

Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 19

July 2022

It's nearly the summer holidays! Hurrah. I hope you have all had a good term and have some nice things planned for the break. There are a variety of great things happening in York over the summer-more details in this newsletter. Thank you for all your support this year. 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?



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

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.

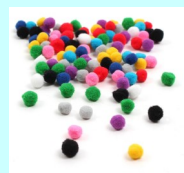
Auditory memory activity

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".

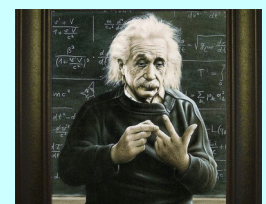
Top Tips from parents

Writing support

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 bun or muffin tin. Pompoms are great for fine motor skills and colour recognition.



Summer holiday activities

Yor-ok is a brilliant website detailing all the things available in York for families. Further information on summer holiday activities can be found here: <https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/young-people/shine-new.htm>



FREE-Lego Club at Tang Hall Library (Tang Hall Explore Library, The Centre @ Burnholme Mossdale Avenue, York YO31 0HA) on Saturday 16th and 23rd July from 11.00-12.00

50 things to do before you're 11 3/4: This includes my personal favourite:

Roll down a really big hill

Go paddling

Make friends with a bug.

For more information and the wall chart:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/50-things-to-do-before-youre-11--activity-list>



Useful websites

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/>

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England, with links to other UK nations.

<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.

Book recommendation: A parent recommended this brilliant book which has now been read by a number of staff, will be on the class story list and is in each Y5/6 classroom and the library.

A Kind of Spark by Ellie McNicoll:

All recommendations welcome!



Staff Training

All staff have completed training on our new phonics programme called Little Wandle. This will be introduced in September and taught at each phase of school. You will hear more about it from September onwards.

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 Little Wandle and Behaviour outreach.

Fishergate staff are amazing!

Tea, coffee and chat

Thank you to those of you able to attend our get together recently. It was lovely to see you and chat. I particularly enjoyed the excuse to bake. Thank you also for the flan contribution from one parent. It was delicious.

I will arrange another date in the autumn term so look out for the date. As a parent it is always reassuring to chat to others about your child, especially those tricky things. It's very informal and a great chance to chat and relax! All welcome!

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