

FATHERS' STORY WEEK, 14th – 19th JUNE 2010 FATHER'S DAY, SUNDAY 20th JUNE
--

FNF MERSEYSIDE BRANCH: WIRRAL GROUP

OUR PLAN TO CELEBRATE FATHERS' STORY WEEK AND FATHER'S DAY 2010

What FNF Wirral Group is planning to do is to spend Saturday morning on 19th June with the Birkenhead SureStart Children's Centre at their Dads' Club session. The session will be based on the children's story HUMPTY'S NEW WALL. We'll get the children to help build the (real) wall in the outdoor play area and encourage them to enjoy building, gardening and cooking activities. Dads will be encouraged to read the story with their children using the e-book on computer or to sit comfortably with them reading the printed copy. Each dad will be given a printed copy of the book and an e-book to take home. We hope that everyone will enjoy the event, even though it will be a very poignant experience for some of us.

You are warmly invited to bring your children if it is your contact day but come along even if you are unable to bring your children (for the usual unacceptable reasons). Some of us will find the session painful because of this but having both groups of dads attending together, with the SureStart Dads' Club dads (who always bring their children) will highlight the **gains and losses to children of having, or not having, their dad involved in their development and education**. One aim of the day is to draw attention to this point, perhaps using local media, thus promoting the idea of dad's involvement in his children's development and education.

WHY WE ARE SUPPORTING FATHERS' STORY WEEK AND
ENCOURAGING YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED

Fathers' Story Week is a national initiative promoted by the Fatherhood Institute. Locally, we will be celebrating the contribution that dads can make to their children's development and education. For those of us who are fortunate enough to enjoy a good relationship with our children it can highlight how children benefit, both in their development and their learning. For those who do not at present enjoy contact with their children it can highlight the disadvantages to their development and education those children face. A summary of these benefits and disadvantages are described in some detail in the *Fatherhood Institute Research Summary: Fathers and their Children's Education*, www.fatherhoodinstitute.com. I have prepared a summary of these findings, **'Dads Make a Real Difference to their Children'**, which you will find on the FNF Merseyside Branch website. You will also find information about Fathers' Story week, which you might like to pass on to your child's school, pre-school or nursery www.fathersstoryweek.com

Humpty's New Wall has been chosen because it tries to show how much children can learn from an activity that dads are more likely to undertake than mums. Children learn easily and with enthusiasm as they work alongside adults. They gain an awareness of how things are planned and carried out and what skills are used. They enjoy being part of the action, experiencing the processes and learning 'how to do it'. Working and playing alongside our children, we help them gain valuable knowledge and experience and positive attitudes which will feed into their formal education. I have written about this in **'Humpty's New Wall: an Introduction for Families'** which you will find on the Merseyside website. I hope you agree with its message.

<i>We hope you are able to join us on Saturday morning, 26th June 2010, from 9.30am at Birkenhead, Oxtou and Tranmere Children's Centre, Beckwith Street East, Birkenhead (5 minutes from Birkenhead Tunnel, 5 minutes walk from Conway Park Station and the bus station. Tel: 0151 647 1676 if lost on day.</i>
--

Marj Stirzaker on behalf of Wirral Group Committee and the Project Planning Team, May 2010