

YOUNGSTERS HEAD FOR WORLD RECORD



GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS Children at Penhill Sure Start Centre above, below and below right and Poplars Daycare Nursery, Wanborough (inset) take part in the challenge
Pictures: SIOBHAN BOYLE AND JAMES DOUGLAS

HUNDREDS of children from across the town have been going head over heels to break a world record.

In a bid to raise awareness of communication difficulties in nurseries, primary schools and children's groups children from all three took part in a mass rendition of "Heads, Shoulders Knees and Toes."

The Chatterbox Challenge which took place yesterday was part of a Guinness World Record attempt when children and families from around the country sang and acted out the song.

Money raised from the event will go to the I Can charity, which

by Matthew Edwards

medwards@swindonadvertiser.co.uk

helps more than one million children in the UK with communication difficulties.

Children at Poplars Daycare Nursery, in Wanborough, had been learning the songs and actions to help develop their language skills and 93 children and adults took part in the event.

Karen Doyle, a nursery nurse and Every Child's A Talker leader said: "A lot of children are going to school across the country without the basic communication skills, but not perhaps so much in this nursery.

"We've got a few here but we are addressing the issue with story sessions, special activities and observing children.

"The children really enjoyed themselves and they were ever so good at joining in as well as being quiet at the right times.

"The event is great and it encourages communication and participation from the children."

Every child at Even Swindon Primary School, in Rodbourne, which has a specialised unit for children with communication difficulties, took part in the event.

Headteacher Robin Phoenix-Stone said: "We were absolutely delighted with the event, the entire school wanted to take part and they all felt like they took part in a big national project.

"We have a special unit for children with communication difficulties so we thought it was important to support it.

"Communications skills are a key skill in a child's development."

Other centres in the town which took part included the Registered Childminders in Swindon, Ladybirds children's centre in Highworth, Penhill SureStart children's centre and

Colebrook Infants School.

Janet Hunt, a speech and language therapist, said: "It is important to draw attention to how easy it is to encourage parents, grandparents and carers to help all children with a vital skill.

"Communication is a crucial skill in the 21st century and is a fundamental life skill, it is something we all do day, all day everyday.

"The reaction has been brilliant we had a superb day and everyone was just full of enthusiasm."

