



# Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 2

December 2013

Thank you so much to those who gave feedback and advice on how to adapt and improve this newsletter! I would also like to thank those who contributed to this edition. For those of you who have recommended books you may own, would you perhaps be willing to loan them to other interested parents? Let me know.

## Local Offer

Have you seen the Local offer? The Local Offer is what we as a Local Authority can provide for Special Educational Needs and Disabled children and young people. It is a legal requirement following the new SEN Code of practice (which provides guidance and advice to support our statutory duties). An electronic copy of the Local Offer can be found via the yor-ok website or directly following the link below:

<http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/Downloads/Disability/Local%20Offer%20Making%20Life%20Easier.pdf>

## Games to play

Random bit: Did you know elephants can not jump?

These games develop auditory and visual memory.

- Find the changed (or missing word)- The adult says a sequence of words to the child (e.g. dog, cat, fish, monkey, spider) and then repeats this sequence changing one (or missing one out altogether) (e.g. cat, dog, fox, monkey, spider) and the child has to identify the change.
- Pelmanism- remembering matching pairs of cards from a set, when cards are individually turned over then turned back so they are face down. The child has to remember where the matching pair of cards are, if both found they are removed from the set and kept.

### Lending Library

There is a fascinating book written by a dyslexic graphic designer- have a look at the following link: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1150582455/i-wonder-what-its-like-to-be-dyslexic> .

Following a recommendation from a parent I have also just bought -*It's raining cats and dogs: An autism spectrum Guide to the Confusing World of Idioms, Metaphors and Everyday Expressions* by Michael Barton.

Another recommendation- *The Explosive Child* by Ross Greene. A book which deals with emotional outbursts your children may experience. This book is about general behaviour so good for any parent whose child experiences difficulties with emotional and social behaviour. Mrs Franks and I have attended a course run by Ross-more information in the next newsletter.

# Family Information Service



Following some work we have been doing with the Family learning Network can I again recommend the Family Information service. This service offers free advice, tips and ideas for parents and children. The office is manned by three people each with a designated area, childcare provision, Special educational needs and disability and parent information. You can find information on the website or if you have a query give them a call directly on 01904 554444

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

They are also publicising art workshops for children run by a local artist on Saturday mornings and Young Friends of Rowntree Park are also starting art workshops for children on Saturday mornings.

## Useful websites

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

[www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.addiss.co.uk)

### Staff Training

Phonics training- Mrs Pitts has been on a phonics course to support Keystage 2 children develop their skills.

Collaborative and Proactive solutions for working with challenging children- Mrs Franks and Miss Solanki attended this course to develop their understanding of challenging behaviour.

Gimme 5- A training programme to support families and children to self regulate, particularly in relation to ADHD

**Fishergate News** I am continuing to work with groups of children and supporting in classes from Early Years to Year 6. As staff meetings are so busy there is now a SEN notice board in the staff room to give staff the latest information on SEN and information on staff training. The Senior leadership of school will be reviewing our school policy and current practice in light of the new legal requirements.

### Sharing Corner-Top Tips!

Thank you for the very first Top Tip for this section.

'The parent/carer secret tool' to helping children learn to label the intense emotions behind their behaviour-The Guessing Game is useful for helping get behind the inappropriate (usually angry) behaviour to the raw emotions of frustration/fear/jealousy etc... for example starting sentences with 'Wow I see you are REALLY angry! I am guessing this might be because you feel scared about your appointment with the dentist / worried about how I will react when I find out you hit someone today? (Kids tell us quickly when we guess wrong, and to try again. Helps them accept all feelings as ok whatever they may be) .



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