

Information for parents about children with additional needs

Children have a variety of individual learning needs. When these needs greatly affect a child's learning and development, they are called Additional Needs (Special Educational Needs).

Additional needs can be in one or more of the following areas:

- *Literacy*
- *Numeracy*
- *Speech, language and communication*
- *Motor Skills- fine and gross motor*
- *Psychological wellbeing*
- *Social communication and interaction*

Strategies and Activities

Here are some suggestions for strategies and activities that could assist your child with their learning and development. This is not an exhaustive list.

Children benefit from shorter activities when carried out with regular breaks. These regular breaks are also known as 'Brain Breaks'.

Fluency is a key contributor toward independent and successful reading and is comprised of three components, accuracy, rate, and prosody (expression). Repeat reading of a book/story can improve fluency, teach expression and develop comprehension.

Phonics sound mat should be available for children who struggle to recall the letters used for a sound. They should have one on the table while they complete a writing task.

Letter formation book marks should be available for children who struggle to recall the correct letter formation. They should have one on the table while they complete a task.

Children in Key Stage 2 who struggle to write their ideas down (they have repeatedly tried to master letter formation but still struggle to complete letter formation and think of ideas at the same time) could benefit from using (i) mind maps to record ideas. More information and examples [here](#); (ii) a computer to extend their ideas in longer pieces of writing. [Typingclub](#) website has typing lessons to follow so that children can gain keyboard knowledge and fluency.

'Now and Next' or 'Now, Next and Then' can be used as a way to break activities or sessions into small chunks to be completed.

Large scale movements such as those in **Gross Motor activities** builds muscle strengths which children need in order to develop their more intricate fine motor skills (fingers) to ultimately improve writing.

Writing and drawing use a range of muscles within the hands. When these muscles are weak children can find using a pen and pencil difficult. Children can build up these muscles with finger muscle activities. Such as: **Finger Warm up activities, Handwriting exercises, 'dough disco'**. Make **play dough** to use.

Number formation mats should be available for children who struggle to recall the correct number formation. They should have one on the table while they complete a task.

All children benefit from using concrete materials when working with numbers, such as counters or blocks.