

## Introduction to the SPARK pack

- SPARK stands for School and Parent Advice Regarding Kids. This resource pack has been compiled for use in Primary Schools to help them identify children that have some difficulties with their developmental co-ordination and to provide them with some strategies and activities that can be used immediately. The information can also be used by secondary schools, depending on the needs of the child.
- While the information in this pack is aimed at children with developmental co-ordination difficulties, careful note should be made of the precautionary measures which should be followed. Any activities used should be presented under the discretion of the school staff.
- This information is very general and is not aimed specifically at the individual child. When a child is assessed by our service a report will be written which will include individual advice.
- This pack has lots of practical ideas on how teacher can support children with co-ordination difficulties in the school environment. Please look at the “Signs and Symptoms” listed in **section 2**. If you recognise the specific difficulties listed as relevant for your child please refer to the sections recommended.
- A lot of these children have poor core stability and therefore do not have a stable base to work from when completing many table top activities. This makes tasks involving fine motor skills like writing and cutting and tasks involving gross motor skills like hopping and catching a ball challenging. A child needs to be able to hold themselves upright and sit still at the table to be able to participate in what the teacher is asking them to do. If they are having these difficulties the teacher refer to **section 9** in this pack: Gross Motor Building Blocks for activities that they can do with the children in a SPARK groups. These groups can be used to do activities to develop their core stability and bilateral co-ordination. Fine motor activities can also be included in these sessions. The idea is that they will then be able to come back to the classroom and engage better in the lessons. Ideas of how to structure these groups can be found in **Section 17**. The Occupational Therapy department run courses for teaching staff to support them with running these groups. These Overview of the SPARK Pack and Fine Motor Skills Training days can be booked via [www.hubforeducation.swindon.gov.uk](http://www.hubforeducation.swindon.gov.uk)
- Following the SPARK sessions, if the teacher still has concerns, she can refer to the Occupational Therapists, but we are a specialist provision and often doing the activities from the pack is sufficient. For the process to make a referral, please refer to the flow chart in **Section 3**.
- There is also the SPARK-EY pack, which has activities and ideas for the Early Years setting.

We hope that you will find this pack useful and that both you and the children have fun implementing the advice!