

Otago Down Syndrome Association

No. 5 – August 2013

Fun and learning at RATA



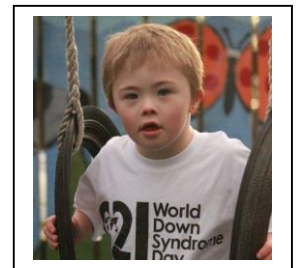
Here are some photos from our “Headstart” group at RATA, which six of our families attended in term 2. We are carrying on this term, and apart from it being lots of fun, the children are forming friendships and are learning about body awareness, spatial awareness and social skills. There is always a number of activities lined up.



Thanks to the Family Network for a fun afternoon at the Edgar Centre!!!



And then ... the winter party!!!



Contact Details
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A huge thank you to Carlos Biggemann, who took lots of truly fantastic photos at the Winter Party! He captured how beautiful all our children are!!! You might remember that Carlos is the young man who received the National Achievement Award this year. What you might not know is that Carlos is a photographer. He has had exhibitions here in Dunedin and in Bolivia. We were extremely lucky that he volunteered to spend the afternoon with us to take photos. The photos can be viewed at our next social gathering (31 August), with the opportunity to purchase a CD with the photos of your child for the great price of \$ 10.00. This is a fantastic bargain and a little fundraiser for the ODSA. If you can't come to the social, and would like to purchase photos, please contact us under the email address below or ring Karola under 456 2556.

Success in School - Crash Course

Thanks to a grant from the Bendigo Valley Trust to the ODSA Karola Franklyn was able to attend the seminar "Success in School for children with Down Syndrome – Primary and Intermediate" in Auckland. She came away with a lot of valuable information, which is important to pass on. If you could email us the name of the school your child attends (or will attend next year) and the name of the teacher, we will contact them to organise a little "crash course". Parents are welcome, too. More detail to follow. Please register your interest by Monday 26th of August to the Otago Down Syndrome Association.

Disability Support Guide

Parent and Family Resource Centre have a new resource for anyone who wants to learn more about the disability sector in NZ, and what kind of support you can get if you have a child or young person with a disability. Call them on (09) 636 0351 or email pfrcadmin@pfrc.org.nz to get your free copy.

Skiing - Feel the freedom

The Ruapehu Adaptive Programme aims to assist anyone with a disability to get out and have fun and freedom on the snow. We're here to give you whatever help you might need to achieve your skiing/boarding aspirations and to share our wonderful alpine environment. For more information visit the website <http://www.mtruapehu.com/winter/turoa-adaptive-learning/>

Special Education Conference, New Zealand - 'Learning to Learn'

26 - 27 September 2013, Auckland

This special education conference will challenge your thinking, encourage you to reflect on your teaching and learning practices and will provide opportunities to explore a range of relevant tools and strategies. Four international keynote speakers and numerous workshop options to choose from. There is an option to attend one or both days. For programme information and to register visit the website <http://clickspecialdnz.com/sepanz/conferences/bout-the-conference/>

Contact us if you have any suggestions, ideas, questions or comments.

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