

Male Matters

July 2007

Produced by [The Men's Project](#)

~ Hot Topic ~

It's summer time (in case you haven't noticed) - we hope you have a great break!!!

~ Events ~

Party in the Park

Fun Day for young people aged 12 to 16 years which will be held in Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, Belfast, on Wednesday 25th July from 1pm to 4pm. FREE ADMISSION. Activities on offer include music, dance and games workshops, a mobile climbing wall and outdoor pursuits. For more information phone Belfast 02890 270470.

Belfast Pride Festival 2007

Will last from Saturday 28th July - Saturday 4th August this year.

Kick Start Fathers' Work Report and Presentation Morning

Is your organisation keen to develop work with fathers? If so, you might be interested in the Kick Start 2006 Report or the Kick Start 2007 Presentation Morning.

Kick Start is an innovative project which offers a seven month package of training, support, reflection and practical action to organisations that are currently trying to, or wishing to, engage with fathers in Northern Ireland. The 68 page report gives a full overview of the Kick Start 2006 initiative, including ...

- ❖ the context of work with fathers;
- ❖ an overview of what the project entailed;
- ❖ a detailed programme outline;
- ❖ feedback from participants and managers on the training day package;
- ❖ details of the practical Father's Day Projects that participants undertook.

The report will soon be available online at: www.mensproject.org/kickstart.html

Alternatively, you might be interested in attending a Presentation Morning in Spires Conference Centre, Belfast, on Wednesday 26th September 2007. At this event, you will have the opportunity to hear about the practical father-focused projects undertaken during Kick Start 2007 and will be able to meet and talk to the participants.

For more information, contact either Colin or Trisha at 02890 310891 or email colin@mensproject.org / trisha@mensproject.org

~ Things for dads and their kids to do together over the summer ~

Make a Bird Table

Bird tables are a great way of attracting birds to your garden and are particularly useful in the winter when food is hard to find. A simple flat bird table is effective and easy to make. Take a wooden pole about 1.5 metres high, and nail a wooden board to the top. Add a

strip of wood about 2cm high around the edge of the board, leaving a small gap for rain water to drain away. This will help to stop the food being blown away. Anchor the central pole firmly into the ground. Think carefully about where to position the table. It needs to be fairly close to dense bushes to provide refuge for birds - avoiding sparrow hawks - but not so close as to provide cover for predatory cats.

Search for Satellites and Shooting Stars

This works best when you are away from the light of street lamps. On a clear dark night go and lie down outside or watch from a window for shooting stars. Now and again you will find that they are actually satellites orbiting the earth.

Watch Clouds

This is as simple as it seems. Just lie back and see what shapes you can make out of the clouds. You can even make a story from them as you go along.

Whistle on Grass

1. Look around outside for a thick piece of grass. It should be at least a quarter of an inch wide. This type of grass is often taller than the rest and has a seam running down the middle of it.
2. Pick the grass as close to the ground as possible.
3. Smooth out the blade of grass and press it between your thumbs. Make sure the grass lies flat against your thumbs.
4. Adjust the grass so that the thickest portion is between your thumbs.
5. Press your thumbs together so that the backs of them are facing you.
6. Notice that there is a little space between your thumbs underneath your knuckles and above where your thumbs meet your hands.
7. Place that space against your lips.
8. Blow through the hole. If you do not hear a whistle, adjust the grass so that it runs through the centre of that space between your thumbs.

Check out websites for ideas ...

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/> - Lots of online activities and ideas for children to do

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/children/games/> - Online games and activities to play

<http://www.origami-instructions.com/> - Step-by-step Origami activities

<http://www.paperairplanes.co.uk/> - Instructions showing how to make 20 paper airplanes

~ On the Web ~

[Birth certificates to name father](#)

[Men suffer from phantom pregnancy](#)

[Fathers 'forfeit pay' for family](#)

[Call to Brown over fathers' role](#)

HEY! What are you up to in August?
Let me know about it to be included in the next edition!
Email: trisha@mensproject.org

The Men's Project: We are currently updating our online directory of organisations which offer support or services to men. If you would like to update your existing entry, or would like be registered on it, please click here for details:

<http://www.mensproject.org/mendir/index.html>

Note to readers:

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our mailing list, or you wish to be removed, or you have any news you want included, please email me at:

trisha@mensproject.org

(The views expressed in E-Male Matters are not necessarily those of The Men's Project)