

## Helping with Memory

Working memory is important to children as it helps them to recall information, follow instructions involving more than one step and it enables them to organise their lives.

- ❖ When dealing with lots of information summarise the key points in bullet points or on post it notes and return to these notes frequently.
- ❖ Drawing pictures and diagrams may help children to visualise their work in ways which help them recall information.
- ❖ When reading long passages, take opportunities to pause regularly in order to process the information. It may help to ask and answer questions about what has just been read.
- ❖ Breaking big tasks down into smaller steps is a good way of aiding longer-term understanding.
- ❖ Checking for understanding is important. It can help to ask a child to explain to an adult what they have just learned.
- ❖ Recapping on prior learning at regular intervals can help with the retention of information and briefly summarising prior learning at the start of each new session is a good way to begin new work.
- ❖ Where possible, only give one or two step instructions at a time.
- ❖ Multi step instructions could be written down as a list of steps that can be ticked off as each one is completed.
- ❖ Say the words of their sentence out loud.
- ❖ Record the sentence on a talking postcard or similar so the child can recall their sentence idea independently.
- ❖ Simple picture storyboards can help them remember the ideas and sequence they had.
- ❖ Generate a word bank with the child at the planning stage.
- ❖ Leave editing for a different session. If you can read it leave it.

- ❖ If you can remember what they wanted to write but they cannot, tell them. Sometimes good ideas do not come back again, and they will become frustrated and demotivated.
- ❖ Provide written/drawn numbered steps the child can follow to complete work independently and successfully
- ❖ Keep listening as interactive as possible with targeted questions and visual aids.
- ❖ Pre teach important vocabulary and key concepts using word banks/picture word banks the child can take into the lesson.
- ❖ In maths model with concrete resources and ask the child to repeat. Concrete resources such as Numicon, counters and cubes will help them calculate. For older children who may need a more discreet resource use a times table grid, hundred square or number line.
- ❖ Children with a weak working memory will find it very difficult and sometimes impossible to calculate mentally, they will need the question written down for them or repeated and will need much more time.
- ❖ Flash cards are great for providing over learning of key words. They can be placed around the house for prompts with older students or used for a treasure hunt with younger children.
- ❖ Kim's game is fun and can be used with both familiar and unfamiliar objects.
- ❖ I went shopping and brought.... Is a fun game, it can be adapted to I went to the farm, zoo, seaside etc.