

# Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 16

January 2020

The signs of spring are beginning to show. Hurrah! I hope this term has been enjoyable so far and you are preparing yourselves for the lovely sunshine and hopefully warmer days. There are a variety of great things happening in York over half term and Easter holidays. Read on for more information. Please feel free to contribute to the newsletters; you can do this by emailing me. All contributions welcome!



## Games to play

### Random bit: Did you know?



Unless food is mixed with saliva you can't taste it.

### Visual Perception Activities

#### **Pairs Game**

Play this using matching pair cards, or using a computer or iPad app. There are plenty of printable pair games online, so you can print out some cards that fit a topic you are working on.

Set the cards out across the desk or floor. Turn a card, then try to find its matching pair. If the cards don't match, turn them both back over. Start with just a few cards and gradually increase the number

**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**

Ask your child to identify as many sounds as they can when they have their eyes closed. Once they have opened their eyes –how many can they remember?

#### **Riddles**

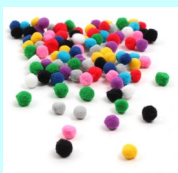
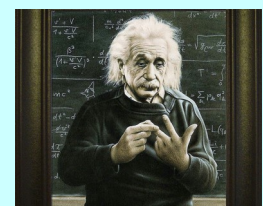
Adult describes an object for the child to identify

e.g. "I'm thinking of a fruit that has a smooth skin, it has a stone in the middle, it is juicy, it grows on a tree and is purple". Adult continues giving clues until child guesses correctly.

## Top Tips from parents

### Writing support

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.



## Yor-ok website

This website is extremely useful for parents and professionals. It provides a huge amount of information on the SEND local offer (What is available within York for children and young people with additional needs).

There is a section on leisure activities and things to do in the holidays. Further information can be found here:

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

If you would like to sign up for the Family information service newsletter which provides information on activities for children you can sign up on this website: [fis@york.gov.uk](mailto:fis@york.gov.uk)

Further information on the SEND local offer can be found here:

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



Little Vikings York provide information on the range of activities within York for children and families. Further information can be found here: <https://www.visityork.org/explore/little-vikings-york-for-families-p799731>



## 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.



### 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!**

**Fishergate**

**York YO10 4AP**

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