

# Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 17

July 2021



Well, what an academic year this has been! Finally the summer holidays are here. Here is to sunshine, ice creams and lie ins. If lie-ins are not for you there are lots of activities to do in York over the holidays. Read on for more information.

Please feel free to contribute to the newsletters; you can do this by emailing me. All contributions welcome!

## 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>

Free Activities (further details can be found on the above website)

- Cat Trail (<https://www.visityork.org/business-directory/york-cat-trail>)
- The Squirrels trail (<https://www.yorkmuseumgardens.org.uk/squirrel/>)
- 50 things to do before you're 12 (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do>)
- YO1 Beach club (<https://www.yo1beachclub.co.uk/>)
- Hoglets drama and singing classes (<https://hoglets.org.uk/>)
- Summer reading challenge (<https://exploreYork.org.uk/children/summer-reading-challenge/>)

For a tailored list of activities and events in your local area, get in touch with us on 01904 554444 or [fis@york.gov.uk](mailto:fis@york.gov.uk).

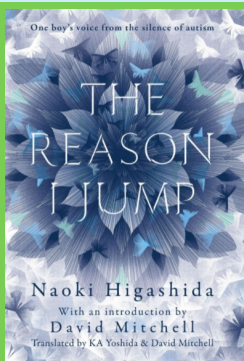
## Random bit: Did you know?



Competitive art used to be an event in the Olympics.



## Parent recommendation



There is a new documentary film out based on the amazing book, by Naoki Higashida, The Reason I Jump. This book is account of life as a child with autism.

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jun/13/reason-i-jump-autism-new-voice-film-naoki-higashida-book?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jun/13/reason-i-jump-autism-new-voice-film-naoki-higashida-book?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)



# Games to play

## 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.

**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

## Staff Training this year

- Social stories
- Restorative practise
- PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance)
- Attachment and trauma

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.

**Fishegate staff are amazing!**

## Fancy a coffee and chat?

Sadly we were unable to get together last year. However, be possible. So, I would like us all to get together for a great opportunity for you to talk to other parents and 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 would be interested and what days and times are suitable so I know how much cake to make.



next academic year I'm hoping it will be possible. So, I would like us all to get together for a great opportunity for you to talk to other parents and 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 would be interested and what days and times are suitable so I know how much cake to make.

**Fishegate Primary School**

**Fishegate**

**York YO10 4AP**

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