



PRESS RELEASE

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Rochdale's leading family support charity celebrates Autism Week by inviting local families to find out more about the support they offer.

Home-Start Rochdale works with local families in times of distress; stopping their difficulties from spiralling out of control, and often preventing crisis. Tailored made emotional and practical support is given by trained parent volunteers to families in their own homes.

Families receive Home-Start support for a whole range of reasons, including poverty, poor mental health, illness and disability and multiple births. However it also specialises in supporting families who have had a child diagnosed on the Autistic Spectrum.

On the 2nd April, Home-Start Rochdale welcomed over 40 parents and their children to find out about how the charity may be able to support them from finding out more about home- visiting support, accessing the new group support sessions for parents, Siblings Support group and telephone support too.

Trained Home-Start volunteers and Autism Coordinator, Sam Freeman (who are all parents themselves of children on the Autistic Spectrum), were available to offer informal support and information about how to access the help they need for their family.

A sensory table was available to share ideas about what parents could access to support their child's sensory and emotional needs.

One parent who is supported by Home-Start, said: "I no longer feel alone. When you get a diagnosis, there is nowhere to turn. This group is my life line and without the support from the team, I'm sure my marriage would have broken down."

She continued: "I feel accepted here. There's so many other parents going through the same thing. I was embarrassed to think there was something wrong with my child. Now I say they are just different and I don't need to hide away."



Home-Start Rochdale's Sensory Table



Home-Start volunteer Jane with supported families



Home-Start Support Worker Ali, volunteer photographer Sydney and volunteer Jane



Home-Start volunteers Gabby, Jane, Jane Ste, Hayley and Roisin

(Images taken by Home-Start volunteer who is also on the Autistic Spectrum)

To find out more about the charity, including how to get support, or how to volunteer, please visit their website www.homestartrochdale.org.uk or call 01706 629651

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Home-Start is the UK's leading family support charity. It recruits and train volunteers to support parents with at least one child under the age of five. Their home visiting work is unique in the UK. The charity was set up in 1973 and now supports over 32,000 families and almost 70,000 children each year. Over 16,000 volunteers visit families in their own homes – parents supporting other parents in a variety of situations including isolation, bereavement, multiple births, poverty, illness or disability.

There are six Home-Starts working across Greater Manchester. They are: Home-Start Bury, Home-Start Bolton, Home-Start Manchester, Home-Start Oldham, Stockport & Tameside, Home-Start Rochdale, Home-Start Trafford & Salford.