

Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 14

June 2019

Happy summer term! If only it were summery! I'm longing for flip flops and warm sun. I hope this term has been enjoyable so far and you are preparing yourselves for the lovely summer holidays. There are a variety of great things happening in York over the summer. Please feel free to contribute to the newsletters; you can do this by emailing me. All contributions welcome!



Games to play

Visual Perception Activities

Double drawing 1-Stand in front of a whiteboard or piece of

paper with a marker in both hands. Using both hands, draw two circles at the same time in a clockwise direction. Using both hands, draw two circles at the same time in an anti-clockwise direction. Draw one circle in a clockwise direction while drawing another circle in an anti-clockwise direction. Can you carry out these movements while closing your eyes?

Recall of Story Information -Adult reads a paragraph from child's current reading book or a short story and then asks the child questions about it.

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.

Auditory memory activity

I like to-Sit the group in a circle (adults and children). Ask everyone to think of something that they like to do. Then pick someone to start by telling the group for example "I like to swim". The person to their right will then tell the group what the first person liked and adding what they like to do, for example "Fred likes to swim, I like to walk". This continues right around the circle until the last person has to say what everyone likes to do.

Other members of the group can prompt by miming the activity if anyone falls into difficulty. **Hints:** Of course this game can be played by older children, who may turn it into a much more humorous game by making up silly sentences "I watched T.V. on Wednesday and saw Neighbours with my mum".

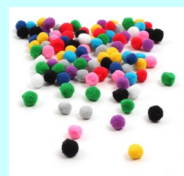
Random bit: Did you know?



The inventor of the Frisbee was turned into a Frisbee after he died.

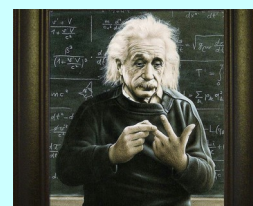
Top Tips from parents

When writing sentences with your child encourage them to rehearse the sentence orally then count the number of words in the sentence. When they are writing the sentence they can keep track of the number of words they need.



Pompoms-sorting by size or colour into a bum or muffin tin. Pompoms are great for fine motor skills and colour recognition.

Writing support



Information from The integrated working conference

Family Fund This is an organisation that supports families who 'live in the UK, have a disabled or young person aged 17 or under'. Your child does not need a formal diagnosis.

"We provide grants for a wide range of items, such as washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, tablets, furniture, outdoor play equipment, clothing and computers. It can be a struggle financially, emotionally and physically for families raising a disabled or seriously ill child, and these grants help break down many of the barriers families face, improving their quality of life and easing the additional daily pressures"

For further information : <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

DIG York DIG York are running autism friendly sessions once a month. They also run a sticker system at other times for those who would like to participate. Wearing a red sticker indicates you would not like to be approached, yellow for feeling comfortable staff answering questions when asked and green or no sticker means you are happy to be approached.

Safe Space Scheme "A Safe Place Scheme is a voluntary scheme that provides safe and supportive places, displaying a 'Safe Place' logo, which are open to the general public, such as shops, libraries and customer services. These act as 'go to' places should a disabled person experience difficulties. Safe Place Schemes help disabled people feel confident and safe, and enhance their independence." Look out for this



Staff Training

Glenys Engleman– 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– Emotion coaching
Integrated working conference

Ann Cole and Erika Deverall -
Emotional Literacy support assistant network meeting.

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.

This year they have had training on the learning environment, supporting behaviour and emotion coaching.

Fishergate staff are amazing!

Useful websites

<http://www.capt.org.uk/> This organisation is the Child Accident Prevention Trust gives great advice and quizzes on road safety, kitchen and bathroom safety.

<https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Local%20offer/sendlocaloffer>

The Local offer for York details all that is available for SEND children and their families.

<https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/young-people/>

This section of the yor-ok website details activities, events and all other things that children and young people would be interested in.

Fancy a coffee and chat?

I would like us all to get together for a cup of coffee or tea on **Monday 8th July from 2-2.15**. 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 so I know how much cake to make.



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