

Welcome to our first 2008 newsletter. 2007 was a busy year for us – we trained over 4000 people in PECS and the Pyramid Approach to Education! 2008 promises to keep up an equally active pace and will see us visiting some new locations to present our PECS Basic Training workshops. Look for us in a location near you...

Best of all, 2008 will mark 10 great years of PECS in the UK. We have some exciting activities planned and hope you will celebrate this milestone with us. Read on and visit our website www.pecs.org.uk for more details.



Best wishes from everyone at Pyramid Educational Consultants UK

10 Years of PECS in the UK – A Birthday Celebration with a brand new talk

Join us at our 10-Year Celebration with PECS co-founders, Andy Bondy and Lori Frost, and be among the first in the UK to hear the new inspiring talk: the Language of Emotions. Many children, especially those with autism, have difficulty acquiring language relating to expressing emotions and identifying emotions in other people. This workshop will explore these issues and demonstrate how effective lessons can be developed. Guest presenters will also speak on their experiences using PECS.

22 Sept, London Workshop: London Voluntary Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA

24 Sept, Edinburgh Workshop: Novotel Edinburgh Centre, 80 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9DE

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



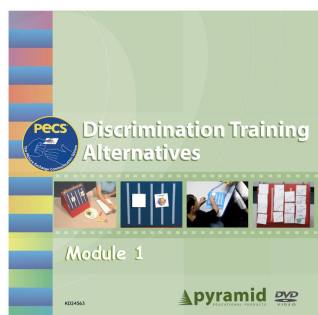
What's a picture worth? **PECS Photo Contest 2008** Celebrating 10 years of PECS in the UK



Get that camera ready for your chance to win a free day of consultancy! To celebrate Pyramid UK's 10th Anniversary we are hosting a photography contest. We are looking for images that capture the best in PECS practice and can include PECS-users of all ages and in the setting of your choice. Full details and terms and conditions are on the website www.pecs.org.uk where you can download an application form.

Resources News – the New 2008 Pics for PECS CD and Help with Discrimination

The **Pics for PECS CD** is now updated for 2008. This library of PECS pictures includes all previously available images plus nearly 200 new ones, such as *mushy peas*, *recycle*, *volume down*, *volume up*, and many more. With new categories and a visual index you'll find it even easier to locate the picture you're looking for. Pictures are in jpeg format so they can be used with Macs as well as PCs. Do you have a picture suggestion? We are already working on next year's update so email any picture suggestions to resources@pecs.org.uk.



Our new instructional DVD, **Discrimination Training Alternatives Module**, is now available. This DVD is geared towards people who have attended the Basic PECS Training and find that their students are having difficulty discriminating between their PECS pictures (i.e. stuck at phase III). This DVD demonstrates useful strategies to help your students progress through this stage, opening the door to communicating beyond a one picture exchange.

Call, or email resources@pecs.org.uk, to receive our new 2008 Resources Catalogue, or view and buy online at www.pecs.org.uk/shop

More news...

Supporting Older Students and Adults using PECS & the Pyramid Approach

London Workshop & Forum, 02 April 2008

Venue: London Voluntary Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA

An informative workshop for anyone who works with, or cares for, older students and adults with communication difficulties. This forum in London will address the often-neglected and important issues of working with an older population.

Join Anthony Castrogiovanni PhD, a Pyramid USA consultant with extensive experience in this field, who will lead the discussion at this interactive forum.

We are looking for case studies on using PECS with Older Students and/or implementing educational environments using the Pyramid Approach to Education.

Contact Alison at azahynacz@pecs.org.uk to submit a proposal or idea.

Register for the forum at www.pecsevents.co.uk



New Website to Aid Screening for ASD

A new American website called Autism Speaks launched at the end of 2007. The site is aimed at helping parents and doctors increase their awareness of behavioural differences between babies with typical development and those with autism by showing videos of each.

The hope is that the visual information will promote early detection and intervention.

The site supports the view that parents are usually the first to notice possible problems in their children and should have as much information as possible to either rule out their suspicions or, if needed, obtain a quicker diagnosis and access to treatment.

The site is clear that not every child who exhibits the behaviours shown will actually have any problems but several specialists in autism have described it as a helpful tool for parents and doctors.

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/video/glossary.php>

Reminder: PECS Training Workshop Leaflet

A reminder that for 2008 Pyramid will publish two editions of our Workshop leaflet per year, giving you the dates for the workshops further in advance. Hopefully this will make it easier to plan ahead for your attendance at relevant training. You can be the first to know about new dates by joining our electronic newsletter email list. You can sign up at : www.pecs.org.uk/general/newsletter.htm



PECS Intensive Programme 2008 — Hurry book your dates now!

We were delighted at the interest in our PECS Intensive Programme in 2007. It was such a success that we are running it again this year in all the school holidays. A reminder to register your interest early for these programmes, held in our clinic in Brighton during school holidays.

The PECS Intensive Programme is a five-day programme ideal for families seeking specialised support to help their child develop useful and effective communication skills quickly. The emphasis will be on teaching children to communicate within functional routines and play activities. Individual goals for the programme will be developed for each child.

For more information on the PECS Intensive Programme, visit our website www.pecs.org.uk or contact the Pyramid office: 01273 609555, email: christy@pecs.org.uk