



Annual Report

1 September 2011 – 31st August 2012

Daniel's Den

Company Limited by Guarantee Registration number 5303714
Registered Charity number 1147172

Registered Office

38 Berkhamsted Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6DT England

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Daniel's Den Annual Report
1 September 2011 – 31 August 2012

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Some of our volunteers....



A message from the Managing Director of Daniel's Den

This year has been a year of many challenges but also many opportunities. I spent most of the year convalescing after 2 major operations and it has been very strange to not be hands on in the day to day life of Daniel's Den. It has been pure joy to see volunteers rising up to take on new roles and responsibilities and we can all say it has been a year of growth and change.

We have said goodbye to wonderful volunteers and hello to new ones. Joan Herbert has done an admirable job coordinating our team of volunteers and she has endeavoured to keep everyone well informed whether it is by email, text or snail mail! Our volunteers are central to what we do and give of their own free time to serve the families within different parts of Brent.

We have welcomed many new families over the year and have worked with 220 families from 40+ different nationalities. It is such a thrill to see new friendships being formed and one of my greatest delights is to see people outside the venue, at the end of a session, exchanging numbers in order to meet up at another time. Daniel's Den gives people the opportunity to form friendships that matter within and beyond their cultural and ethnic group and a real sense of community is formed.

A picture was shared about Daniel's Den: ***'Daniel's Den is like a central beacon at the heart of the community, bringing light and enrichment/warmth to the community. As each of us come – child, parent, carer, volunteer etc we catch the fire (love) with our own torch and then we pass it on to others, like a relay race.'*** This is so true and in this Olympic year we hold on to the motto off the London games which is 'Inspire a Generation'.



Throughout the year our activities have had to be curtailed due to changes in the number of volunteers and we haven't been able to run many of the extra activities that we normally do. However each week we ran 9 sessions throughout Brent – bringing joy to many.

During our feedback fortnight one parent said ***'Daniel's Den means a safe, loving environment in which my child can play and I can get to talk to other parents – bliss'*** whilst another said ***'Daniel's Den means the earth!'*** I want to thank all the parents, children and carers for making time to come to our sessions – their presence makes a difference and we hope they have made new friends and built relationships that matter within their local community.

As we come to the end of another year, change is a foot as we move from our base in Tokyngton, Wembley. However we know that this next year will bring many new opportunities.

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 2011 | August 2012 |
|--|--|
| Directors Joanna Gordon Angela Anterkyi Cheryl Tate Ron Herbert Bea Simpson Heather Dzvene | Directors Joanna Gordon Angela Anterkyi Cheryl Tate Ron Herbert Bea Simpson |
| Staff team Joanna Gordon Joan Herbert | Staff team Joanna Gordon Joan Herbert |
| Weekly Volunteers Shirley French Cynthia Springer Linda Concannon Yvonne Smith Emma Hay Bill Deane Chris Deane Joan Jones Iva Eutilda | Weekly Volunteers Shirley French Cynthia Springer Linda Concannon Yvonne Smith Emma Hay Joan Jones Iva Eutilda Joanne Wright (admin) Rhys Anjali Bina Nancy Opal Diana Jackie |

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

We ran 9 toddler sessions each week throughout Brent, bringing a sense of care and belonging to many families. The feedback we receive is very positive. The popularity of our sessions continues and most of the new people come via word of mouth recommendation. We are aware of the ever increasing role of the web in advertising and over 10% of the people come via googling the web.

Towards the end of the year we received the news that we had to vacate the premises at St Michaels (our main base) so our last session there took place on July 14th 2012. It was sad to leave as the three and a half years there were very fruitful in terms of numbers of families coming (due to accessibility to public transport) and also supporting other groups i.e. having a designated office. We are exploring new venues but aware that there are over 100 families in the Tokyngton area who need somewhere to go. The group at St Michael and All Angels Church, Hillside, Stonebridge continues to thrive as does the one at Gladstone Park Primary School, Dollis Hill – this is our flagship schools group. The group at St Andrews needs developing in the coming year.

These are the sessions we ran each week.

Monday 12.30pm-2.30pm @ St Michael's, Wembley (closed July 2012)

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 (closed July 2012)

Friday 9.30am-11am & 11.30am-1pm @ St Michael's, Wembley (closed July 2012)

The attendance at each session varies – from 4 children up to 30+.

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. This year these sessions were extremely popular.

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 managing director.

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. Its great to see dads attending our weekly sessions.



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. We hold 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 – these are very insightful. We want our volunteers to feel that their time volunteering at Daniel's Den is a time of personal development and are committed to meeting their training needs.

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.

We are keen to develop a project called 'Postcard Parenting' and funding has been received from Edward Harvist to do this. In the autumn term of 2012-2013 Joan and I will design and produce a set of 12 postcards – these will give guidance on parenting but will also serve to explain how to get the best out of the DD session.

Trips

We organised a successful trip to Odds Farm, High Wycombe.

Special events

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 make monthly donations towards work with families in Mozambique with the work of an organisation called ALMA.

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. We continue to support this and hope in the coming year to develop this further.

15th Birthday Celebrations

We enjoyed a special 15th birthday party hosted by the group at St Michael and All Angels in Stonebridge. Over 100 people came to share fun activities, a time of singing and I was delighted to cut a special cake to mark the occasion.



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 were unable to organise any big sales this year but rather had an ongoing table set out for people to bring and buy. This served several purposes as people were able to pass on things now surplus to requirements as well as buy a new item they found useful and/or enjoyable. Funds were also raised for Daniel's Den in the process.

Healthy Eating Week and community lunch

Healthy snacks are now the mainstay in all our sessions but once a year we like to emphasise the importance of exercise and diet for all our families. This year children and parents alike enjoyed making lots of smoothies. The community lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who came and there was even the opportunity to join in an exercise class! It was a multi-generational experience.



Mum's Zone

Sadly we were unable to run this event this year – it was missed by many!

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.



Queen's Jubilee

We did some special colouring sheets to mark this special occasion.



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.



A special cake made by one of our parents...

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.

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

Our ongoing table top sale was our main fundraiser of the year.

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

Our present website has been in operation for the past 7 years. It continues to be a useful tool in informing parents and carers about our work and up and coming events. It is regularly updated. We hope to do a makeover in the next academic year in order to add more features i.e. online giving etc

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.

Partnerships

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

- 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
- 1277 – Make Them Count - National Strategy group for church based toddler groups
- Brent Council Parenting Strategy Group
- Sarah Teather MP for Brent Central

Charity Status

In May 2012 we received our registered Charity Status – number 1147172

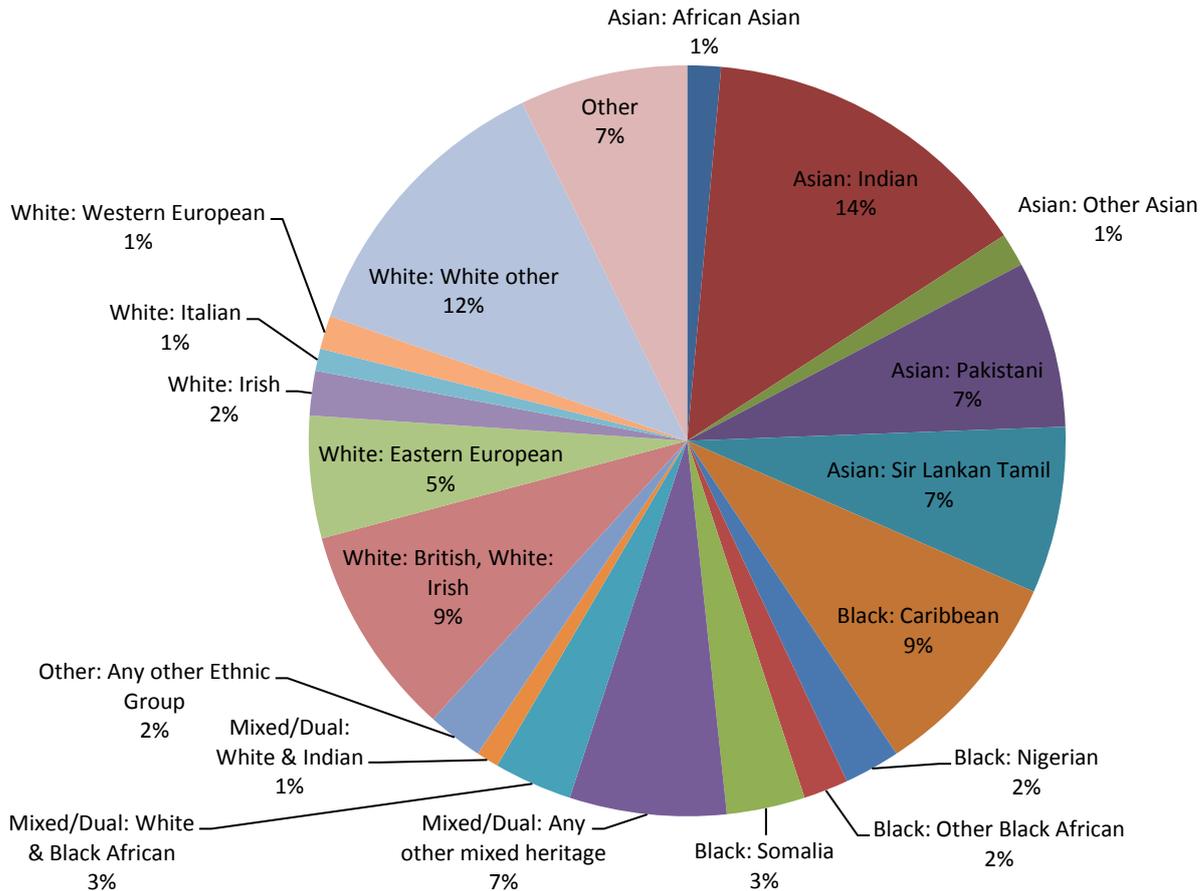


What we have achieved

Outcomes

We worked with 222 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.

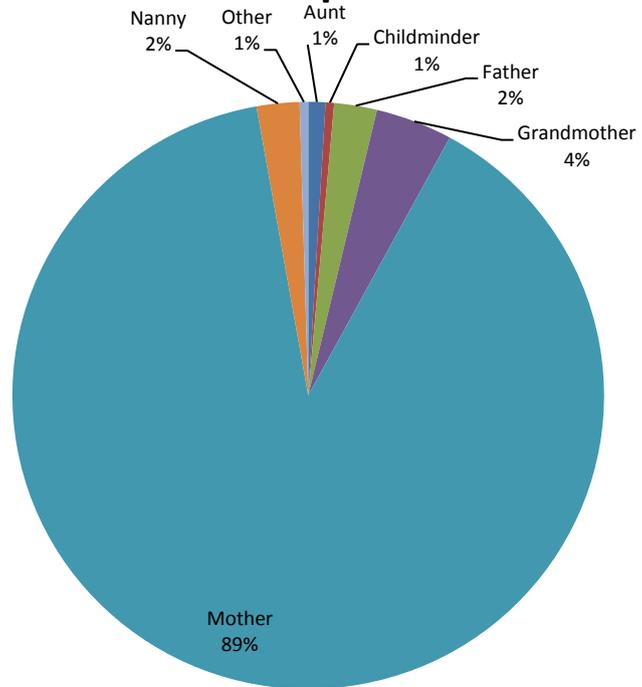
Ethnic Origins



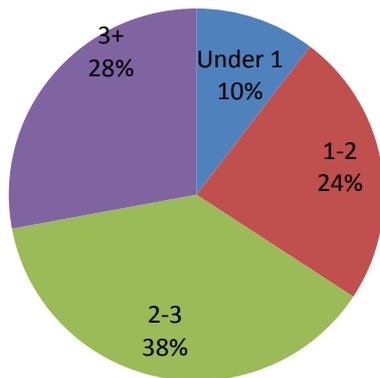
Other Ethnic Origins include:

White Eastern Czech
 Sinhalese
 Iranian
 Iraqi
 Polish
 Rumanian
 Spanish
 Ghanaian
 Bulgarian
 Greek Cypriot
 Kosovan
 Portuguese
 Afghan ...

Relationship to Child



Age of children



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...

Children learning to say please and thank you, stimulating activities good level of choice plus structured sessions, the staff make a big effort to talk to all and introduce us to each other, the space is a very good size with plenty of room for running around, children can come and play with friends and I get to talk and mix with other parents, very clean toys, staff and information brilliant, friendly – more of a family group. 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 range of toys in active session – due to storage issues this isn't always possible but we want to encourage parents to play with children i.e. throw balls into a box plus we will introduce other equipment when we can.

It would be nice if it could be more times a week or an occasional event on weekends – we have done this in the past i.e. Dad's Zone and is something we will consider if we have more volunteers.

More snacks for younger children – we will try to provide rice cakes.

A talk about looking after teeth would be helpful – we are arranging this during healthy eating week next year.

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

Find a more open space; I don't like the benches all round the place (sorry, I know this is a church) – despite the pews in the church the children are able to run around the open areas during big toy time.

Have more sessions – This is a repeated request but 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...

To bring the community together and allow our children to grow up in a friendly happy environment

Parents get advice from other parents going through the same experiences.

Help children mix with other children their age and to teach them basic songs, colours etc

Build stronger and better communities, tougher everyone achieves better/more

To show and explain children different things about nature, colours, animals etc. To give parent/nannies/grandparents the possibility to speak about problems with each other and have contact with each other.

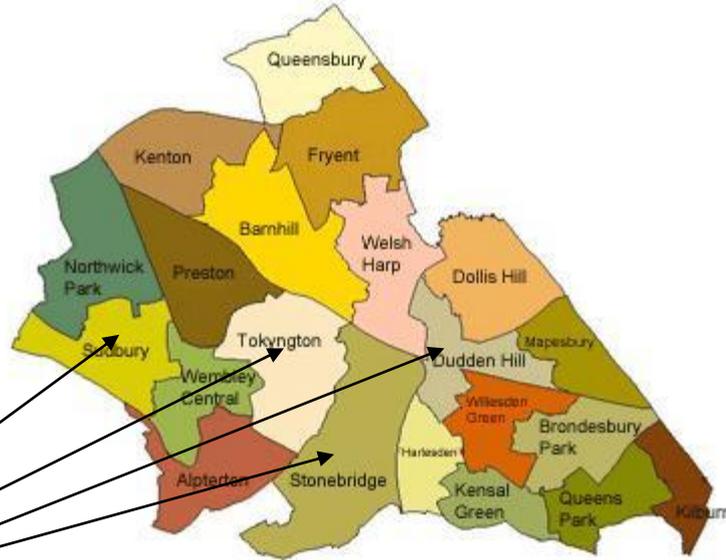
It means the earth...

A safe loving environment in which my child can play and I can get to talk to other faults, bliss...thank you x.

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, Stonebridge and Sudbury. 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!



How much does it cost?

In the year 1 September 2011 – August 31st 2012 Daniel's Den received funding and income from a number of sources including

- ✓ The main income came from the £1.50 per child/50p second child charged to each child who attends.
- ✓ Supporters scheme - a number of people give monthly donations to the work of Daniel's Den
- ✓ One off donations
- ✓ Fundraising activities
- ✓ Funders and Grants including
 - Seedbed
 - Hilton in the Community
 - Extended Schools
 - Wardworking Fund – Brent Council



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Accounts 1 September 2011 – August 31st 2012

Income

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| bank interest | 2.47 |
| events and trips | 700 |
| fundraising | 122.98 |
| giving, gifts and donations | 10089.77 |
| grants | 9050 |
| session fees | 2137.28 |
| Total incoming resources | 22102.5 |

Expenditure

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| advertising | 84 |
| bank charges | 72.91 |
| Brent parent and toddler network | 62.32 |
| donations | 1432 |
| employers NIS | 3398.88 |
| events and trips | 1489.55 |
| insurance | 682.33 |
| office supplies and photocopy | 127.32 |
| postage | 368.53 |
| professional fees | 500 |
| refreshments | 368.14 |
| rent and utility costs | 1000 |
| salaries | 10760.54 |
| sundries | 365.47 |
| teaching materials | 374.94 |
| telephone and internet | 753.51 |
| training | 10 |
| travel | 401.95 |
| Total resources expended | 22252.39 |

Net Incoming/Outgoing resources -149.89

Fund balance at 1 September 2011 6932.03

Fund balance at 31 August 2012 6782.14

What are we going to do next?

Parent and toddler groups

We hope to provide more sessions in different wards of Brent. 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'.

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 design a postcard parenting project to support the sessions we lead.

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. We are a member of 1277 – a national strategy group for Church based toddler groups.

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 at putting new structures in place to facilitate this.

Contact details

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