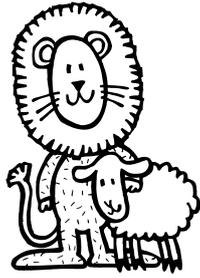


Daniel's Den



Together Everyone Achieves More



Annual Report

1 September 2010 – 31st August 2011

Daniel's Den
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registration number 5303714

Registered Office
38 Berkhamsted Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6DT England

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A message from the Managing Director of Daniel's Den

Daniel's Den's motto is TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More and this year this was embodied in all we do.

It was a pleasure to see many of our volunteers taking on new responsibilities and leading new groups themselves. We opened a new group at St Andrews Church in Sudbury in September 2010 and this is run by two mums who first came to Daniel's Den with their children many years ago and have developed skills and confidence over the years. This fulfils our plan to see 'service users become service providers'. The group at Wykeham moved into the new children's centre there but sadly had to close in February 2011 due to the funding not being extended. However the year we spent there has been an inspiration to the local parents who are continuing to support parents and family life in their community. It has been a delight to see the group at St Michaels Stonebridge double its sessions in order to accommodate the extra numbers.

We ran several events during the year and these were a huge success. They involved lots of work but the feedback received shows we are making a difference in the lives of many.

For the past number of years, as Daniel's Den has grown in the services it provides and the families it reaches, we have been aware we have needed to work on our structure and make sure our systems that are in place are robust and serving their purpose. This has really begun to happen this year, aided wonderfully by our fully equipped office, now with a photocopier. In early 2011 I was diagnosed with a health condition which meant I have had to take time out from any work within Daniel's Den. My various roles had to be listed and where appropriate reallocated. People have really stepped into their new roles and it has been a learning process for all. This will ultimately be of great benefit for Daniel's Den as we strengthen and develop our new structure.

We continue to provide a range of activities and events but are aware we can only provide as much as our volunteers can help. This year we have managed to continue the various activities but these may have to be curtailed depending of course on how many volunteers we have. We will concentrate on the basics i.e. providing parent and toddler sessions on a weekly basis for parents/carers and their children to come along to. Fulfilling our vision statement is key -

- Parents and children having the opportunity to 'know and be known' in their local community
- People building 'relationships that matter' within and beyond their cultural/ethnic group
- Parent and toddler groups being available in all localities
- Family life being valued in all levels of society both locally and nationally.

Our vision for 2009-2014 gives clear direction for the future and we are working at implementing new structures to support this. We continue to get help and advice from various agencies as we want to build on the excellent work already being done so that we can continue to encourage and enrich family life.

It is a joy to see the links with many other parent and toddler groups in Brent continuing to grow and the Brent Parents and Toddlers Network really supports this. Not only are things happening in Brent – we are also part of a national strategy group '1277 – Make Them Count' which aims to support parent and toddler groups throughout the nation.

We continue to believe parent and toddler groups are the hidden treasure of this nation and they add value to family life. We are committed to working not only to develop the work of Daniel's Den but also to encourage and support other parent and toddler groups both locally and nationally.



What is our mission?

Our mission is to encourage and enrich family life.

We have a vision to see

- Parents and children having the opportunity to 'know and be known' in their local community
- People building 'relationships that matter' within and beyond their cultural/ethnic group
- Parent and toddler groups being available in all localities
- Family life being valued in all levels of society both locally and nationally.

Members of the Teams

September 2010	August 2011
Directors Joanna Gordon Angela Anterkyi Cheryl Tate Ron Herbert Bea Simpson Heather Dzvene	Directors Joanna Gordon Angela Anterkyi Cheryl Tate Ron Herbert Bea Simpson Heater Dzvene
Staff team Joanna Gordon Joan Herbert	Staff team Joanna Gordon Joan Herbert
Weekly Volunteers Shirley French Cynthia Springer Linda Concannon Heather Dzvene Yvonne Smith Emma Hay Bill Deane Chris Deane Joan Jones Sadiqa Khosaie Dan, Dan and Debbie Hele Rozi Iva	Weekly Volunteers Shirley French Cynthia Springer Linda Concannon Yvonne Smith Emma Hay Bill Deane Chris Deane Joan Jones Iva Eutilda Joanne Wright (admin)

Whilst most of our work is carried out on a voluntary basis, the director is paid part time.



TEAM

Together Everyone Achieves More

What have we done?

The outputs

Parent and toddler groups

The popularity of our sessions continues and most of the new people come via word of mouth recommendation. We also have a number of people who find out about our work via Brent Children and Families Department as well as our presence on the web.

We said goodbye to many families at the end of the last academic year but numbers have been steadily increasing.

During the year we opened up 1 new venue – at St Andrews Church, Sudbury. The group at Wykeham School, Neasden moved into the new children's centre in Sept 2010 but in February 2011 the group closed as the extended schools provision funding was not extended by the school. The group at St Michael and All Angels Church, Hillside, Stonebridge has grown in popularity and had to double its sessions. Our main base is at St Michael's Church Hall, St Michael's Ave, Wembley and we also meet at Gladstone Park Primary School, Dollis Hill – this is our flagship schools group.



We run several sessions each week.

Monday 12.30pm-2.30pm @ St Michael's, Wembley

Tuesday 9.30am-11am & 11.30am-1pm @ St Michael and All Angels, Stonebridge

Tuesday 1pm-3pm at Gladstone Park Primary School

Wednesday 9.30am-11.30am @ St Andrews, Sudbury

Thursday 9.30am-11am & 11.30am-1pm @ St Michael's, Wembley

Friday 9.30am-11am & 11.30am-1pm @ St Michael's, Wembley

The attendance at each session varies – from 10 children up to 40+.

Each term we have themed crafts that are planned and prepared by a small team of volunteer parents.



Daniel's Den Praise

Daniel's Praise meets every Friday. The format is exactly the same as Daniel's Den but the craft activity, story and songs are Bible based. These sessions are open to everyone and you do not have to be a Christian to attend. We have termly visits to the local church and this is appreciated both by the people of Daniel's Den and the vicar/congregation of St Michael's.

Office

This continues to serve the purposes of the Daniel's Den team very well. Time is allocated for the treasurer and administrator to use this space as well as the director. We were delighted to receive a photocopier this year, partly funded by the Edward Harvist Trust.



Dad's Zone

We feel it is important for children to spend time with their dads, granddads, uncles etc in an all male environment. There are often very few male role models in the lives of young children and this is an area we would like to develop further. We have been unable to run regular Dad's Zone sessions due to shortage of volunteers but this is an area we are still keen in promoting.

Volunteers

Daniel's Den strength and weakness is its volunteers – without whom the work of Daniel's Den would not exist!! We have an excellent team of volunteers who come faithfully each week to help and we welcomed a lot of new volunteers into our team this year. We have monthly meetings for updates and training. Joan Herbert is the volunteer's coordinator and regular supervision sessions take place with all our volunteers as part of our volunteering policy. We have an induction pack for existing and new volunteers called 'Who wants to be a Volunteer?' During the year we said farewell to a number of volunteers who either moved house or took up fulltime employment. It was a joy to see many of our regular volunteers taking on more responsibilities and becoming session leaders. We held a social event in January – a fun time had by all.



Parenting courses

Daniel's Den offers parenting support both implicitly and explicitly. During each session help, advice and encouragement is offered to the parents both by the leaders and peer support – we also hand out leaflets and give words of encouragement during announcement time and our feedback questionnaire indicates that this is appreciated. The ongoing guidance and support is available with access being provided to parenting books, leaflets etc. We were not able to run any structured parenting courses during the year due to lack of volunteers. Joan Herbert is keen to run a Positive Parenting course as a follow up to training she received.

Trips

We organised a successful trip to Willows Farm near St Albans. This farm offers so many wonderful things for everyone to do and this year was no exception as we were able to milk a cow, watch dogs guide some ducks play on the bouncy castle, pan for gold etc.

Special events

Launch of Daniel's Den at St Andrews, Sudbury

This took place at the beginning of September 2010 and enables parents and children to access our parent and toddler group in Sudbury.

Harvest Special

This took place at St Michael's Stonebridge and the families learnt all about the importance of saying Thank you.

Music Week

Yet again instruments were both made and played during this fun week of musical activity.

Mozambique

Daniel's Den continues to support a church based toddler group in Lichinga, Mozambique.

National Parents Week

We (along with other toddler groups in Brent) welcomed our local Brent councillors to some of our sessions.



Brent Parent and Toddler Network

Daniel's Den is the lead organisation for this borough wide initiative and there are over 50 groups (including the stay and play sessions in children's centres) in Brent. Following the successful launch of our website www.brentparentsandtoddlers.org we have been developing the work of this network. We have appointed buddies for the five extended learning communities in Brent in order to develop relationships and a support network. We ran our third day conference for all leaders and volunteers at these groups and this took place in February 2011 at Wembley Plaza Hotel. The theme of the conference was 'The world through other people's eyes'.



14th Birthday Celebrations

We enjoyed our 14th birthday celebrations and Auntie Julie brought along her magic tricks to entertain the children. This was funded by the Wembley Plaza Hotel.



Mum's Night In

This was a new event and a huge success. The mums enjoyed getting to know one another in a more relaxed social environment, especially the game 'guess what's in the nappy!'

Conference for church based parent and toddler groups

Daniel's Den ran this conference in conjunction with the Brent Deanery Synod and Brent Parent and Toddler network. Groups from 6 boroughs attended and the feedback was very positive. We are committed to run this for 3 years and then review.



Nativity Plays and Community Lunch

This continues to be a highlight in our groups and the new costumes from last year really enhanced these 'productions'. The children and parents alike enjoyed taking part. The simplicity of this event is charming and all those who attend or take part have the opportunity to share the Christmas story. We held a community lunch at St Michael's in Wembley and this was well attended by the St Michael's Social Club and residents of Elsley Court and Corsham house. In addition to this each child received a copy of the First Christmas Story at our Christmas parties.



Table Top Sales

We held 2 during the year and these raised funds for Daniel's Den as well as providing the opportunity for people in the community to get together. These are a lot of work for our volunteers but the community enjoys getting together in this way.



Healthy Eating Week and community lunch

Children enjoyed the healthy snacks and the display of information was welcomed by many parents. The keep fit concert and community lunch were thoroughly enjoyed by all those who came!

Mum's Zone 3

This was the third year for this event and proved to be yet another enormous success! Many mums came along (some bring their own mums, sisters and friends) to Wembley Plaza Hotel and were treated to a Zumba Class, delicious buffet lunch and at least one treatment of massage, threading, waxing and nails. There was also the opportunity to make cake cases/decorate a mug as well as use the hotels leisure facilities. There was lots of laughter and it was great to get to know one another in a new way! This event is now a permanent fixture in our annual calendar!



National Family Week – Family Picnic in Roundwood Park

This picnic took place at the end of May 2011 during National Families Week and the Brent Parent and Toddler Network encouraged all their families to come out and attend.

Sports Week

Many certificates were presented to all the children who took part in one of the favourite weeks at Daniel's Den for children and parents alike! Sack races, egg and spoon, walking backwards are just some of the challenges.

St Michael's Open Day

Daniel's Den had an exhibition at an Open Day run by St Michael's Church.

Round the World in a Day

Several volunteers and parents for Daniel's Den took part in this, including Joanna Gordon the director – 6 weeks after her heart bypass!



Royal Garden Party

Joan and Joanna were honoured to receive an invitation to attend the Queens Royal garden Party in June in recognition of their work with Daniel's Den – they were accompanied by Sarah Teather MP



International teddy bears picnic

At the end of the summer term several bring and share international teddy bears picnics took place. A wide variety of food was provided and it was a wonderful way to end the term. Over 50 certificates were presented to all our leavers who are moving on to nursery or reception classes.

Visitors



Throughout the year we had the pleasure of welcoming several visitors. These included Sital from Kings College London to do research, Andrea Reid from Brent CFIS to advise about applying for nursery/reception places in local schools, Councillor Choudray (deputy mayor) and Councillor Joyce Bacchus visited during National Parents Week, 3 ladies from Oak Tree Christian fellowship to see about setting up their own toddler group, Kathryn from Catholic Bishops Conference, Members of local safer Neighbourhood team, Veolia Water representative to collect football strip plus others....

Information

We provide an ongoing information/resource desk for the parents and carers and in our feedback questionnaires parents comment this is one of the really helpful features of Daniel's Den. Local and national magazines relating to family life are distributed free of charge. Each year Brent Children's Information Service come for a week and provides advice re finding a nursery place for your child, child-minding etc. The local health visitors pop in to make links with families, offer advice etc.

Equipment

We continue to provide an opportunity for people to give and receive good quality second hand clothes and equipment.

Newsletters

Each term we aim to produce our own newsletter, which inform parents of what has been happening and the plans for the next term. These provide an excellent link with home, especially if the parents are working and the child is brought by a childminder or carer.

Fund raising

We held various fundraising activities during the year including

- Table Top Sales
- Personalised plates

Friends of Daniel's Den

We have a database of people who have shown an interest in Daniel's Den and all past and present members are automatically members. We aim to produce a newsletter 3 times a year and this will be available digitally and as hard copies. We aim to keep people informed of our up and coming activities as well as encouraging people to give a regular financial donation to the ongoing work we do.

Website – www.danielsden.org.uk

This continues to be a useful tool in informing parents and carers about our work and up and coming events. It is regularly updated

Publicity

Daniel's Den has been featured in several publications/events

- **Brent Council website/Netmums website** – we are featured several times in these and as a result many new enquiries are received.
- **Brent Deanery Synod** - Joanna Gordon spoke at this re how can churches help children and families
- **Premier Radio** – Joanna Gordon (the director of Daniel's Den) was a special guest for National Parents Week
- **Catholic Toddler Group Video** – Joanna Gordon provided the voice over plus some parents from Daniel's Den featured in it..

Partnerships

During the year we were part of several partnership working together to support families. These included:

- Extended Learning Communities
- Brent Parent and Toddler Network
- Care for the Family
- St Paul's Church Ealing especially Barry Hingston
- Wembley Plaza Hotel
- Brent Children's Information Service
- St Michael's Church, Wembley
- Yvonne Robinson and CASH
- BRAVA
- 1277 – Make Them Count - National Strategy group for church based toddler groups
- Brent Council Parenting Strategy Group
- Sarah Teather MP for Brent Central

Training

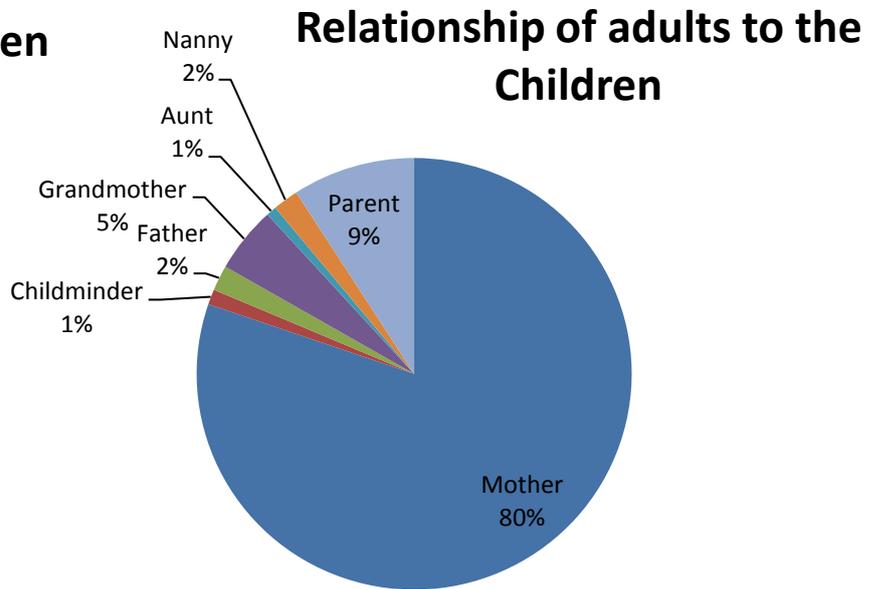
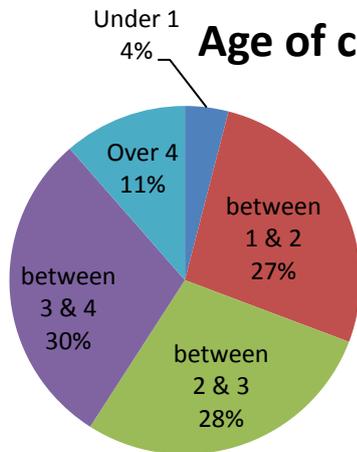
Here are some of the training courses attended by volunteers from Daniel's Den including directors

- Trustee training organised by the North West London Network
- Finance Coordinator training sessions at Heathrow
- Conference run by Brent Parent and Toddler Network
- Ongoing in house training including induction for volunteers and new directors
- Project outcomes course run by BRAVA
- Implementing a Quality Management System run by Employers Forum

What we have achieved

Outcomes

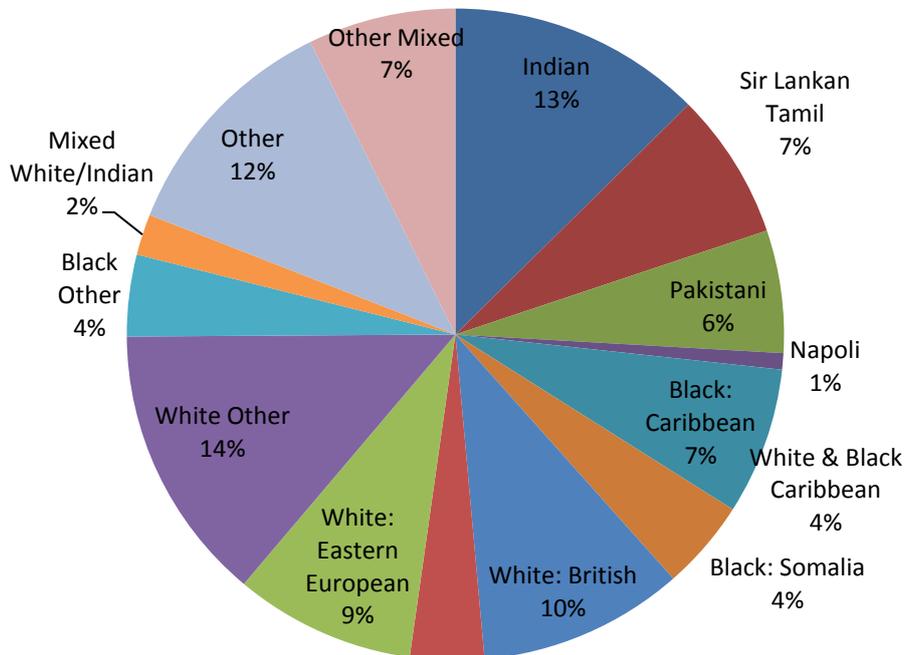
We worked with 278 families during the year. Here is the breakdown information regarding how many people used the programme and services in terms of sex, age and ethnic origin.



Other Ethnic Origins includes:

- Bangladeshi
- Bulgarian
- Chinese
- Czech
- Ecuador
- Eritrea
- Filipino
- Ghanaian
- Hungarian
- Iranian
- Iraqi
- Irish
- Italian
- Kosovan
- Nigerian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Spanish
- Syrian
- Ugandan
- Zimbabwean

Ethnic Origins



Other Mixed Ethnic Origins includes: Arab/Pakistani, Australian/Brazilian, Caribbean/Ghanaian, Estonian/ Algerian, Mixed Asian/Black African, Moldova/English, Pakistani/Indian, Polish/Iraq, Polish/Ecuador, Syria/Iraq/English, White & South American Black

Evaluation – How did we do?

We gave out questionnaires to all who attended May 15th-26th. This gave invaluable feedback and feed forward. Here is a taster of some of the things shared ...

Some of the things people liked included...

My son loves coming, gives me a break, get out of the house and a different environment for me to meet people, friends network, somewhere for my daughter to go where she can learn social skills and songs, the ambiance – it's a good 1 ½ hours spent which me happy and even my child learns and enjoys himself, great fun for my baby, socialisation for my baby (and me), singing time for my daughter – she loves it, good to relax, I come to meet other people and find out what's going on in my community. The list goes on and on.

One of the distinguishing features of Daniel's Den is that it is run by the community for the community. We love to hear people's ideas and incorporate suggestions as we can. With this in mind here are some examples of how we are responding to the needs expressed by our parents, carers and children...

More sessions – we have been able to double our session in 2 venues to accommodate more people.

Story telling for the children – we have a book corner in Gladstone Park and if there are enough volunteers one of us will read the children a story. We encourage parents to do this with a small group.

I was not aware of all the different activities that Daniel's Den organises – perhaps a newsletter emailed so I can invite friends also – we are improving our online communication via our website, Facebook page and will endeavour to make sure our up and coming events are emailed out to our database.

To raise money – we have been running an ongoing table top sale in our Wembley venue and have one event each term to raise funds for other charities. We are open to suggestions regarding raising funds.

Of course there are other suggestions which are harder to accommodate...

Longer sessions – each session is carefully designed to maintain the interest of the children. The length of each of the activities is long enough for development and the change of activities teaches the value of routine. In some case we are restricted by the time we can have the hall and also the volunteer's availability.

Have more sessions – We do not have enough people to do this! Also we like it that people can visit various groups in the area as well as take their children to the park, spend time at home or visit the library. If you visit www.brentparentsandtoddlers.org you will see the range of activities available in your area plus check out www.netmums.org or contact Brent council.

We also ask people what they think the purpose of Daniel's Den is...

A great place to meet people and make friends. Also a good foundation for our children and I still keep in touch with my middle son's friends till now – he is 9.

This is for the community gathering and enrichment of children and parents, especially mothers

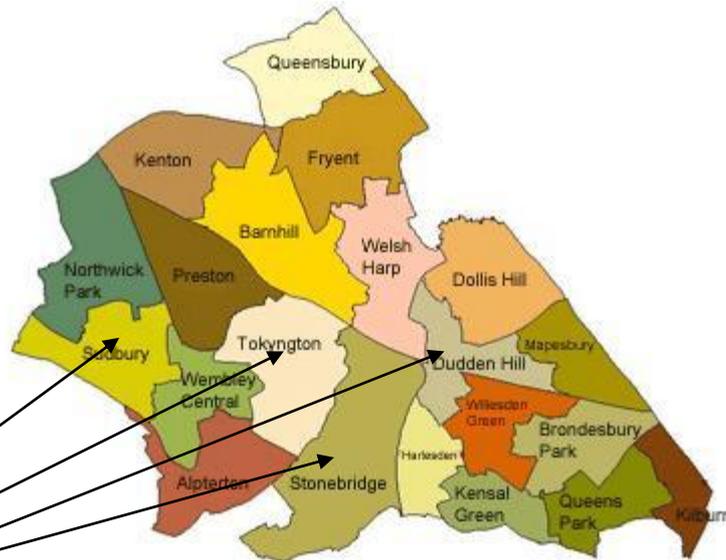
Together we achieve more which I agree. Together you learn to respect each other. It is fantastic organisation. I recommend it to many people I come across (65% of new people come through a word of mouth recommendation!)

To have good fun both mums and dads and children.

Daniel's Den catchment area

Anyone is welcome to come to Daniel's Den. Albeit our desire is to have a facility in as many local areas as possible, people travel from many places to come to Daniel's Den. The majority of attendees walk, and others use cars or public transport.

We presently have Daniel's Den meeting in four wards – Tokyngton, Duddenhill, Welsh Harp and Stonebridge. Our aim is to plant more Daniel's Dens around Brent thus making many parent and toddler groups within walking distance a possibility.



Daniel's Den already meets in these four wards – where next? We know they need more groups in Neasden!



Joanna meeting Boris Johnson (mayor of London) at a reception for community champions at City Hall

How much does it cost?

In the year 1 September 2010 – August 31st 2011 Daniel's Den received funding and income from a number of sources including

- ✓ Income came from the £1.50 per child/50p second child charged to each child who attends.
- ✓ Supporters scheme 'Friends of Daniel's Den' - a number of people give monthly donations
- ✓ One off donations
- ✓ Fundraising activities
- ✓ Funders and Grants including
 - Seedbed
 - Hilton in the Community
 - Extended Schools
 - Edward Harvist



We make hand painted plates in order to raise funds. These can come in any language!

Accounts 1 September 2010 – August 31st 2011

DANIEL'S DEN LIMITED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2011

	2011 Total £	2010 Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Grants	7,842	7,420
Fundraising	1,052	1,319
Giving, gifts & donations	12,114	11,798
Session fees	2,304	2,899
Bank interest	2	5
Other Income	225	392
Total Incoming Resources	<u>23,539</u> =====	<u>23,833</u> =====
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Accountancy fees	470	400
Advertising & PR	-	82
Bank charges	7	21
Donations	1,095	2,009
Employers NIC	2,014	965
Equipment	-	2,704
Information, books & publications	310	739
Insurance & licences	914	1,152
Internet & website costs	-	287
Office supplies & photocopy	2,274	1,782
Outings, events & trips	1,923	-
Postage	298	420
Professional fees	-	15
Promotions	1,075	1,720
Refreshments	584	1,614
Rent & utility costs	1,387	3,140
Repairs & maintenance	37	164
Sundries	231	-
Teaching materials	1,053	413
Telephone	827	754
Training	849	595
Travel	115	367
Wages & salaries	9,308	14,982
Total Resources Expended	<u>24,771</u> =====	<u>34,325</u> =====
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources	(1,232)	(10,492)
Fund Balance at 1 September 2010	7,680	18,172
Add: Post Balance Sheet Adjustment	873	
Fund Balance at 31 August 2011	<u>7,321</u> =====	<u>7,680</u> =====

What are we going to do next?

Parent and toddler groups

We hope to provide more sessions in different wards of Brent, especially Neasden. We hope to maintain and develop our existing groups. We hope to increase our publicity and encourage people to invite their neighbours – especially those who are alone and ‘hard to reach’. We want our groups to be as accessible as possible and not ‘hard to reach’.

Charity Status

We intend to register as a charity to benefit Daniel’s Den. It will enhance our reputation and open up further funding streams.

Communication

We will continue to maintain and update our website as it is an essential source of information for local families and beyond. We also hope to use social networking more effectively with the use of Facebook and text messages.

One of our ongoing aims is to produce a parents information pack i.e. handbook of how to get the most out of the sessions. This will include information about the activities, ways in which parents can help their child engage in these, health and safety etc.

We will also be making our service available to all newborn babies by advertising our work through the Registrars office at Brent Town Hall – this will be in conjunction with Brent Parent and Toddler Network.

Workshops/Conferences and Training

An important part of our work is providing training. We have an ongoing training programme for all our volunteers so that they are fully equipped to run the sessions. We also run conferences for our groups plus other parent and toddler groups in Brent and beyond.

We hope to provide parenting courses at times and venues that parents can easily access – as funding allows we will provide childcare with this.

Dad’s Zone

At this present moment we are not organising any Dad’s Zone. This is an area which we would like to develop more and will be looking out for key dads to take a lead.

Partnerships

Daniel’s Den will continue to engage with other organisations and individuals that work with children and families in order to provide activities that promote our aims and objectives.

Funding

We will be applying for funding from grant organisations in order to meet the demands of our service i.e. salary for a full time director, rent and for administration and session leaders etc.

Fundraising

We will be organising events and activities to generate income for Daniel’s Den. We aim to have one event each term.

Friends of Daniel’s Den

We will build on the database we have of our supporters in promoting the work of our organisation and also aim to increase the regular income through the regular giving scheme.

Networking

As well as developing the Brent Network of Parents and Toddlers we will be looking to work with other groups on a national basis providing a network of support and advice.

5 year business plan

We have written a 5 year business span in terms of ‘what does good look like in 5 years time’ and we will be working on putting new structures in place to facilitate this.

Contact details

Daniel's Den
PO Box 987
Wembley
Middlesex
HA9 1FX

E-mail: info@danielsden.org.uk

Website: www.danielsden.org.uk

Telephone: 02089034700 07436273844