St. Catherine's Primary School

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23 September 2024

Dear Nursery, Year 1, Year 2 Parent/ Carer

We have been asked by Mr Laurence Taggart from Ulster University to make you aware of the following Research Study coming up this Autumn.

Please see information below and contact details should you wish to take part.

"Mencap NI is taking part in an exciting study that offers parents who have a child (aged 0-6years) with additional developmental needs (such as a learning disability, autism, global developmental, even if not diagnosed) access to E-PAtS, an 8-session family support programme. E-PAtS has been designed by family caregivers and professionals and it provides support for parents' wellbeing and their child's learning and development. Mencap NI is running an E-PAtS group in the Strabane/Derry/Londonderry area this Autumn as part of the study. If parents take part, they will be selected by chance (like tossing a coin) to either attend an E-PAtS parenting group now or in 12-months' time. All parents will receive up to £60 worth of vouchers for completing questionnaires (£120 if 2 family members

take part).

To find out more about the E-PAtS programme that starts in October please contact Lisa, Family Support Co-ordinator, Mencap NI: <u>lisa.mcgrath@mencap.org.uk</u> or Joanne at University of Kent: <u>lssjearlysupportrct@kent.ac.uk</u>."

Early Positive Approaches to Support (E-PAtS) Research Study

If your child has **additional developmental needs** (diagnosis not necessary) and is **not yet 7 years old**, you might like to take part in the E-PAtS Research Study.