# Newport C.E. Junior School SEND newsletter - Autumn 2023

#### **Autumn Term's News**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to another autumn term, new pencil cases, shiny shoes and lunchboxes packed. We look forward to working with you and your children during this academic year.

### Termly focus

This term's focus is sensory processing needs and autism.

Autumn term can be stressful for any child, and parents, but for those who are on the autism spectrum it can be even more of a trying time.

The new environment, new faces - both members of staff and peers - can be very unsettling. We hope that the opportunity for you to meet with the new class teacher and be part of the hand over process last

Passive Self-Regulation

Sensory Sensation Active Self-Regulation

Sensitive Sensitive Sensitivity (Low Neurological Threshold)

summer term has given you some peace of mind that your child's first few days with their new class teacher will be smooth for them

We are hoping to offer the SEND coffee afternoon later in the term with autism and supporting a child with autism as the focus. We have invited the Telford Autism Hub to attend on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm. In the meantime, the BBC have a video which discussing how to support a child with autism at the beginning of term. <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbsvsk7">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbsvsk7</a>

### SENSORY processing needs:

Children with sensory processing needs behave in ways that look confusing. They might react strongly to loud noises or bright lights or complain that their clothes are uncomfortable. They may be clumsy or have trouble with fine motor skills like fastening buttons. Some children show extreme behaviours like screaming when their face gets wet or melting down at an unexpected change.

These behaviours happen because the child is having trouble processing the information they receive from

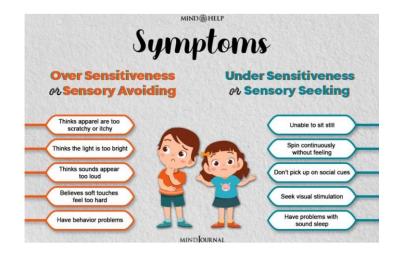
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their senses. The senses include touch, hearing, taste, smell and sight. There are also two internal senses that give the child information about their movement and where their body is in space.

Children with sensory needs can be hyposensitive or hypersensitive. Hyposensitive children need more sensory stimulation. They often love to move around and crash into things. Hypersensitive children avoid strong sensory stimulation and get overwhelmed easily.

A change in environment can trigger a child's sensory difficulties. For example, a child who is calm sitting in a quiet car might get overwhelmed in a bright, crowded grocery store. They may have a tantrum or try to run away.

Many parents of children with sensory needs call their behaviours sensory processing disorder, or SPD.



Currently, sensory needs are considered a symptom of autism because many people on the autism spectrum experience them. But not everyone with sensory issues is on the spectrum. Some have ADHD, OCD or developmental delays. Or they may not have a diagnosis at all.

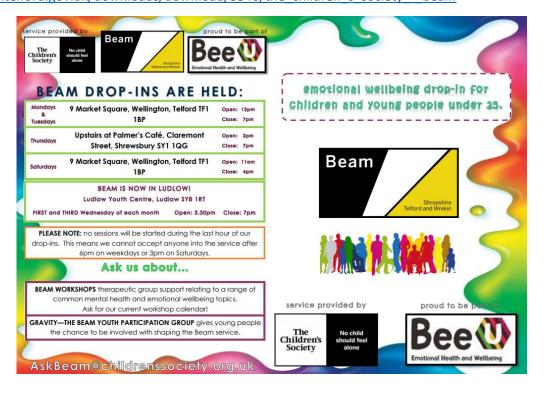
To access a checklist of sensory processing traits visit the web address below:

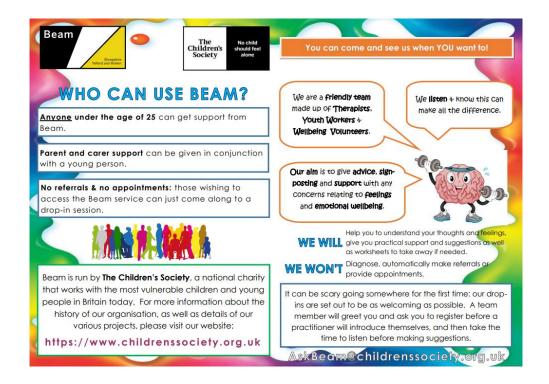
https://www.sensorysmartparent.com/yo urchildssensoryportrait

If you have any concerns in the meantime, please contact the class teacher or SENCO directly.

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BEAM has leaflets on support for transition available on the Telford local SEND offer website. https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/download/3340/the children s society - beam





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#### **Key Contacts**

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Local offer:

https://www.telfordsend.org.uk/site/index.php

Telford and Wrekin SEND parent newsletter:

www.telfordsend.org.uk/info/1/home/109/send\_new <u>s</u>

