



Emale Matters

October 2007



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

~ Hot Topic ~



Parents' Week 2007



Halloween Party Ideas for Dads



~ Events ~



Fathers Direct Regional Fatherhood Conference

The Fathers Direct "Engaging Fathers" Conference will be held on Friday 5th October 2007 in the Magpie Room, St. James Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, from 9.30am - 4.15pm. For further details please click: <http://www.fathersdirect.com/uploads/publications/267.pdf>

Parenting Forum NI Conference

Parents' Week 2007 will be officially launched at the Parenting Forum NI Annual Conference on Monday 15th October 2007 in the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast. For more information click [here](#) or contact Gemma on (028) 9031 0891 or email gemma@pachelp.org

Young Fathers' Project Launch

The launch of the First Housing - Aid and Support Services' Young Fathers' Project will be on Wednesday 17th October 2007 in The Guildhall, Derry / Londonderry from 1pm. If you would like to go, please contact Fiona on 028 7134 8728 or email youngfathersproject@first-housing.com For further details on the project, go to the "News" section below.

Teen Dads - The Neglected Parents

An "Engaging with and Supporting Young Fathers" conference will be hosted by Treoir on Thursday 18th October 2007 (9.45am - 4.00pm) in Croke Park, Dublin. Speakers will include: Fergus Hogan, Director, Centre for Social and Family Research, Waterford Institute of Technology, and David Simpson, Co-ordinator of Promoting Fatherhood. For more information please click: <http://www.mensproject.org/teendads.pdf>.

Parents' Week 2007

Parents' Week 2007 takes place from Monday 15th - Sunday 21st October 2007. This year's theme is: "Turning Lives Around: What Works for Vulnerable Families". If you

would like to organise your own event to celebrate the role of parents, a resource pack - designed to help plan and run events - is available to download from:

www.familyandparenting.org/parentsweek If you have anything planned locally, and would like to advertise it, please send your information to gemma@pachelp.org

Lone Parent Conference

The ACTION Lone Parent Network in Co. Cavan is hosting a Lone Parent Conference in The Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan on Tuesday 30th October from 10am to 4pm. This event is run in collaboration with the Cavan Partnership, Cavan County Council, Dept. of Social and Family Affairs, and OPEN. Keynote speakers on the day will include: Jack Keyes (Cavan County Council Manager), Brendan Smith (TD, Minister for Children), Frances Byrne (CEO, OPEN), Marie Cavanagh (Director, Gingerbread NI), Kathleen Connolly (Head, NDP Gender and Equality Unit). For further details, please email Ann McHardy at: annmchardy@eircom.net



Our Big Adventure Scrapbook

During Kick Start 2007, Trisha McQueen from The Men's Project produced a new resource for fathers called 'Our Big Adventure'. This gives loads of practical ideas on how dads can spend a great day with their children and turn even simple activities into a 'big adventure'. Everything they do can then be recorded, and stored in a scrapbook for them both to look back on in years to come. This resource is available for free downloading at:

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

Library Night for Dads

[Clan Mór Sure Start](#) is running a Library Night for dads / male carers and their children each Thursday from 6.00pm - 7.00pm in the Falls Library. For further details, please telephone David on (028) 9032 7755.

Special Educational Needs Fact Sheet

The Parenting Forum Northern Ireland (PFNI) produces Fact Sheets for parents four times per year. Their newest fact sheet is on Special Educational Needs. Please click [here](#) to view this resource.

Young Men's Empowering Project

The Rainbow Project has launched a new programme for young men who identify as gay or bisexual. The programme aims to: increase personal development; improve self-esteem, health, inclusion and well-being; reduce self-harm and suicide rates; increase volunteer opportunities. During the first year, the project will facilitate a number of Personal Development Courses; introduce health-related workshops on issues affecting young men; introduce creative learning; facilitate an ongoing education programme; support individuals and families through a Listening Ear Service. For further information, please contact Sean Morrin on (028) 7128 3030 or email sean@rainbow-project.org

The Young Fathers' Project

The Young Fathers' Project is a new project aimed at supporting the needs of young fathers/father figures, aged 14-25 years, and their families. The project comprises a planned and structured fathers' service - aimed at improving and enhancing the relationship between fathers and their children. The service is flexible and responsive to

clients' real and immediate needs. The project is based in Shepherd's View, Waterside, Londonderry / Derry and is available on an outreach basis in the city, Strabane and Limavady. If you know a young father who would like to avail of this service, please contact either Fiona or Sharon on (028) 7134 8728 or email youngfathersproject@first-housing.com

North Down YMCA 'Late Late Club'

The Club is for young men aged 18 years and over, and will be on every Tuesday night in the YMCA building, 39 Queens Parade, Bangor from 9:30pm - 11pm throughout the year. Activities include pool, darts, a music lounge, and access to courses in Maths, English and computing skills. Please contact Geoff at geoff@northdownymca.org for further details.



Men from Mars: How to Survive in a Strange World Workshop

Many courses explore women's issues. This unique course is designed for men. It will investigate the "men's movements" and what it means to be male in the 21st Century. The workshop will be presented by Allen Baird, BA, PhD on Saturday 27th October 2007 (9.30am - 4.30pm) in Queen's University Belfast. Cost = £23.00. For further details please email: openlearning.education@qub.ac.uk Closing date for enrolment is the 7th of October.



It's that time of year again where everything can get a little spooky. Here are a few ideas for making a great party for all the family.

Crunching Bones Underfoot

Spread some dried bread and pretzels under a rug. When your little ones walk across the rug it will sound like crunching bones underfoot (remember that a vacuum is needed afterwards!).

Pumpkin Jelly

It's really not what it seems and is really simple to do. What you need is a pumpkin, a bowl that will fit inside the pumpkin, and fruit flavoured jelly - see it isn't that gross after all! Scoop out the pumpkin, put the bowl inside it, make your jelly, and mush-up the jelly. Then let the partygoers think it's pumpkin brains!

Chocolate Fungus Fountain

Again, sounds so disgusting that kids will just love it! What you will need is a chocolate fountain (don't go out and buy one - you will be amazed by how many people you know who have one under their stairs), white chocolate pellets to melt, green food colouring, bits of fruit, fudge, and things that you could dip into the Fungus Fountain!



[Brad Pitt speaks of parenting joy](#)

[Genetic test for prostate cancer](#)

[Assembly to discuss NI suicides](#)

[GPs 'ignorant of suicide signs'](#)

[Deep-voiced men 'have more kids'](#)

[Oldest man marks 112th birthday](#)

[Russian mother has 'giant' baby](#)
(Read what the dad did)



~ **Website of the Month** ~



www.parentsadvicecentre.org

Parents Advice Centre has been around since 1979 but this website is brand new.

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

The Men's Project: We are always 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 to 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)