

Information Sheet for the Parent – BILLY TWO FEATHERS

This story is to help your child get comfortable with the idea that we all learn at different speeds.

In this story Billy Two Feathers has a mild level of Autism – but there are heaps of other reasons why everybody learns at different speeds. Some other reasons for learning slower (apart from Autism or Asperger) could be:

- **Dyslexia** – finding it hard to write and understand words.
- **ADHD** – It is really hard to focus if you can't sit still!
- **Hearing impairment** – especially if it hasn't been picked up!
- **Sight impairment** – as above.
- **Dyscalculia** – This is like dyslexia – but it is to do with understanding numbers & maths
- **Hunger** – or the wrong foods (too much sugar!)
- **Stress / Trauma** – If a child is worried – it is really hard for them to focus on learning.
- & there are lots of other reasons why we all learn at different speeds!

Here are some suggestions you can talk about over the phone or in a letter or visit.

Note: If you are able to make phone calls, then you can read it to them. *“Have you got the story I sent you? Shall we read it together*

- Why was Billy Two Feathers different?
 - ✓ He had no friends & played by himself
 - ✓ His favourite friend was his cat
 - ✓ He talked to himself
 - ✓ He sucked his thumb
 - ✓ He was great at maths
 - ✓ He was brave
- You can ask your child if any of the above things are bad or wrong?
 - ✓ The answer is 'no.' There is nothing bad or wrong with any of the above behaviours.
 - ✓ Remind your child that sometimes if one person does anything a little different to 'everyone' else – people can judge them unfairly or unkindly.
- You can ask them if they know anyone like this at school.
 - ✓ Depending on their answer you can help them think of ways that they can be more kind to this person.
- Ask your child if they find reading, writing or maths hard.
 - ✓ If they struggle with any or all of the above – Ask them if they like: drawing pictures, playing sports, animals, spending time with people – just find something to praise them for.
 - ✓ Always boost their confidence.

& Finally – ask your child to draw a picture of Billy Two Feathers & his cat to send in to you.

This is information for the parent and is not to be sent to the child!