**Focus Sessions: Building skills together**

For parents of pre-school children with additional support needs

2nd Thursday of the month on Skype for Business

**Time: 10am – 12pm (approx.)**

Sessions will focus on practical strategies and examples of different ways of working with children with additional support needs. There will be the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss ideas together.

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| Date |  Focus session |
| 12th November | **Primary 1 School Application Process**Taking parents of pre-school children through the various steps involved in applying for your child’s first primary school place. We will also discuss the different mainstream and ASN options available in West Lothian. |
| Image result for board maker play10th December  | **Play ideas for children with additional support needs**Activities, toys, sensory play and practical ideas for setting up successful play with children with a range of additional needs.  |
| 14th January | **What is Global Developmental Delay, Intellectual or Learning Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder?**What do these terms mean and what does this means from your child’s brain. |
| 11th February  | **Ways to Support Your Child’s Communication across their day: Understanding**Ways that you can help your child understand what is happening in their day and the words that they hear, this might include using objects, photos, symbols or songs. |
| 11th March  | **Ways to Support Your Child’s Communication across their day: Expression**How your child might already communicate at home and ideas to support their communication development, using strategies such as Sign-a-long, Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), objects, photos, symbols and also simple technology.  |
| 13th May  | **Managing challenging behaviour through Positive Behaviour Support**Discussing why children use behaviours that challenge and help build on your strategies to reduce these behaviours.  |

Places are limited at each of these Focus Sessions so booking is essential.

You will be sent the link for each session you book on to.

**To book your place please email Maria Brown, Development Officer - Early Years / ASN** **maria.brown@westlothian.org.uk**