

## Small Group Work

Schools may be able to offer some small group work outside of the class room to help with different issues. Some of the group work that may take place is:-

- Reading Recovery - Each day your child will learn more about words and letters, read lots of little books and write their own stories. This will be happening in a short session with a member of staff. After one to two terms your child may no longer need these sessions as by then they should have made some progress.
- Talking Partners - Talking Partners is an intervention programme to support children's development of Speaking and Listening skills. It consists of three twenty minute sessions per week, using carefully structured activities, based on work being undertaken in the classroom. The sessions usually consist of a small group of children.
- Brain Gym - Brain Gym is a programme of physical movements that enhance learning and performance in ALL areas. Brain Gym includes easy and enjoyable targeted activities that integrate body and mind to help bring about improvements in: concentration, memory, reading, writing, organizing, listening, physical coordination, and more.
- Learning Support Initiative (LSI) - LSI usually takes place several times a week. The work is normally carried out with small groups of identified children and is supervised by a trained Teaching Assistant with Guidance from the Learning Support Service and Special Educational Needs Coordinator. The group aims to work on literacy skills which the child will then hopefully be able to transfer into their every day class lesson.
- Early Learning Support (ELS) - Much like LSI the work is usually carried out in small groups of identified children with a trained Teaching Assistant. The ELS programme is usually aimed at children during Year 1 and helps to build on early literacy skills.

- Positive Play - Positive play usually takes place on a 1:1 basis initially. Ideally the sessions should be short but regular. The trained worker (usually a Teaching Assistant or Learning Mentor) works through different stages of play at the child's own level and only move on when the child is ready. The sessions can support children through all different areas of their development and is especially useful for social skills.
  
- Circle Time - Circle time can be a small group or whole class session. The format usually consists of a warm up game, an opening sentence, the main part of the session followed by a closing game. There may also be a part dedicated to compliments. Circle times are ideal for discussing Personal, Health and Social Educational issues (PHSE).
  
- Jump Ahead - Jump Ahead is a programme aimed at supporting children who may have difficulties in gross motor coordination. This programme is usually done under guidance from Learning Support Service.

Some other strategies schools may use are; Guided Reading, Reading Rescue, Better Reading and Springboard Maths.

When discussing the above strategies with school you may wish to find out the following:-

- When will it start?
- How often will the sessions take place?
- Who will be involved? - Which member of staff?
- How will it help?
- How will it be monitored?
- How will we know it has made any impact?
- What will happen after?