

# Help Sheet

## 0 – 25 Specialist Teaching And Support Service

### How to use motivators to support children with SEND.

#### Why?

- Children with SEND are often highly motivated by specific interests or sensory experiences.
- Children with SEND use their motivators to feel calm and well regulated.



#### You will need:

- To talk to the child's parent/carer about what the child likes to do at home.
- Find or make resources which incorporate the child's motivators.

#### How?

##### Example 1 – Motivated by Spinning.

- Provide time and space to spin.
- Spinning toys in the areas of provision - waterwheel, sand wheel.
- Toys that spin e.g. spinning cogs, spinning top, ribbon sticks.
- Toys that roll e.g. tyres, balls, hoops.
- A spinning chair.
- Use of spinning toys during daily routines e.g. a spinning highchair toy whilst eating lunch.
- Have spinning calming tools (fidget toys) at carpet time.

##### Example 2 – Motivated by Paw Patrol Characters.

- Paw Patrol themed toys, jigsaws, books etc.
- Paw Patrol figures and vehicles in small world, sand or water.
- Paw Patrol soft toy to hug.
- Add pictures of Paw Patrol characters to learning activities.
- Paw Patrol special box to encourage the child to join the class on the carpet.
- Pretend a Paw Patrol toy is talking, eating, drinking, going to the toilet alongside the daily routines.

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- Paw Patrol pictures in the toilet / bathroom to support toileting.
- Paw Patrol plate and water bottle to encourage engagement with eating and drinking.

### Example 3 – Motivated by Dinosaurs.

- Dinosaur themed toys, jigsaws, books etc.
- Dinosaurs in the areas of provision small world, sand or water.
- Mark making with paint on the feet of plastic dinosaurs.
- Messy play with dinosaurs e.g. frozen in ice, jelly swamp.
- An outdoor dinosaur world in a raised bed or tyre.
- Movement games e.g. stomp like a dinosaur.
- Include dinosaurs in learning activities.
- Dinosaur stickers to decorate their exercise book.
- Instead of writing or drawing about the book / topic let the child write or draw about dinosaurs.



### Reference / Evidence base – informed by:

Autism Education Trust - [Autism Education Trust](#)