

Puzzle Centre Awarded Three Year Grant by *BBC Children in Need*

Specialist early intervention charity, Puzzle Centre, has been awarded a three year grant of £71,601 by *BBC Children in Need*. The grant will be used to provide specialist teaching and therapy to the very young children with autism or communication difficulties it supports, to increase their communication and social skills, and emotional wellbeing.

‘At Puzzle Centre, every child is given an individual programme devised by an expert team of teachers and therapists. Our team’s knowledge and highly specialised skills ensure we can provide these children with the highest quality of appropriate education, therapy and support needed. The children who come to us will have little or no verbal language, but with targeted interventions by our specialist teachers, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists, they will develop spoken language (or an alternative communication system, such as the use of picture cards) that they are able to use to communicate with other people. We are extremely grateful and would like to thank *BBC Children in Need* for this grant; it will help us continue to work with our children and develop skills often taken for granted by most.’ **Alex Stanyer, Founder of Puzzle Centre.**



Kerry Luker, Regional Head for *BBC Children in Need* in London & the South East, said: “We are delighted to make this grant to Puzzle Centre. Through working closely with young people affected by autism and communication difficulties, we’re sure that the money will have a positive impact upon local young lives.”

For further information please contact Rachael Barnard 07792635198

About Puzzle Centre:

The Puzzle Centre charity promotes and delivers early intervention for very young children with autism or similar communication difficulties; provides training and outreach to families and practitioners throughout the UK.

Our mission is to ensure that every preschool aged child with autism, or similar communication needs, is offered prompt, appropriate and high quality education, therapy and support.

For further information go to www.puzzlecentre.org.uk

About BBC Children in Need:

The *BBC Children in Need Appeal* is a charity registered in England and Wales (802052) and Scotland (SC039557) whose aim is to make a positive change to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

BBC Children in Need's vision is that every child in the UK has a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential. We will realise this vision by supporting, promoting and publicising work that addresses the challenges that children and young people face and work that builds their skills and resilience.

The charity currently supports c.2,500 projects that are working with children facing a range of disadvantages for example, poverty and deprivation; children who have been the victims of abuse or neglect or disabled young people.

The *BBC Children in Need 2015 Appeal show* is on *BBC One* on Friday 13th November.

For further information about *BBC Children in Need*, please visit bbc.co.uk/pudsey