



Virtual School Sensory Support

Virtual School Sensory Support Newsletter

Summer 2013

eSafety

The Internet is now considered a necessity in today's technological world in which we live. It allows us to find information whether it's the time of the next bus or who was Prime Minister in 1907, you can keep in touch with your friends and as well as meet new people, but we all need to be aware that not everything we read on the Internet is true and not everyone uses the Internet in a respectful and legal way.

eSafety education is essential in raising people's awareness of how to keep themselves and others safe when using the Internet. Sensory Support has spent a lot of time developing an eSafety Policy that reflects the work we do. Our aim is to identify how we can best support the children and young people who we work with.

Over the past term many of the students who we work with have already received an eSafety awareness lesson and on many occasions a member of staff from the host school have also received this training. By the end of May all members of staff and governors will have received eSafety training and this awareness is also being shared with host schools and the wider community. It is our responsibility to share our knowledge and to empower our young people to recognise potential risks and to provide them with the knowledge so they can

respond in an appropriate way to something they may access whilst using the internet.

We also have a responsibility to share this knowledge with parents and carers. We have created a Parent Information Leaflet about eSafety that is enclosed with this newsletter and we also have a designated page on our website www.norfolk.gov.uk/sensory. During May and June the Visual Impairment team are holding parent workshops and eSafety awareness will be part of the content. Sensory Support has a designated eSafety coordinator who will be happy to provide awareness sessions or advice if you want any more information please contact Alison Blackman at:
alison.blackman@norfolk.gov.uk.

Alison Blackman
Teacher of the Visually
Impaired



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iPads and Early Years at VSSS

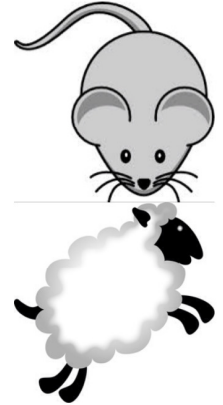
Embracing technology for education

The iPad has been an extremely popular learning tool with my Early Years deaf children and is used on most of my visits.

Photo Touch by Grasshopper Apps

The Photo Touch app has been very useful and versatile. It offers the ability to adapt its resources for the individual needs of each child. It offers me the opportunity to check their vocabulary knowledge and encourages them to listen with their hearing aids or cochlear implants.

The app can be set up with a variety of different themes. For example animals, colours, shapes, toys etc. You can then record your voice saying the names of the individual objects. When in play mode these objects are displayed either 2, 3 or 4 at a time. The children listen to the recorded voice and identify the object by touching the relevant object on screen.



The children look forward to using the iPad but I am always conscious to make sure that it is used alongside other traditional toys and as part of a balanced learning environment.

The creators of this app (Grasshopper Apps) have made a variety of educational resources for the iPad. I use many of them due to their user friendly format and creative possibilities!

Please use the link below to see Grasshoppers website and other apps.
<http://www.grasshopperapps.com/>

Marsha Locke
Specialist Support Assistant

New Community Governor - John FitzGerald

I am John FitzGerald a community governor. I am also Head of Audiology at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital where I have worked as a consultant clinical scientist for over 15 years. My special interests include balance assessment and treatment and hearing assessment in young children.

As a clinical scientist part of my role is to develop services and I am very proud of the children's hearing aid service we provide at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, but I also believe that it is very important to have integration and co-operation across services so I was very pleased when I was asked to stand as a community governor for the Virtual School Sensory Support. I have been a parent governor of a school in the past, and have the first hand ac-

counts of my 4 children as they progress through the education system.

I hope my experience in leading and developing the Audiology Service at the hospital will prove beneficial in my role as governor and that I will be able to help the school achieve its mission statement 'to deliver the high quality, comprehensive and flexible support to children and young people with a sensory loss to enable them to reach their full potential'.

In my spare time I enjoy sailing on the Broads and walking the dogs with my family.

John FitzGerald
Community Governor

