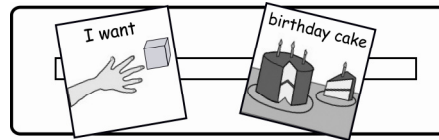




For some of us, autumn marks the beginning of a 'new year' - school year, that is! For the rest of us, for whom summer is a season and not a holiday, it's business as usual. At Pyramid UK, we're busy with photo contest entries, 10-year celebrations and, of course, meeting many of you through training and consultancy visits. We're also pleased to announce and welcome a new consultant, Louise Malkin. Read on for more news and stay in touch at www.pecs.org.uk.
Best wishes from everyone at Pyramid UK

10 Years of PECS in the UK — don't miss the party!



Places are still available (but London is filling up fast!) for the 10-Year Celebration and the Language of Emotions Talk. The co-developers of PECS, Andrew Bondy and Lori Frost, are making a rare UK visit to lead the celebrations. Join us to hear the new talk from Dr Bondy on helping people with autism communicate emotions. Lori Frost will provide the cutting edge research update, alongside professional and parent views on the impact of PECS in their lives.

22 Sept, London: London Voluntary Resource Centre

24 Sept, Edinburgh: Novotel Edinburgh Centre

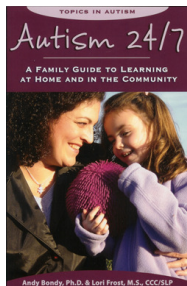
Special price: only £60 plus VAT (£70.50 total). Register online at www.pecsevents.co.uk

PECS Consultant openings

To meet the increasing demand for services, we are currently interviewing candidates for the position of Pyramid Consultant. As we continue to grow, more consultant positions for positive and energetic candidates are likely to become available. If you enjoy presenting, teaching others, working directly with people who have communication difficulties and LOVE to travel, you might be a perfect fit! More info on our website www.pecs.org.uk.



New resources



Autism 24/7

If your child is over-stimulated by noisy places or has trouble communicating or interacting with people, then everyday activities may seem outside your child's repertoire. Authors Bondy and Frost show how it is possible to keep family life running smoothly and teach a child with autism to participate in important and routine family activities at home and in the neighbourhood. These teaching strategies can be used during the course of everyday life without making too many adjustments or converting your home into a school. www.pecs.org.uk/shop

New Lesson Plan in Commenting Pack

An inspiring lesson plan is now included in the Animal Commenting Pack to give you a wealth of ideas to make the best possible use of materials in the pack and beyond. The lesson plan includes ideas for students at all levels of PECS and relates directly to IEP objectives and curriculum.



Pyramid UK links with NAS Earlybird for PECS training

In June, PECS Director Sue Baker presented a PECS Basic Workshop at the Earlybird Centre for parents involved in the South Yorkshire Earlybird programme. Jo Stevens, Director of Earlybird, did a wonderful job co-ordinating the workshop and making everyone feel comfortable and well looked after. Feedback from parents suggests the workshop was well received, that parents left feeling empowered and far more confident about starting or developing PECS for their child. Hopefully there will be more opportunities for training and support after this first Earlybird-Pyramid UK initiative.

More news...



After attending our PECS Basic Training, it's important to access support for your questions about implementing PECS. Your PECS Manual is a great source of information but if you still need help, try using the Yahoo group. This is a perfect forum to ask questions, contribute with successful strategies of your own and to double-check that you're on the right track.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pyramid-pecs/>



Autism Podcast
"your audio connection to autism"

If you would like to learn more about autism interventions, check out this site. Hosted by the father of a young boy with autism, this website provides a fabulous forum to listen to 30-60 minute audio overviews on a variety of topics relevant to autism. Interviews are conducted with noted people in the field, including Andy Bondy and Lori Frost (episode 30).

<http://autismpodcast.blogspot.com/>

International Update



Finland: Five families in Helsinki and Pori have arranged for a week of consultation with a day per family in July, and again in September. This is a creative way for each family to fully benefit from consultancy while spreading expenses across several families. The work is part of Pyramid UK's ongoing involvement in communication development for this group of young people.



Saudi Arabia: later this year we will present a PECS Basic Training workshop in Riyadh. Stay tuned!



Spain: Pyramid Educational Consultants is delighted to announce the opening of a new PECS office in Spain later this year, to support PECS developments and training in Spain.

First reflections from our new Pyramid UK Consultant



Being from a teaching background that gave me a wealth of PECS experience, you might be surprised to learn that I suffered a few nervous moments when, as a new consultant, the time came to share my knowledge during the PECS Basic Training Workshop. As it turns out my uncertainty was unfounded as the audience response has been overwhelmingly positive. Each time I meet course attendees I am reminded of the same enthusiasm I felt when I undertook my initial training. "Wow, this could really work!" I remember thinking, and I wasn't disappointed. Pyramid UK seems determined to keep me out of trouble with plenty of consultancy visits, the PECS Intensive Programme and training galore, including a workshop in Saudi Arabia in October. I wouldn't have it any other way.

- Louise Malkin



Full marks for PECS

PECS shares the highest rating on the Research Autism website, which tracks scientific research on autism interventions: www.researchautism.net/interventionlist.ikml

Financial help for parents to access PECS services



The Pyramid Educational Trust may be able to help with partial funding for the PECS Intensive Programme. For more information visit their website www.pyramideducationaltrust.org. Alternatively, you may wish to enquire at the BDF NewLife Charity, which supports families and children with Special Needs: www.newlifecharity.co.uk/

Workshop & Training Dates

Announcing new dates for training around the UK & Ireland! See our blue workshop leaflet for details or visit us online at www.pecsevents.co.uk.

