



Teentalk

The newsletter for teenage members of The Birthmark Support Group

Issue 1

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T.V. personality launches new group

Television personality and Patron of The Birthmark Support Group, Esther Rantzen, officially launched Teentalk at a party at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital on Monday 18th April. She said how pleased she was to see this new group being started as it would allow young people with birthmarks to get in contact with each other and, if appropriate, provide friendship and mutual support. Later on that day Esther was appearing on the Paul O'Grady Show on ITV1 and mentioned how delighted she was to be Patron of the BSG and to have launched this new Teentalk group.

Why should we want such a group?

For some, growing up with a birthmark does not cause the slightest of problems; however for many it can bring major challenges. Most people will feel a bit nervous about starting something new, whether it be a new school, going out with a new boyfriend or girlfriend, going to university, or starting a first job; if you look a bit different then this can make matters even worse. Sadly, too, from time to time there will always be the person who makes the hurtful comment, either without thinking or because they are a bully.

We hope that Teentalk will bring together those who have not experienced difficulties, or those who have but have been able to deal with them, with those who are finding life a little more difficult, to offer advice and support. We want as members both those who feel they would like support from others who can understand their situation, as well as those who are prepared to offer help when needed. We also want those who would just like to make new friends, exchange emails or letters, and occasionally meet up and have fun!

So what is 'Teentalk'?

Teentalk is a new group for BSG members aged from 11 to 21, but those who are a bit younger or older are also most welcome. It does not cost anything to join but you or your parents must be members of BSG. We aim to produce a regular newsletter, organise events and also help members contact each other through email or letter.

We need YOU!

We hope members will volunteer to help run the group, organise events, write articles for the newsletter. Members in their early to mid twenties who are prepared to mentor younger ones will be particularly welcome. To join, return the Teentalk form on the Contact page of the web site to: teentalk@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk or **PO Box 327, West Malling, Kent ME19 6WW**

First Teentalk event

The first Teentalk event will be on Saturday 14th May in Manchester. Full details are on the 'Family Day' page of the website or email or write to Teentalk at the addresses listed.

Website: www.birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk

Email: teentalk@birthmarksupportgroup.org.uk