



## Virtual School Sensory Support News update



### **VSSS Update**

The staff at Virtual School Sensory Support are continuing to work to ensure children and young people who are vision impaired, deaf or multi-sensory impaired across Norfolk, are able to access their education, irrespective of infection control measures which have to be observed. Staff have reported that the students are,

overall, now very familiar with the changes which are required and have engaged with learning with an impressive flexibility.

We are aware that with the current prevalence of the virus within Norfolk, it is inevitable that sometimes it would not be safe for us to visit your child and we greatly appreciate when you let us know early in the day if they are ill or unable to see us. This allows us to reschedule our time.

As always, if you would like to contact me for any reason, please send an email to [kate.stocks@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:kate.stocks@norfolk.gov.uk).

Kind regards, Kate



**Acorns Group**

Unfortunately, Covid has meant that the usual Acorns group for families with pre-school deaf children has not been able to meet regularly at Colman Infant School.

Through Facebook we asked families whether they would still like to meet and how we could do that safely in Covid times. Most expressed a preference for a Saturday morning in a park. So, on a cold and windy November morning, 5 families met at Eaton Park. There were families with school-age children who used to come to Acorns which was great, families with pre-school children and siblings and a family with a new young baby.

Connecting with other families can be really helpful, and overall the informal feedback was very positive in spite of the weather!



## **Norfolk Deaf Festival**

The Norfolk Deaf Festival is so excited to announce that they will be back this year. We will be heading to the Forum, Norwich on the 8th and 9th July 2022, 10am to 4pm, ready to inspire, celebrate and educate both deaf and hearing people of all

ages. Come along and learn something new, meet awesome deaf role models and take in the amazing atmosphere that you can only find at our festival; all of which is completely accessible with captioning, good quality sound systems and BSL interpreters. You don't want to miss out!

On another note, if you are interested in volunteering or performing, or if you've got an organisation/business/service you'd like to share with us, or even if you just want to know more, you can message us on our Instagram or Facebook page (Norfolk Deaf Festival) or send us an email to [norfolkdeaffestival@gmail.com](mailto:norfolkdeaffestival@gmail.com) - we are a friendly bunch and don't bite, honestly! We look forward to seeing you very soon.



### **Time to get dressed**

Lots of children struggle with dressing skills and this is more difficult for our children and young people with a vision impairment. Here are just a few tips that may help:

Undressing first - make sure your child can undress before focussing on them getting themselves dressed.

Buy the next size up – looser clothes will be easier for your child to get on and off.

Be detectives – look for clues with your child to help them work out if something is inside out or back to front; explore seams, look for tags, pictures on tops, tie cords on trousers, pockets, zips and hoods.

Contrasting fasteners – your child will find it far easier to find contrasting buttons and zips.

Easy zips - check the zips before buying coats and hoodies because some are easier than others and there's nothing more frustrating than a zip that constantly gets stuck.

Large buttons and buttonholes – these will be easier to manipulate when practicing buttons for the first time. If buttonholes are too tight, try enlarging the hole slightly.

Contrasting lining – will help your child identify if their coat is inside out; particularly useful for school coats which your child will be taking on and off throughout the day.

Shoehorn – holding the tongue and back of the shoe is tricky; an old-fashioned shoehorn is worth a try.

Tactile clues/ left and right name stickers - can help your child get their shoes on the correct foot.

No tie/ elastic laces – there are lots of types available and will promote independence while your child is mastering the technique of tying laces.

If you would like further support with dressing skills, please contact Sensory Support and ask for the Habilitation Team.



## House of Hopes and Dreams

Are you aged between 12 and 32 with a hearing loss? Do you like crafts e.g., painting, decoupage, designing?

Why not come along to the City College Norwich to create your very own (mini!) house of hopes and dreams as we leave the lockdowns behind us and look to the future.

This workshop will take place at City College Norwich on Saturday 5th March 2022 from 10am to 2pm.

Contact The Nest Project on [thenestprojectcommunityart@gmail.com](mailto:thenestprojectcommunityart@gmail.com) for more information and to book your place.

This workshop is brought to you in collaboration with Toy Like Me, The Nest Project and the Norfolk Deaf Festival and your finished artwork will be displayed at the Norfolk Deaf Festival on the 8th and 9th July in the Forum, Norwich.



## **Vision Norfolk Craft Day**

Vision Norfolk Children, Young People and Families would like to invite your Vision Impaired Child and their siblings to a craft day on 14th February 2022 from 10:30am to 3:30pm.

They will be tie-dyeing T-shirts, bags or whatever takes your fancy, plus having a go at lots of other crafts. Please bring a packed lunch and a white cotton T Shirt (or two) that you are happy to have dyed. Vision Norfolk will supply everything else.

To book a place please email [CYPF@visionnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:CYPF@visionnorfolk.org.uk) or call/text 07864 615935.