

Brave Barney stars in new book published to help out fellow hydrocephalus sufferers

AN ASHBY youngster stars in a medical booklet which is to be circulated around the world.

Barney Nicholls-Sykes, of Huntingdon Road, was born with hydrocephalus, fluid on the brain, a condition which has severely hampered his development.

Three-year-old Barney has had to endure five operations in his short life. He cannot speak and can only walk short distances if someone holds his hand.

His family was approached by the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, to use his photo in a guide to the physical and psychological effects of his condition.

The booklet aims to provide greater knowledge of hydrocephalus and how it affects a child's development.

The 100-page guide, *Your Child and Hydrocephalus*, is the first information booklet of its kind and has been written by specialists in the UK and the US.

Proud parents Neil Sykes and Lisa Nicholls-Sykes, said that the family was delighted to help ASBAH.

Lisa said: "We really want people to understand the condition and we hope the booklet will help raise awareness."

"Barney can walk a short distance now, with help, and although the words may never come he is a wonderful child."

The booklet will be circulated to hydrocephalus support groups around the world, including those in Australia, South America and Canada.

The guide was unveiled by Lord Filkin, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education and Skills.

Lord Filkin said: "This work demonstrates that the most important factor for disabled children is a positive and informed approach by confident parents."



HELP ON WAY: Barney with mum and the booklet