Grange Primary School

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Tuesday, 21st April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We know how disruptive staying at home can be to the lives and routines of our children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The next few weeks (and possibly months) will be a particularly difficult time for children and families, whilst schools are closed and we are advised to self-isolate or socially distance ourselves from our friends and family. Our normal structure and routine will be out of the window. The suggested tips and Apps below are suggestions to support parents of children with SEND during this tricky time and will hopefully make things a little more manageable.

We do not expect you to act as teachers! We know that you will give your best shot in supporting your children with their learning while they are at home. Please find below some useful websites, especially recommended by the Department of Education:

Apps and Games
(Apps must be downloaded onto a compatible device)
Brain Parade
Website: http://www.brainparade.com/products/see-touch-learn-free/
Description: a visual instruction app, including flash cards and picture-choosing games, for children with autism and special needs.

HelpKidzLearn
Website: https://www.helpkidzlearn.com/
Description: a collection of games and resources designed for a range of educational needs and stages. It includes provision for school closure.

Sensory App House Ltd
Website: https://www.sensoryapphouse.com/
Description: a range of apps are available for pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) or Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD). All are interactive and many do not require significant coordination abilities.

Visuals2Go
Website: https://www.visuals2go.com/
Description: an all-in-one app created to support people with communication and learning difficulties. For verbal and non-verbal learners.

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Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by:

Email office@grange.southwark.sch.uk
Tel. 02077716121

Warm regards,

Lorram Black
Deputy Headteacher

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What to do when your child doesn't want to do work!

<u>**Allowing choice**</u>
Allow your child a feeling of control by letting them decide the order of the tasks or when the task will start.
e.g. do you want to have your bath first and then do reading or reading then bath?
e.g. present the 3 or 4 work tasks they need to complete throughout the day, work together to fit item into their daily timetable e.g. present the 3 or 4 tasks that need to be completed and allow them to pick which one to do, when they finish that let them choose the next one and so on.
Tips – Ensure the tasks aren't too difficult. These choices can be supported with visuals

<u>**Changing the task**</u>
Is the task too easy/hard?
- Contact the teacher to see if they can send something else
- Use real world items to support learning, e.g. counters/coins for maths, photos/YouTube videos to support topic work

Is the task too long/short?
- Cut/fold the worksheet in half or into pieces
- Have breaks while working, insert movement activities into a longer task e.g. supermovers on the BBC

Is your child struggling to complete the task?
- If your child has difficulties with fine motor skills and the task needs things cut out, can you help by cutting them out? Can they dictate their work for you to write out?
- Write the beginning of the sentence to get them started with their writing
- If writing a story, work together and draw out the scenes/make notes so the child can use these to refer to when writing
- Allow your child to record work in other ways, on the computer, audio/video record them.

Is the task meaningful/relevant?
- If the work is not interesting to the child use a reward system to get them to complete it. E.g. now and next board or token working for charts
- Use their special interests to motivate them e.g. an addition task – can they use their favourite toys to count? E.g. story writing - can they incorporate their favourite topics e.g. space, buses, animals into their story

Is the task easy to understand?
- Use additional visuals and real world objects/pictures to support understanding Highlight/underline keywords in the question
- Complete a few questions together before leaving them to work independently
- If stuck ask the school for help by email or telephone.

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