

ASD

Children with Autism need structure and routine. You can help them by using visual timetables to help them see what is happening at each step of the day, so they know in advance what they will be doing next. This will relieve some of their anxiety.

You might want to set a specific place for them to do any work or tasks. At school they may have this in the form of a workstation to support their learning (see example in resources section). Each child's workstation may differ slightly, so you could ask your child to help you set one up that will suit them or that they are already used to.

Prepare them for changes in routine.

Help your children to recognise and name different emotions and feelings. You can do this by discussing their own emotions, how characters in books and on TV programmes might be feeling and how you yourselves might be feeling. Alongside naming the emotion, describe it and explain why you, they or fictional characters might be feeling like that. You can also play role play guessing games and ask them to name the emotion and say why.

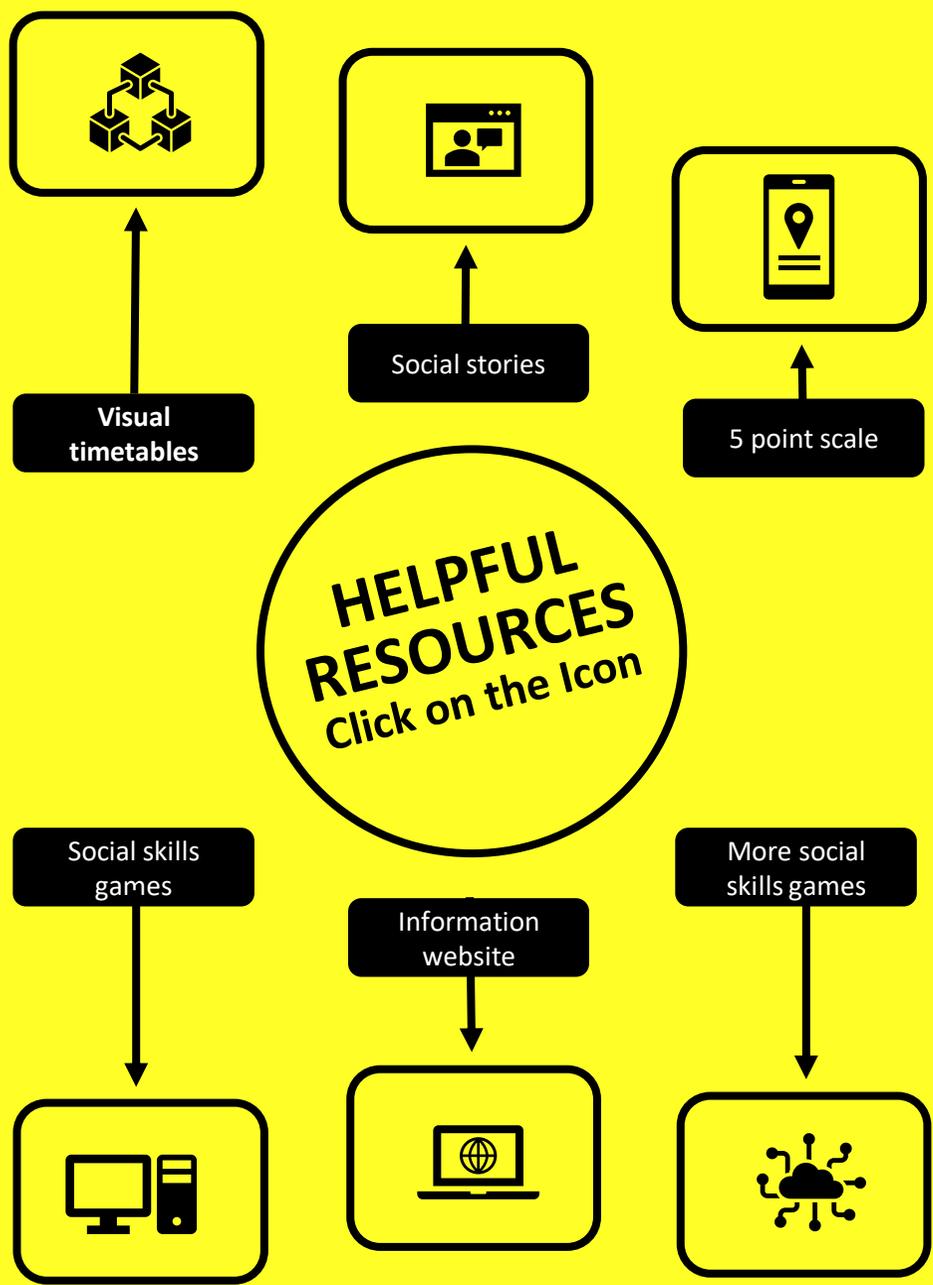
Use a 5 point scale to support children in managing their emotions.

Use social stories and comic strip cartoons to help children understand different situations and perspectives and address inappropriate behaviour.

Have a visual aid to support wanted and unwanted behaviours

Be aware of your child's sensory needs and support them in managing that need to help them learn e.g. sound reducing earphones if noise is a problem, comfortable clothes, keep the area surrounding the work space clear to avoid over-stimulation etc.

Play lots of games with your child to encourage social skills, such as taking turns and winning and losing.



ADHD

Offer routines and structure

Create a quiet space for them to learn with no distractions.

Give them something to fiddle with whilst you are talking to them or you want them to focus. It can also be helpful to let them move around whilst they listen.

Ask them to do one task at a time

Provide checklists or visual timetables to support organisation.

Use timers to help with time management and build in frequent movement breaks.

Suggest rather than criticise (children with ADHD often have low self-esteem)

Provide lots of opportunities for exercise and movement.

Set up a reward scheme to encourage them and support them with their behaviour.

Build on success and help children to pursue more of what they enjoy.

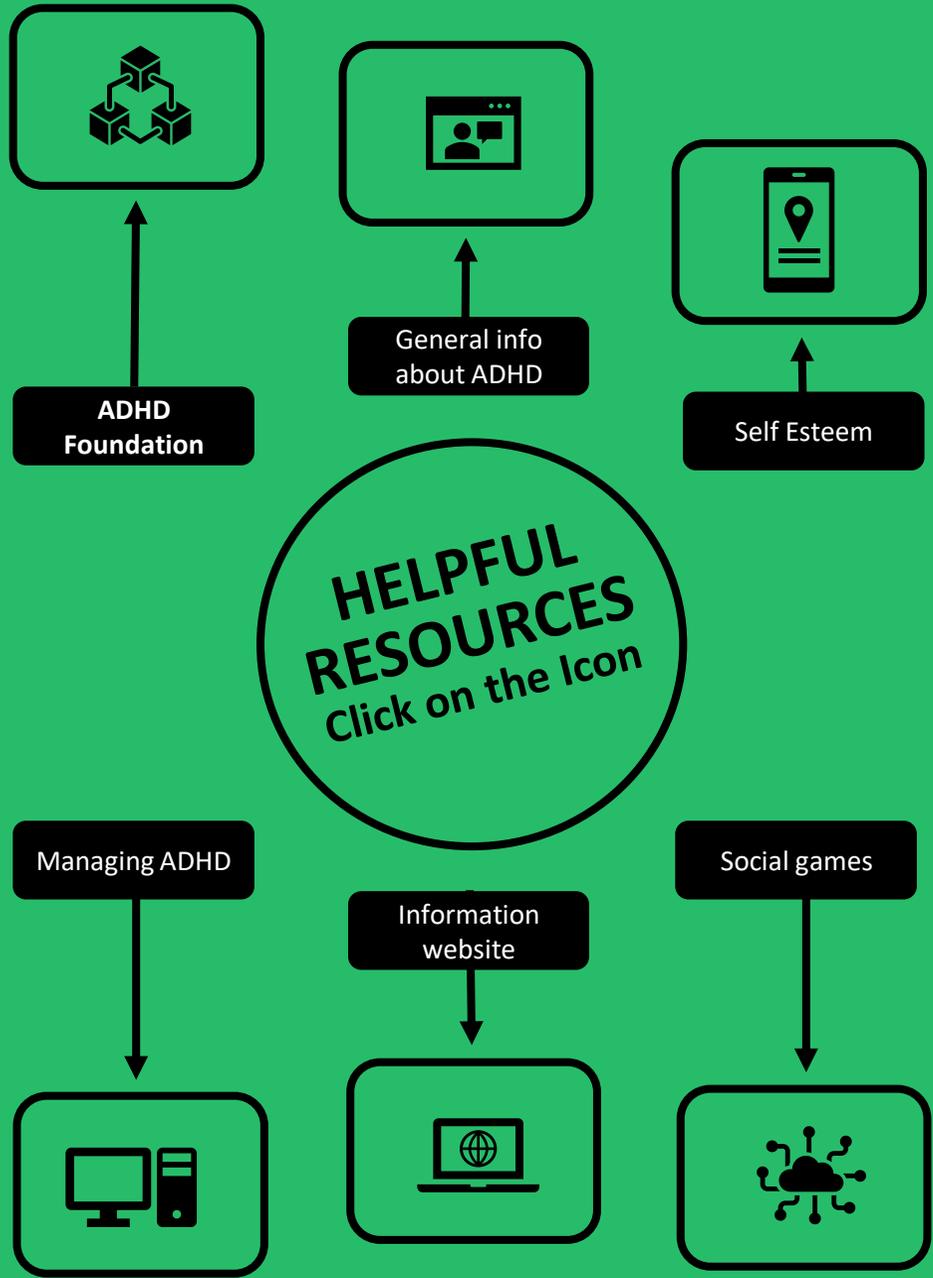
Put clear boundaries in place.

Play games on consoles such as just dance, Wii Sports etc. to get your kids moving

Alan Roberts - CAMHS – ADHD Specialist, is offering support to parents, children and young people with ADHD.

The Advice Line is available Monday to Friday from 9am till 4pm to anyone who needs support and advice.

Telephone: 07717300311



Literacy Difficulties / Dyslexia

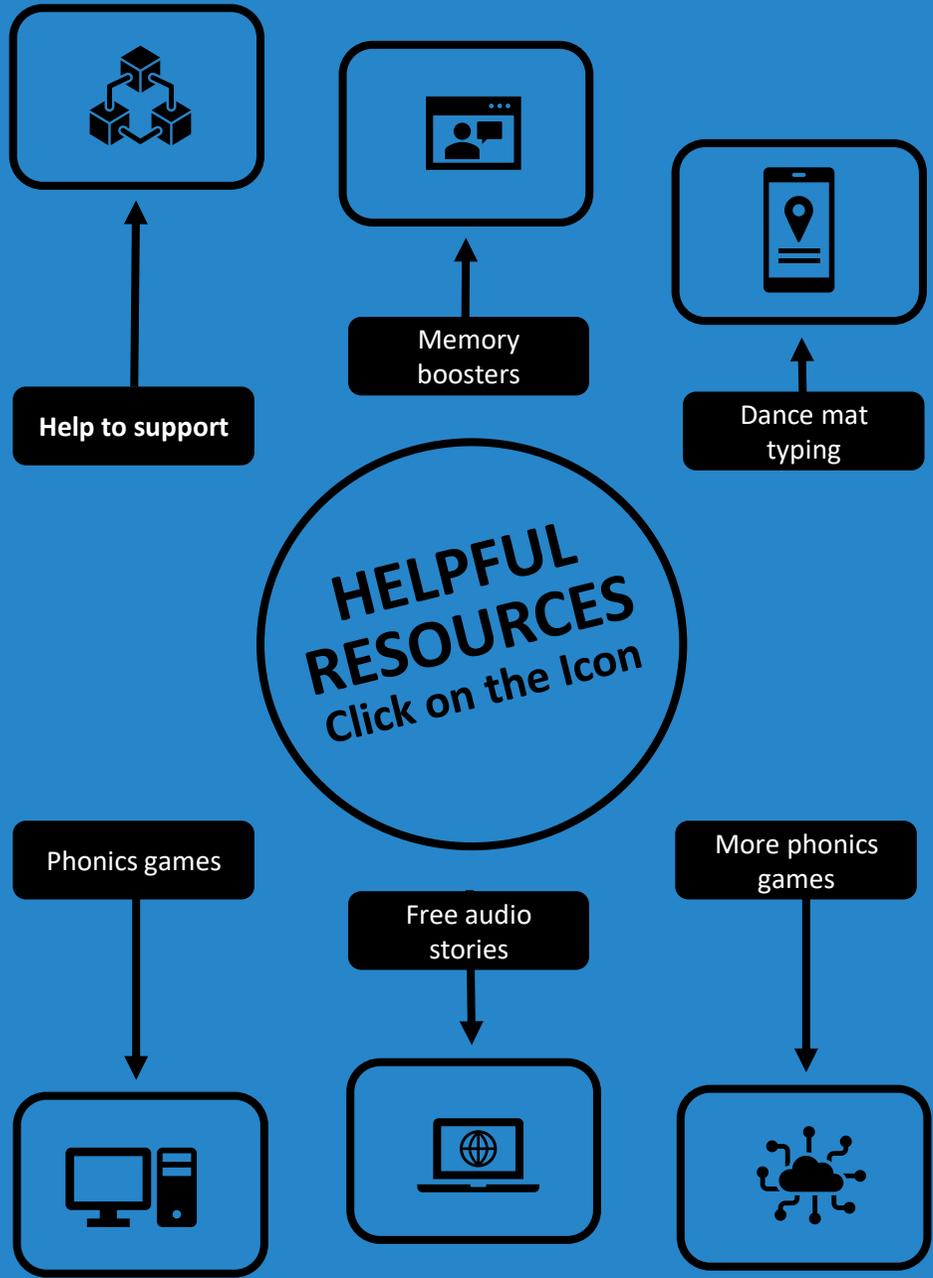
It is important to encourage children to recognise and pursue the areas in which they excel (do more of what they enjoy) and support them with the areas they find difficult.

Allow children to use a word processor to complete some written tasks. This highlights spelling errors and offers alternatives. If they can't type, encourage them to learn, so that they are able to use a Word Processor with more speed and fluency.

Play games to support memory and retention e.g. pairs, Go Fish, Kim game etc. (see resource links for more ideas)

Enable children to access age related audiobooks to develop a love of reading. Encourage (don't force or push) them to share what's happening in the story and share their excitement, wondering aloud what will happen next. This will also develop their vocabulary and comprehension, without them even realising that they are learning.

Don't make reading a fight. Encourage children to read one page and you read the next page. Read some books to them for pleasure and invite them to read a section if they want to (don't push if they don't want to). By developing a love of books and stories children will naturally want to learn how to read, so make the experience as pleasurable as you can.

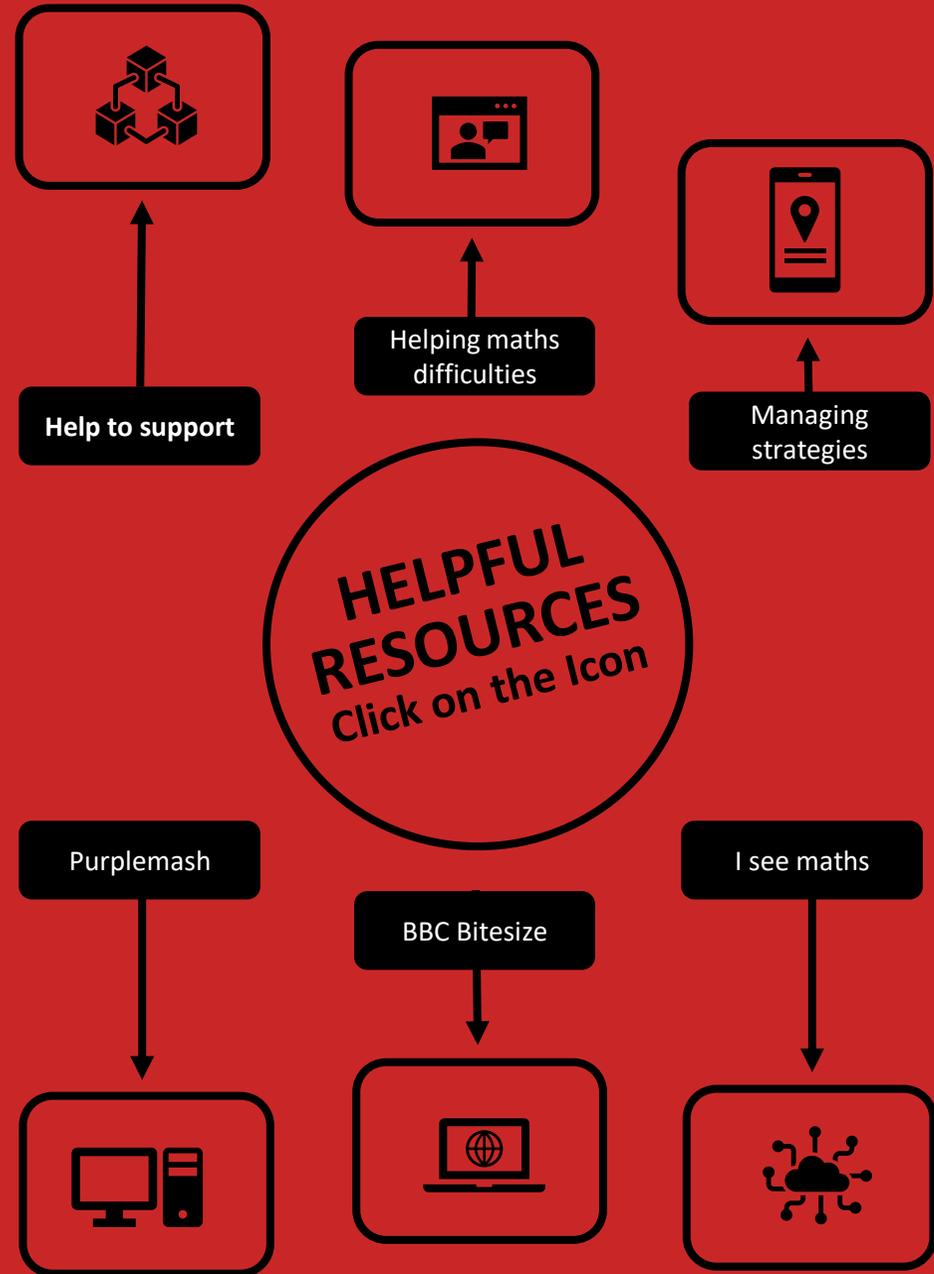


Numeracy difficulties / Dyscalculia

Concentrate on one problem at a time.

Use lots of visuals and physical resources that the children can move around.

Include children in supporting you with everyday maths problems e.g. cooking, measuring, money etc.



Fine and Gross Motor Coordination /Dyspraxia

Allow children to use a word processor to complete some written tasks. If they can't type, encourage them to learn, so that they are able to use a Word Processor with more speed and fluency.

Offer routines and structure

Create a quiet space for them to learn with no distractions.

Give them something to fiddle with whilst you are talking to them or you want them to focus. It can also be helpful to let them move around whilst they listen.

Ask them to do one task at a time

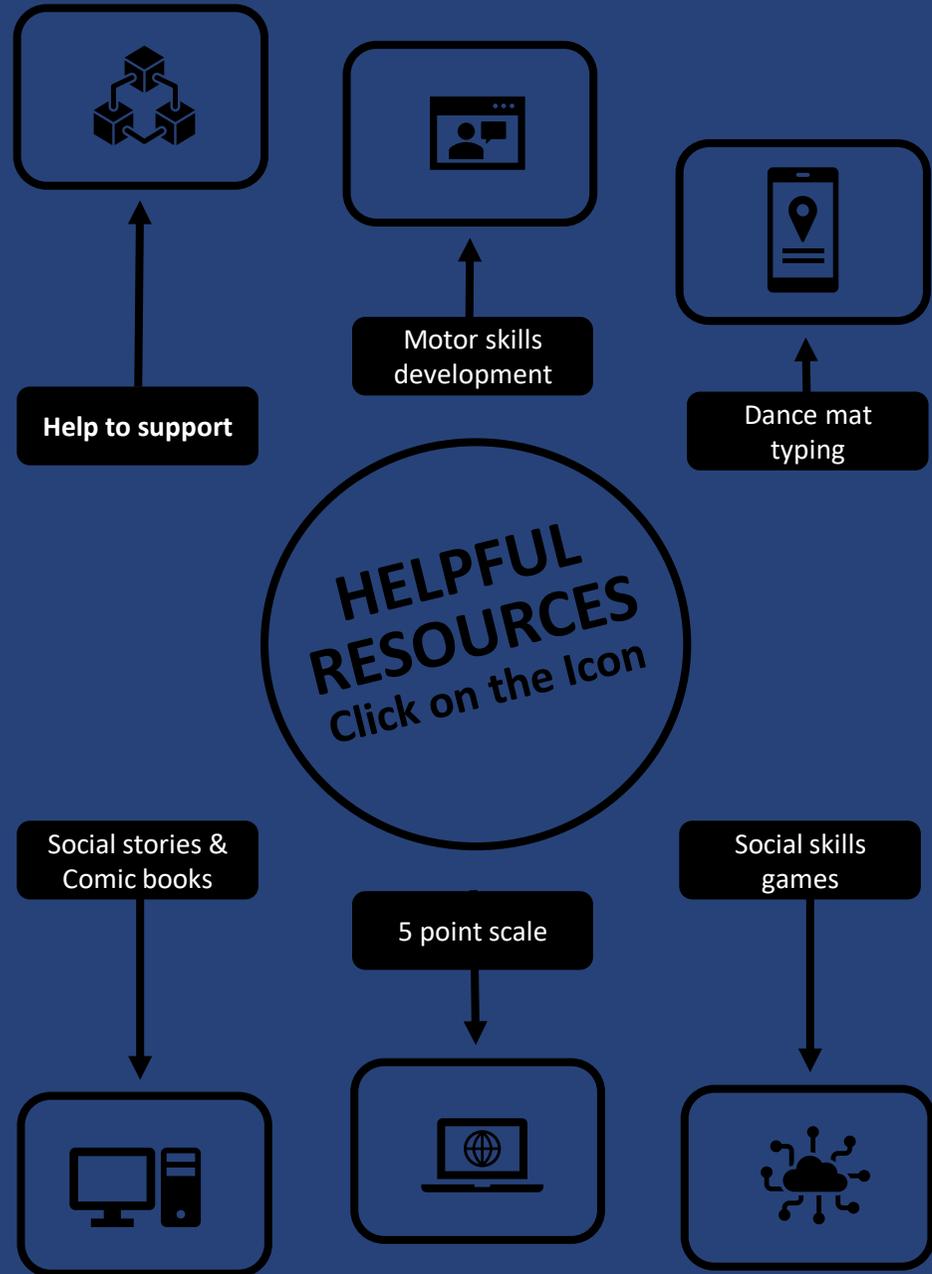
Provide checklists or visual timetables to support organisation.

Use timers to help with time management and build in frequent movement breaks.

Play lots of games with your child to encourage social skills, such as taking turns and winning and losing.

Help your children develop their fine and gross motor skills and core stability.

Dough disco are lovely videos that can be found online. Children can watch and follow along with the actions with some play dough. The exercises are designed to develop the hand muscles and coordination. These exercises can help with fine motor activities like writing.



Speech and Language

Speech sounds

Model speech to the children by repeating words back to them correctly.

Understanding

Give children time to process what you have asked and respond.

Use simple language and break instructions down into smaller steps.

Encourage children to answer questions, such as who, what, where, when and why? When reading their books. Encourage them to tell you the story in their own words.

Expression

Talk about all your experiences in detail, teaching new vocabulary all the time.

Discuss vocabulary in books, making sure the children understand the meaning of tricky words.

Social Communication

Play lots of games with your child to encourage social skills, such as taking turns and winning and losing.

Use a visual timetable and visual aids to provide structure and routines.

