



Bright Sparks News

Welcome to the very first edition of SEN news. These half-termly newsletters aims to give you information about what is going on in the world of SEN, games ideas, publications, available support and training we have been on to support your children. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please let me know!

Have you heard of the MAX card?

See the attached Flier and info below.

My Family Information Service + disabled register is for parents and carers of children (0-25yrs) with additional needs or disabilities. By joining the scheme parents and carers will receive regular newsletters and information relating to disability and additional needs in York. As part of My FIS+ parents and carers will be automatically signed up the MAX card scheme. The scheme gives children, their carers and other family members free or discounted access to some of the most exciting attractions across the UK. The scheme is designed to help parents and carers of disabled children and looked after children save money on great days out at castles, zoos, museums and more.

Games to play

Random bit: Did you know you cannot lick your own elbow? (I bet you all try)

These games develop auditory and visual memory.

- I went to the supermarket-** the first person says "I went to the supermarket and I bought...a cauliflower (or any item). The second person then repeats "I went to the supermarket and I bought...a cauliflower" and adds a second item. The first person (or next person if more than a pair) then repeats .."I went to the supermarket ..says the two items and adds a third. The game continues using this idea. "I went to the supermarket and I bought a loaf of bread, two tins of peaches, a pint of milk, a bunch of grapes etc....". Initially this may be tricky so just saying your item and recalling the previous may be enough.
- Kim's game-**put a few objects on a tray (or pictures of objects). The child looks at the tray for two minutes (or whatever period of time is appropriate). Cover the tray and the child has to remember as many items as possible. This can be made harder by removing one item on the child

Fishergate News

I have started working with groups of children and supporting in class. I have met most of you for termly or annual reviews. Miss Dixon and I led a staff meeting and governors presentation to discuss meeting the needs of all learners.

Lending Library

I am intending to develop a library of reference and practical books to loan to parents and carers. If you have any recommendations please let me know. I have recently purchased *How to Live with Autism and Asperger Syndrome: Practical Strategies for Parents and Professionals*-Barry Wright. Let me know if you would like to borrow it.

Family Information Service



The Family Information Service website offers lots of free advice, tips and ideas for parents of children 0-25 years. You can find out about things going on in the area, career options in childcare and there is even a Children's zone which has lots of activities and ideas for those 0-10 years.

<http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/Parents/Family%20Information%20Service/family-information-service.html>

The disability and additional need section links to lots of support groups for parents including CANDI. CANDI stands for Children AND Inclusion. They are the forum for parents of disabled children and young people, or those who have additional needs, in York and the surrounding area. This group can be found directly on <http://www.yorcandi.org.uk/>

Staff Training

Do you want advice about a specific Special Educational Need?

I recently went on the SENCo forum, a course specifically for SENCo's in York and the following organisations were recommended:

<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.

Fresh Start- Mrs Pitts and I recently attended the Fresh start course which is a Literacy intervention to support Year 5/6

children. This programme places emphasis on the use and application of phonics.

Teaching Children who have experienced Significant Attachment difficulties and Emotional Trauma- Miss Teale, Mrs Franks and I have attended this course offering practical strategies and a greater understanding in order to support children. And families.

What's going on in the World of SEN?

The new Children's and Families Bill (September 2013) .

The Government is transforming the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), including those who are disabled, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them. The Bill will extend the SEN system from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parents greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met: *Progress and next steps* by:

- replacing statements and learning difficulty assessments with a new birth- to-25 Education, Health and Care Plan, extending rights and protections to young people in further education and training and offering families personal budgets so that they have more control over the support they need;
- improving cooperation between all the services that support children and their families and particularly requiring local authorities and health authorities to work together;
- requiring local authorities to involve children, young people and parents in reviewing and developing provision for those with special educational needs and to publish a 'local offer' of support.

As a result of this Bill the previous SEN Code of Practice (the rules and Regulations we follow) is being renewed. At the moment there is a document open for consultation. I will give you more

Information when I know more.