

# CEAT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010



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## Dear Families

Welcome to spring! It has been, as always, an exciting few months at CEAT. The welcoming of new children and families, new staff members, new initiatives and our fresh new website. We have another exciting few months ahead of us, with several new projects in the pipeline. We will be working towards expanding our work to other professionals, as we celebrate our recent certification as an official training provider with the Behaviour

Analyst Certification Board. We are pleased to welcome documentary filmmakers William Wroblewski and Cully Gallagher to Northern Ireland. They have volunteered their services to help us document your stories and our work through the production of a short film. In addition to a brief but busy filming schedule, we will be kept on our toes as TEAM CEAT runs the 2010 Belfast Marathon in support of the Impact Trust, for whom we are raising

much needed funds. Needless to say, there is much to celebrate, and this edition of the newsletter will be congratulating our children and staff on recent and well-earned achievements. Thank you again for taking this journey with us, we are bursting with pride and enthusiasm for the gains your children are making. Please share your stories with us, and we will share them with others. Kimmy and Mary



JENNA, AGED 4, JUST BECAME  
TOILET TRAINED



DORA, AGED 6, JUST LEARNED  
HOW TO WRITE HER NAME



LOUIS, AGED 8, CELEBRATING  
HIS FIRST COMMUNION

# The Story of the Sunshine Boy, By Aideen McAlindon

It is extremely difficult to condense twelve months in the life of a child recently diagnosed with ASD. But it is an absolute joy to recount what we deemed "the impossible" for Jude.

Just three months before his second birthday, Jude was diagnosed with ASD. To date we are unaware of any child as young as Jude getting that diagnosis in Belfast. Although we will never forget the devastation we experienced at the time, we now thank his lucky stars that we were informed so early. For this, we must thank my mum for encouraging us to get the ball rolling. As a retired health visitor, she knew long before we were willing to admit that things weren't adding up with Jude.

We didn't waste time. We met Mary and Kimmy at CEAT House and within a few months our team was assembled to help Jude start this life changing intervention. It was only a matter of months before we realised that this almost miraculous journey would help unlock something and allow him to begin learning.

Jude went from being a non-verbal, unhappy, unsociable little boy to a vibrant, talkative one who would bite the hand off you to learn something new.

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**"WE THANK HIS LUCKY STARS THAT WE WERE INFORMED SO EARLY"**

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We know there is no cure for ASD, but it can be treated. Jude now has over 60 words, can count, play with his peers and be his happy little self. Our families, friends and local health professionals are amazed by his progress.

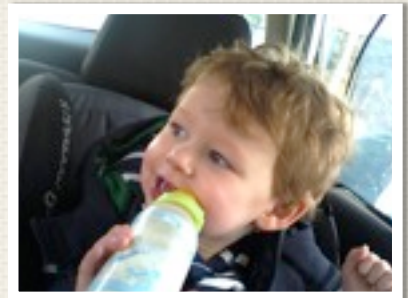
Jude is a lucky little boy and is thriving. We would like to offer out thanks to: his grandparents, Carol and Kevin, for their financial support, to Jude's team of dedicated therapists, Jenny, Doireann and Leia. We would have never found ABA intervention without Mary and Kimmy and our team supervisor Dr Vikki Coulter.



## JUDE IN ACTION



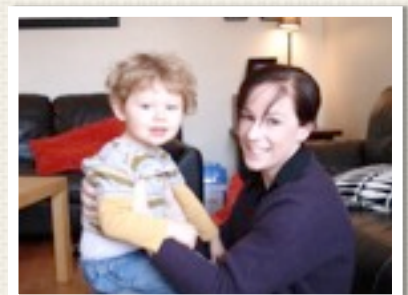
SMILING



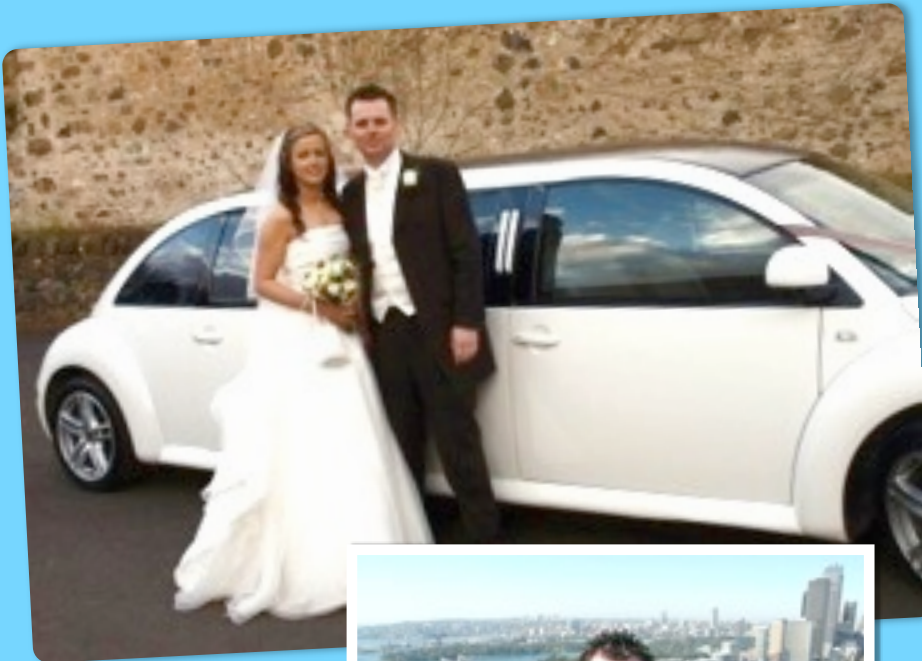
RELAXING



SWINGING



LEARNING



## CONGRATULATIONS EVELYN & JOHN

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We would like to offer our congratulations and best wishes to Evelyn Smyth and John Calvin on their recent nuptials. The happy event took place on the 12th of March 2010 in Portadown. The newlyweds celebrated their honeymoon down under, on a tour of Australia, where they saw the Sydney Opera House, made friends with reptiles, and escaped the opportunity to sky-dive due to bad weather. We are pleased to welcome back Evelyn Calvin to our CEAT Team and wish her and John the very best.

## ONGOING TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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CEAT is committed to the ongoing training and development of our team and strive to stay abreast of the recent changes in the field. We are pleased to have the opportunity to participate in and provide regular ongoing professional development opportunities. We would like to congratulate Sarah O'Prey and Julianne Bell on their recent presentation of their Masters Dissertations at the ABA Colloquium hosted by the University of Ulster - Coleraine. We also wish them both the best as they attend the ABA International Convention in San Antonio, Texas in May 2010. We are looking forward to hearing back about all the exciting new research and practice being done by our colleagues worldwide.



WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE RECENTLY GAINED OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION AS A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER WITH THE BEHAVIOR ANALYST CERTIFICATION BOARD ([WWW.BACB.COM](http://WWW.BACB.COM)) THIS GIVES US AN IMPORTANT FORUM IN WHICH TO TEACH AND INSPIRE OTHER PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD ON STATE OF THE ART INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM USING THE PRINCIPLES OF ABA.

## Promoting Communication: The Art of Manding

Thank you to all parents, therapists and professionals who joined us for our Promoting Communication Seminar, which took place on 27th February 2010. We were an energetic bunch who listened hard, worked hard and played hard, trying to find new and creative ways of promoting communication.

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"IT WAS GREAT FORUM TO MEET OTHER PARENTS AND TO SHARE IDEAS; WE ENJOYED THE HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES."

- PARENT AND PARTICIPANT

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### A Day of Fun and Games

After diligent work was done getting the computer and projector to communicate with each other, and after rescuing a burning lunch, we got on with an overview of strategies used to teach our children to communicate. But then, seminar participants were put to work generating ideas, role playing and practicing "the art of manding" with the large selection of toys available. Below are just a few of the many ideas generated for making the most of play opportunities:

#### Play with a Purpose

One team used a car mat and different cars to practice teaching a child to request using colours. This was done by setting up a finish line and teaching request of "go blue car, go red car, go green car!"

Another team used a jungle set and figurines to teach a child to request different animals to do different actions. This was done by having the different animals jump from a tree when the child says "monkey jump, elephant jump, zebra jump!"

Another team used Buckaroo, an old favourite, to teach a child to request different items to place on the horses saddle, by saying "I want . . ." All in all, great ideas. And the possibilities are endless, when you **play with a purpose!**

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"I WOULD RECOMMEND THE SEMINAR TO OTHER FAMILIES. IT WAS A FUN DAY OUT AND WE LEARNED SO MUCH"

- THERAPIST AND PARTICIPANT

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## BEHAVIOUR SEMINAR

WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT A SEMINAR ON MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR, TAKING PLACE AT MILLENIUM INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 15TH MAY 2010. SEMINAR FEE IS £20 AND ALL ARE WELCOME. REGISTER THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CEATNI.NET](http://WWW.CEATNI.NET)



## BELFAST MARATHON

TEAM CEAT IS RUNNING AS A RELAY TEAM IN THE BELFAST A ON 3RD MAY 2010. OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE GOOD WORK OF THE IMPACT TRUST WILL BY HELPED BY DONATIONS. WE WELCOME CONTINUED DONATIONS AT [HTTP://JUSTGIVING.COM/CEAT](http://JUSTGIVING.COM/CEAT)



## TOILET TRAINING

WE ARE PROUD OF ALL OF OUR LITTLE ONES WHO HAVE ACHIEVED THE GREAT MILESTONE OF TOILET TRAINING. CONGRATULATIONS TO: JENNA, THOMAS, PATRICK, ROISIN AND KEALAN. WE ARE PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. NO MORE NAPPIES! HOORAY!