

Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 13

October 2018

Long walks, log fires and hot chocolate! That is what I look forward to in Autumn and winter! I hope this term has been enjoyable so far and you are prepared for the forthcoming cold weather. I also hope you are prepared for the joys and excitement Christmas at Fishergate brings. Please feel free to contribute to the newsletters; you can do this by emailing me. All contributions welcome!



Games to play

Visual Perception Activities

Body moves-To work on body awareness and left-right awareness, give directions such as: "touch your left ear with your right hand". Build up to 2- or 3-step directions.

I-Spy

Play I-Spy, but rather than looking for items that begin with a particular letter, look for items with a particular shape or colour (e.g. circles might include a clock on the wall, buttons on clothing, etc). Try to find as many items as possible with that quality.

Tactile Objects

Have an assortment of different everyday objects in a bag (key, cotton reel, toothbrush, marble, buttons, paperclip, small toys, etc). Start with just a few objects. Have the child feel an object inside the bag, without looking, and describe it in as much detail as they can – shape, texture, size. Can they tell what the object is

Auditory memory activity

Expanding Sentences

Child and adult take turns to increase the sentence length

"I watched T.V."

"I watched T.V. on Wednesday"

"I watched T.V. on Wednesday and saw Neighbours"

"I watched T.V. on Wednesday and saw Neighbours with my mum".



Random bit: Did you know?

Giraffe's cant cough.

Spelling support

<https://spellingframe.co.uk/>

This website helps with all the spelling rules from Y2 upwards.

When practising spellings use flour in a tray, sand, make it using playdough or your body shape or painting on the garden wall using water. Use as many different ways as possible using all your senses. This will help the spelling 'stick'.

Top Tips from parents



Parenting support

Parenting can be really hard! There are times when we all need a bit of a helping hand. There are a range of groups in York who offer parenting support and advice. There are also a number of courses too. However,, sometimes it is tricky to commit to a course so yor-ok.org.uk has links to a number of on-line parenting support groups.

Bright Sparks CIC– This free course “helps you understand how to build strong and stable relationships with your children and young people.. The course will let you meet and share ideas and experiences with other parents, as well as learn practical skills to help you build on your strengths and put a plan together about any changes you may want to make. The course takes place across York, over 10 weeks and each 2 hour session is based on the latest evidence and research. You will get an easy to read handbook and lots of help and support from the friendly, experienced tutors. It’s easy to sign up! Either call us on 01904 500301, email us at training@brightsparkscic.org.uk or visit www.brightsparkscic.org.uk/parenting

Netmums Parenting Course-<https://www.netmums.com/parenting> this course has been put together with Family Links. It aims to give parents faith in their own abilities.

Parents Together Online <https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses/parents-together/>

This course has six interactive blocks filled with helpful techniques and ideas.

Staff Training

Sara Pool– Speech language and communication. This course was led by Haxby road language centre and delved into the stages of language and communication development.

Lisa Solanki– Attachment friendly school. This was run by the Virtual school who support Looked After children..

We are in the process up changing our behaviour policy and being trained to fit with new strategies we are trailing in school. We are working to the theories devised by Paul Dix who wrote ‘When adults change, everything changes’.

Did you know that all our teaching assistants take part in staff training half termly? This is so we can be kept up to date with the best ways of supporting your children.

Fishergate staff are amazing!

Useful websites

<http://www.autismsupportnetwork.com/> A support community for families touched by ASD, offering advice, strategies and tips.

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/> The British Dyslexia Association Parent section offers advice on homework and handwriting.

Following some research on supporting handwriting and Dyspraxia I found the Dyspraxia Foundation offer good tips and ideas.

www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Whilst on the hunt for some fun ideas to do with my groups I came across this website: www.funenglishgames.com Fun games and activities to develop literacy skills.

A recommendation from the SENCo forum I am a member of for supporting ADHD is: www.addiss.co.uk

Fancy a coffee and chat?

I would like us all to get together for a cup of coffee or tea on **Monday 3rd December from 2-3.15**. This will

be a great opportunity for you to talk to other parents and have a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake. As a parent it is always reassuring to chat to others about your child, especially those tricky things. In my case, my lovely child having enormous tantrums! Please let me know if you can come.



Fishergate

York YO10 4AP

SENCo– Lisa Solanki

Contact details: Lisa.Solanki@york.gov.uk

