



'On the Ball' & Learning

Support for parents of children at with communication needs

A mother explains understanding gained for her family:

"We walked away feeling more confident on strategies to help our son, and that there is support available."

'On the Ball,' is a free 12-week programme of fun and learning to help parents and children with communication needs join in activities. 'On the Ball' involves parent information and follows up with 10 Saturday morning activity sessions for families in Palewell Park, East Sheen. It will run with Sam Silver and a coach from Brentford FCCST during the summer term (see overleaf for details).

Sam Silver ran -thebridge- charity from 2002-13 providing drama and sport for children. training and information for parents. She is the founder of Action-attainment a social enterprise providing services for children, families and professionals. Action-attainment runs 'On the Ball' to explain how children's communication and sensory needs affect them socially and educationally. It provides strategies for inclusion through playing games and having fun together in the park.

'On the Ball' can help with:

- Strategies to build concentration
- Communication – with examples of language modelling
- Supporting children's development

'On the Ball' is funded by LB Richmond Community Learning, Barnes Workhouse and Richmond Parish Lands.

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'On the Ball' active learning for families

Part I– Twilight workshop for parents*, 7-9pm, 16th April, venue tbc

Course leaders: Sam Silver, *Action-attainment* and Chris Tribe, coach Brentford FCCST

*Stand-alone training, for up to 20 adults (participants do not have to join the full 12 week course)

- **Sensory integration:** what it is, how sensory needs impact attainment and behaviour. Techniques to increase concentration and inclusion in activities.
- **Speech and language:** how communication needs impact learning, behaviour and social inclusion. Practical strategies to support children's understanding and participation.
- **Behaviour and inclusion:** supporting the children into activities – 'On the Ball'

Part II – Active learning, Saturday Mornings, 18th April-4th July (term time) at Palewell Park, East Sheen for 8-10 families.

Course leaders: Sam Silver, Action-attainment, Chris Tribe, BFCCST, back-up support from Tanya van Dalen, Occupational Therapist/Sheila Read, Speech and Language Therapist, as necessary.

Training for up to 10 families with KS1/KS2 children, in ability/age groupings

- Games to develop listening and turn-taking
- Visual and sensory support to increase participation
- Communication strategies
- 1:1 parent support to sign-post to additional services
- FUN!

Part III– Wrap up workshop for 8-10 families from the active learning sessions, 7-9pm, 7th July, venue tbc

- Content developed in discussion with participating families

Background Information

Sam Silver, founder of **Action-attainment**, set up 'On the Ball' after 11 years of working with Brentford FCCST and families whose children have communication needs. **Action-attainment is a 'not for profit' social enterprise.** Course content was developed by Sam Silver working with LB Richmond Educational Psychology Department; HRCH speech, language and occupational therapy departments; Sheila Read, specialist speech and language therapist; Tanya van Dalen, occupational therapist and St Catherine's School.

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