



## **PARENT STEERING GROUP FOR RESEARCH INTO THERAPIES FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE MOTOR DISORDERS**

*Interested in children's communication, eating and drinking?*

*Want to influence which therapies children receive?*

*Want to influence the direction of research to find effective therapies?*

**This could be the group for you!**

A group of parents meet with researchers at Newcastle University twice a year to discuss research into children's communication and eating and drinking. The group helps to decide which areas are highest priorities for research, how research should be conducted and how we should tell people about the results to encourage change in practice. The group also discusses how research is progressing and suggests changes and solutions to problems if they arise.

We really value the input parents give. Your advice helps to make sure that we are asking the right questions and are collecting the right information in way that is acceptable for families. In previous meetings we have talked about research testing an intervention to improve children's speech. This helped us decide which groups of children and staff should be involved. We also decided on which questionnaires to use and how to ask parents and teachers the right questions to measure whether therapy had been successful.

At the next meeting we will be talking about the next stage of the speech research, studies to find the best way to reduce drooling and new research to help make decisions about the best method of feeding children with eating and drinking problems. The meeting will take place on

**10.00-12.30**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

**Sir James Spence Institute at the Royal Victoria Infirmary**

***Lunch and travelling expenses will be provided***

All parents are welcome – the more advice we get, the better the research will be!

If you are interesting in coming along and would like to talk to someone who has been please email Johanna Smith at [johannasmith1@hotmail.com](mailto:johannasmith1@hotmail.com).

If you'd like to book a place please email Lindsay Pennington at [lindsay.pennington@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:lindsay.pennington@ncl.ac.uk).