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Thank you to everyone who took part in our online puzzle game which raised £225 for Reach! We are currently working through the results of the project but here are two other projects which you can volunteer for.

Early Milestones - How did your child crawl? When did they learn to walk? BOLDkids are running an online survey to learn more about early developmental milestones. Suitable for parents with a child aged 2 1/2 - 6 years, it can be completed anonymously here: https://durhampscychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bdOOJ15BarVmnS5

If your child is under 2 1/2 you can contact Laura directly for an offline copy you can update as your child reaches their milestones. (07833968229, or boldkids@durham.ac.uk)

Twins case study - We are also in the very early stages of planning a case study with twins. We would love to hear from families whose Reach child is a twin - where either one or both children have a limb difference. Please get in touch either by phone/text/WhatsApp on 07833968229, or by email (boldkids@durham.ac.uk).

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 25 AND UNDER!

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A study at the University of Strathclyde is investigating how activity/sport prostheses affect the activity level of children and young people.

If you or your child are under 25 and use an activity prosthesis, please answer a short online questionnaire, where you can explain how your activity prosthesis affects you in daily life and when taking part in activity. Follow this link to find out more. <https://bit.ly/activityprosthesis>

DID THEY UNLEASH THE BEAST?



We can finally reveal that Dakota Catesby-Potts and Harry Pepper are taking part in a children's game show called Don't Unleash the Beast.

Back in September they went to Manchester to film the series which is being shown on CITV, Monday to Thursday.

ORCHESTRA SUCCESS FOR SAM

Sam Carter featured in the summer issue of Within Reach saying thank you for his Bursary Grant to buy a new trumpet.

He has now become a full member of the National Open Youth Orchestra, the NOYO. Congratulations Sam!



ONE-HANDED MUSIC-MAKING

"One day, I walked into a music class at school only to find that a visiting music teacher had brought a load of recorders for us to play," said Amy Hetherington.

"Unfortunately, said teacher had no idea I existed and, when I informed her that I only had the use of my right arm (I have left hemiplegia), started humming and aahing before handing me a maraca.



"As the only physically disabled child in my school, I believed this response came from the rarity of meeting a child with such difficulties in a mainstream school. It's only now, 20-odd years later, that I've realised how wrong I was. Only about 9% of disabled children attend special schools while the rest of us stoically negotiate the mainstream system, often very well, though sometimes butting heads with difficult teachers or facing exclusion from two-handed activities; music, for example.

"However, no-one should be discouraged from pursuing musical activities. As a result of my struggles, my father, an ex-musician himself, founded the OHMI Trust (pronounced oh-me) to help the one-handed among us learn musical instruments. OHMI runs a biannual competition, which challenges instrument makers to create one-handed versions of traditional instruments. This has proved to be immensely successful, and the charity can now offer one-handed clarinets, guitars, saxophones, flutes, recorders, most brass instruments and even bagpipes, to name. The Trust also provides an instrument hire scheme and runs the OHMI Music-Makers, a teaching support programme for individual music lessons and whole-class teaching.

I'm proud that my own negative experiences have resulted in something so influential and life-changing for many disabled children. So - get out there and make some music!

My Advice to Parents

1. Ask if it is possible to speak to the music teacher before the lesson to ensure they are aware of your child's disability. Many teachers are not told there is a child with special needs in their class.
2. Speak to the school and let them know you are happy for them to pass on details of your child's disability to the teacher. Some schools cite GDPR restrictions as reasons for refusing to inform a visiting music teacher of a child's special needs.
3. Do some research and contact organisations such as OHMI who will be able to advise and may have some bright ideas.

You can find out more about the OHMI Trust and read my blog at www.ohmi.org.uk/

MARIA'S CLARINET

Maria Grecu's mum Mirela and Reach Chair Clare Saslters have been raising money for the OHMI Trust to help buy three one-handed clarinets, and Clare was able to hand over the first of them to her pupil Maria last week.

"Not sure who was most excited, but if you could make electricity from excitement we'd have powered the National Grid for a couple of years I reckon," she said.

