

## Talk done for Afasic's 40th Anniversary at Innholder's Hall, London, on 26th November 2008

I was meant to be doing this talk along with my Mother, but unfortunately, she won't be able to be here tonight as she's in hospital. But she sends her best wishes to Afasic on their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and says she really doesn't know how she would have coped without them.

Anyone with dysphasia will know that it can be hard to get friends amongst the mainstream world and they give you labels that make you feel as if you're a nobody. Like for example, "freak". But fortunately, thanks to Afasic there is help out there; and Afasic certainly has helped me.

Afasic use to run Activity weeks for all age groups and I had been going on them for 20+ years. Mum always said that one week on these holidays brought me on even more than a whole year at my very good special school. I can't be the judge of this, but it was alot more fun!!!

A few years ago, Afasic sadly had to stop the weeks for the older age group – due, I think, to a lack of funding. But fortunately, thanks to a lot of voluntary input from parents and other volunteers, we've continued as we've created our own holidays.

On these activity weeks, and with the friends we make there, we can just be ourselves without any fear of being jeered at.

Afasic continues to work hard and fights our corner and it mustn't be easy for them as they probably hit a lot of brick walls in their search for funding.

Thank you for the continued support for Afasic and please do keep helping them. We need to do more work to connect to all the dysphasics around the country who haven't been connected to Afasic.

Without Afasic, this world that I live in would be hard and sad. Afasic brings the light into the dysphasics dark world.