



## SEND services for families

A group of charities known as the SEND Consortium has been working together to launch a new website helping families to find vital support, services and information for their children with special educational needs and disabilities. Now the 'Trip Advisor'-style website SENDirect is live and aims to revolutionise the way services for children with SEND are created. Whether it's finding the right after-school club, holiday cottage, personal assistant or childcare, families should be able to source activities and support that match their interests, preferences, lifestyle and budget.

More than 1,700 services are already signed up to the website, which also aims to help providers to extend and improve their services to meet all needs. Visit [www.sendirect.org.uk](http://www.sendirect.org.uk) for further information.

## New website for autism charity

Ambitious about Autism is to launch a new website in April, to coincide with World Autism Awareness Month. The site will feature a fresh and accessible design and aims to offer an effortless experience for mobile and tablet users. To ensure the new site truly reflects the support and information needs of its visitors, the charity has done extensive research with parents, young people on the spectrum and professionals. Visit [www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/](http://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/)

# News in brief

### Dyslexia Handbook

Copies of the *Dyslexia Handbook 2015*, published annually by the British Dyslexia Association, are now available, price £10, from [www.bdstore.org.uk/](http://www.bdstore.org.uk/)

### Easy-read SEND guidance

Mencap and the Department for Education have teamed up to produce easy-read guides for parents and children and young people with learning disabilities on changes to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system. These are free to download at [www.mencap.org.uk/](http://www.mencap.org.uk/)

### Young people speak out on transitions

A new film from the Department for Education features members of a volunteer group for young people with special educational needs giving advice on how schools and colleges can work with them to fulfil their ambitions and aid the transition process into further education or employment. View the film at <http://y2u.be/fvf3xzFHBcc/>

### Communication factsheet

For quick and easy tips on children's language development read I CAN's new factsheet: <http://buff.ly/1KVFjwA/> Aimed at parents, it is useful for early years practitioners too.



## The Bett Awards 2015

Forbrain, an innovative device that improves auditory and sensory processing by retraining the brain, was the winner of the ICT Special Educational Needs Solutions Award at the Bett Show this year.

Regarded as 'the Oscars' of educational software, the annual Bett Awards celebrate the highest levels of achievement by companies, shining a light on the successes of the most innovative companies that supply ICT for education.

Produced by Sound for Life, Forbrain is a headset that uses groundbreaking technology to create an audio-vocal loop and helps users to improve their speech. Designed for children and adults with speech difficulties, including problems with pronunciation, articulation, and fluency, the device may also enhance memory and concentration.

For further details visit [www.forbrain.com/](http://www.forbrain.com/)