigsaw

Sept / Nov 2007





COMMENT FROM THE EDITOR

Even though the weather might have been a wash out, summer 2007 has been IPOP's best yet. Disabled children and young people from all over the borough have been able to play and relax with old and new friends at their favourite summer scheme. This year, over 100 IPOP staff supported more than 170 children and young people on a one-to-one basis alone. As well as this, more young people were supported through our young volunteers scheme and on our residential. But quantity is not everything, here's one parent's view about our efforts:

"Wouldn't it be remarkable if our world extended such dignity to all individuals with special needs? The fact that you and IPOP have is such a credit to you. All your hard work is very much appreciated."

You can read more about what's been going on from the children, young people and staff that were there throughout the rest of this newsletter. As always, we are just a phone call away.

Chris Sanford

COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR?

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Under African skies

By **Nicolina Daniele**

On Monday we came in and sat in a circle. We then went round the group to learn each other's names. We were put into groups and had to think of a name. My group's name was "The Safari Kids"; the other group called themselves "The Crazy Africans". We then stayed in the dance space and started to learn our dancing and the Crazy Africans went into the art room to start making masks. They made animal masks.

Back in the dance hall we learned a dance called the African beat. We got to wear shaker bracelets. Then we learned

another dance with the parachute. We then finished and went to play in the park at lunchtime.

We worked all week on our dances and costumes and on Thursday we had our dress rehearsal. We rehearsed all the dances ten times. Five times in the morning and five times in the afternoon. I had an early night and the next morning it was time for the show. We finished off our costumes. I was nervous but I liked performing the dances with my friends Maggie and Dahria and at the end of the show the teachers handed out certificates and cake and then we all went home.

Doing it 4 real



Iain Harper has this to say about his Do it 4 real residential holiday in Ilam:

"I thought it was really good, fun and fantastic! I had a drama filled week – I learnt circus skills, went orienteering and took part

in the talent show. One day we went out to Alton Towers, but I didn't go on the scary rides so I went on the tractors, the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Ride and the Hex, which is like a big spinning room that made me feel like I was going upside down.

The Do it 4 real staff were funny and helpful. We were with a whole group of workers who helped me to take part in everything I wanted to do – even stage combat! The people I went with were really polite and nice which made it even more fun. I think that lots of more young people should try to come if they can!"

A young volunteer's summer

IPOP's young volunteer programme supports disabled young people to gain work experience at playschemes and after-school clubs. Sarah Butler had this to say about her summer at the Old Barn:



What I've done:

During this week while I've been working at the Old Barn, I've been helping the kids by making some costumes, played games with them and just having fun in general. I was going to go to Chessington on Wednesday but decided not to in the end but I heard they had a fantastic time there and loads of fun. Today we had a fancy dress party, which was a lot of fun. There was a SpongeBob piñata with sweets inside and once it fell to the floor, all the kids ran to get the sweets!

What I liked about it:

- The kids were great fun to play with
- The activities were fun
- The staff were lovely and helpful
- I really enjoyed it in general

What I didn't like about it:

- I got really tired towards the end of the day
- I sometimes didn't like the activities
- I sometimes lost my energy quite quickly
- It sometimes felt like the day was too long

Overall Result:

I really enjoyed it. It's given me confidence to use these skills for a future career. I need to work on my nervousness but this is good practice so I can prepare for a career in the future. I'm thinking of studying childcare, art and design or a mix of the two I mentioned just now. Everyone was really supportive and respectful. No pressure or nagging. Thank you IPOP and the Old Barn for giving me an opportunity to prepare myself for a career in the future.



FOOTBALL SCHOOL

Are you looking for a chance to learn new footballing skills, take part in tournaments, whilst also have the opportunity to make new friends? Then join our football school on a Sunday afternoon at Power League Mill Hill, where you will learn the art of football on a professional astro turf pitch.

MUSIC SCHOOL

Ever fancied yourself as a rock star in a band, mixing with a range of young people every Saturday to have a jamming session? Or are you a young person who prefers things a little quieter and is looking for small group music sessions? Contact the IPOP office for more details.

DANCE SCHOOL

Interested in dance? We have spaces in our under 12s dance classes on Fridays and Sundays and in our over12s class on Thursdays. Contact Peggy at IPOP to find out more.

FAMILY HOLIDAY

We are planning a family holiday for the October half term break. If you are a family who may be interested in this please contact the IPOP office by Wednesday 19 September to register your interest.

SENSORY TOYS

Summer was a great success for loaning out our equipment to clubs and schemes. Our equipment store was empty, with all equipment being spread around the borough, offering great fun and excitement to hundreds of children and young people. Give us a call if you would like to borrow some equipment or find out what we can offer your club or at your home.

FAMILY MUSIC...

...Drop in sessions. Drop in to our fun packed under 5s music sessions with Sarah, Natasha and Rastko and have fun playing real instruments and singing. Costs are £2 per child per session or £3 per family.

My first residential as a Support Playworker



By Alex Brown

This summer I went with IPOP as a support playworker on my first residential stay at Centre Parcs. We met up bright and early outside Barnet Odeon, and after a short minibus ride (with a civilised break for lunch), we arrived in Elveden Forest. I stayed in a specially adapted villa with two of our young people, Aaron and Bhavin, as well as two other workers – Scott and Daniella. Twelve young people came with us on the holiday staying in six villas.

Over the week we tried to pack in as much as we could, going swimming, riding in a specially adapted wheelchair-bike, going to the disco, and taking part in special “lavender relaxation” sessions. We even

had a day in the spa, where the boys both had head and neck massages – which Aaron particularly enjoyed! At the end of each day they (and we) were so tired that after clearing up and getting ready for bed we slept solid, in order to be ready for the next day’s activities. We also cooked for ourselves and our young people, which was great – one night we even had a barbecue and invited all the other villas to join us.

By the end of the week I was totally exhausted, but looking back I am sure that the great time had by everyone made it all worth it. I’m sure I’ll be back working for IPOP again next summer, hopefully on more residential, and I look forward to it!

Vacancies

We are looking for energetic and responsible people who want to enable disabled children and young people to attend inclusive out of school 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 for part-time work at after-school or youth clubs and/or full days during school holidays then we would like to hear from you.

CURRENT OPENINGS:

Support Playworkers

Support disabled children and young people in mainstream youth clubs and playschemes throughout Barnet. Extensive training available, including subsidised NVQ Playwork qualifications through Barnet Play Association. Flexible hours. Priority will be given to those who can work some after-school hours.

Closing Date: 9th November 2007

Interviews: Week beginning 19th November 2007

Contact us for more details and an application pack. These jobs are subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced CRB disclosure.

Dates for your diary...

IPOP DATES:

Parent coffee mornings:

Every Wednesday
10am – 12 noon, term-time only

Safeguarding Children Training

Level 1 (CM Dwyer) Monday 8th October,
6.30 – 9.30pm at Wesley Hall

Disability Awareness Training

Jaspal Dhani (DABB) Tuesday 16th October,
6.30 – 9.30pm at Wesley Hall

Down Syndrome Training

Andrea Billow (ADDISS) Wednesday
17th October, 6.30 – 8.30pm at Wesley Hall

Call the office to book a place or book online at 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 children, and to raise awareness of the benefits of inclusive provision both in play settings and more widely.