Hi everyone,

Here are a few general ideas first which may help you in how you organise your home learning. As always, these are just suggestions and information as to how we run the Learning Zone which may help you – we do not expect you to set up a Learning Zone at home.

A few general pieces of information first, as to how we structure learning in the Learning Zone, in order to keep the sessions familiar and to help the children feel secure within the sessions:

* We have a routine which we keep to- this does not mean that you need to do ‘maths’ at 9.30, break for snack at 10:00, toilet at 10:15!!

We mean that we have an order in which we do things and the order stays the same, for example, counting, ordering numbers, practice writing numbers etc.

This way, the children know what is happening and what will be happening next.

Of course, if you wish to move things around, change things, add things, the choice is completely yours.

* Our activities are short, no more than 5-10 minutes (some of the older children work for longer periods of time, but we swap activities throughout the session for them too) Sometimes the activities are shorter. We keep the activities the same, and make small changes as the children progress- for example, we may ask a child to make marks on the letters of their name, then trace the letters of their name, then copy underneath their name and then write some letters of their name by themselves and then write their whole name by themselves- then we would move to their surname!
* Repetition- as mentioned before, we make ‘small steps’ of learning- we make sure that the child has securely learned what they need before moving to the next stage. To make sure they have learned a ‘step’ we may ask them to complete that step in different ways- for example writing their name in pencil, pen, using water and a paintbrush or squirty bottle outside, chalk, sand, paint- to make sure that they have ‘embedded’ this learning and not just in one way.
* Use of symbols- we use symbols and pictures to show the children the order we will be doing things in- I have included a pack from the NHS (found on Talbot Special school website) for you to use if you would find it useful.

So, what could you be doing?

To begin with, your class teacher’s home learning ideas on the website is a great place to start. The English and maths may be too challenging but they can come up with their own ideas! The classes that are providing pictures for the children to write about are a great idea. We are used to writing and talking about pictures and they have fantastic ideas.

Have a look at the Twinkl website- the home hub has daily activities. There is a free code to access it- CVDTWINKLHELPS

Have a look at Talbot Special school website- there are loads of great ideas!

If the maths ideas are tricky, try looking at a different class- if you are unsure which class to look at, please email me.

On the home learning area of the school website, there is a ‘Learning Zone’ tab. In here, I’ll place ideas for ‘key skills’ which the children can practice and which you can use as you would like, or to put into your child’s routine.

I will put suggestions for 3 groups on the website- For the majority of the Juniors, the Juniors and Infants who are working at Reception or Year 1 work and for Infants working at an earlier stage. If you are unsure which group your child would be in, please email me: agreasley@wharncliffeside.sheffield.sch.uk

If your child is finding the activities too challenging, please have a look at another group- it may help.

Of course, the outcomes on your child’s EHCP are also an area you could be working on. Some of the suggestions will work on these, but also, there will be suggestions for their learning there too. If you need individual advice for the EHCP outcomes, I’m at the end of an email!

I hope that makes sense. If you are finding this tricky to get to grips with, please email me and I’ll try to help.

Keep safe and well,

Anna Greasley