

NEW BENNY BEAR BOOK HELPS CHILDREN WITH HYDROCEPHALUS

A new book, aimed at helping young children and their families cope with undergoing a brain operation to install a "shunt", to control Hydrocephalus, has been published by ASBAH, the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

Lovable Benny Bear, the cuddly character created by ASBAH has reached a milestone in life – he's just started school. Through the pages of a beautifully illustrated book, children, their families, teachers and carers can now follow Benny's progress as he settles into school life and becomes more independent. The Benny Bear book character, complements toy teddy bear, Benny, who was created by Codman (medical manufacturer & medical group company of Johnson and Johnson) to help Neurosurgeons demonstrate to parents and children what is involved in a shunt operation. In the new book, topics such as sports activities and lessons are simply and sensitively explained, sending the clear message that school is somewhere to learn and have fun, even if you have hydrocephalus, which may mean

you need extra help sometimes. Peter Farrall, Marketing Director from ASBAH explains: "Benny Bear helps explain in simple language how children with shunts can get

Work is already underway on a title called "Going on Holiday", which will explore considerations of going abroad with hydrocephalus. The link to epilepsy will also be explored in a future book. Graeme Loughlin, UK product manager for Codman says: "The Benny Bear in the books is the perfect complement to the teddy bear Benny used in hospitals. The books provide something parents and children can take home and refer to."

The publication has been made possible by the generous support of the medical manufacturer Codman, a group company of the Johnson and Johnson group. *If you'd like to find out more about hydrocephalus, or order a Benny the Bear book visit the ASBAH website at www.asbah.org or telephone 01733 555988.*



The children are pictured enjoying a weekend on the Isle of Wight, funded by BBC Children in Need. They are photographed with cuddly Benny Bear toy teddy bears.