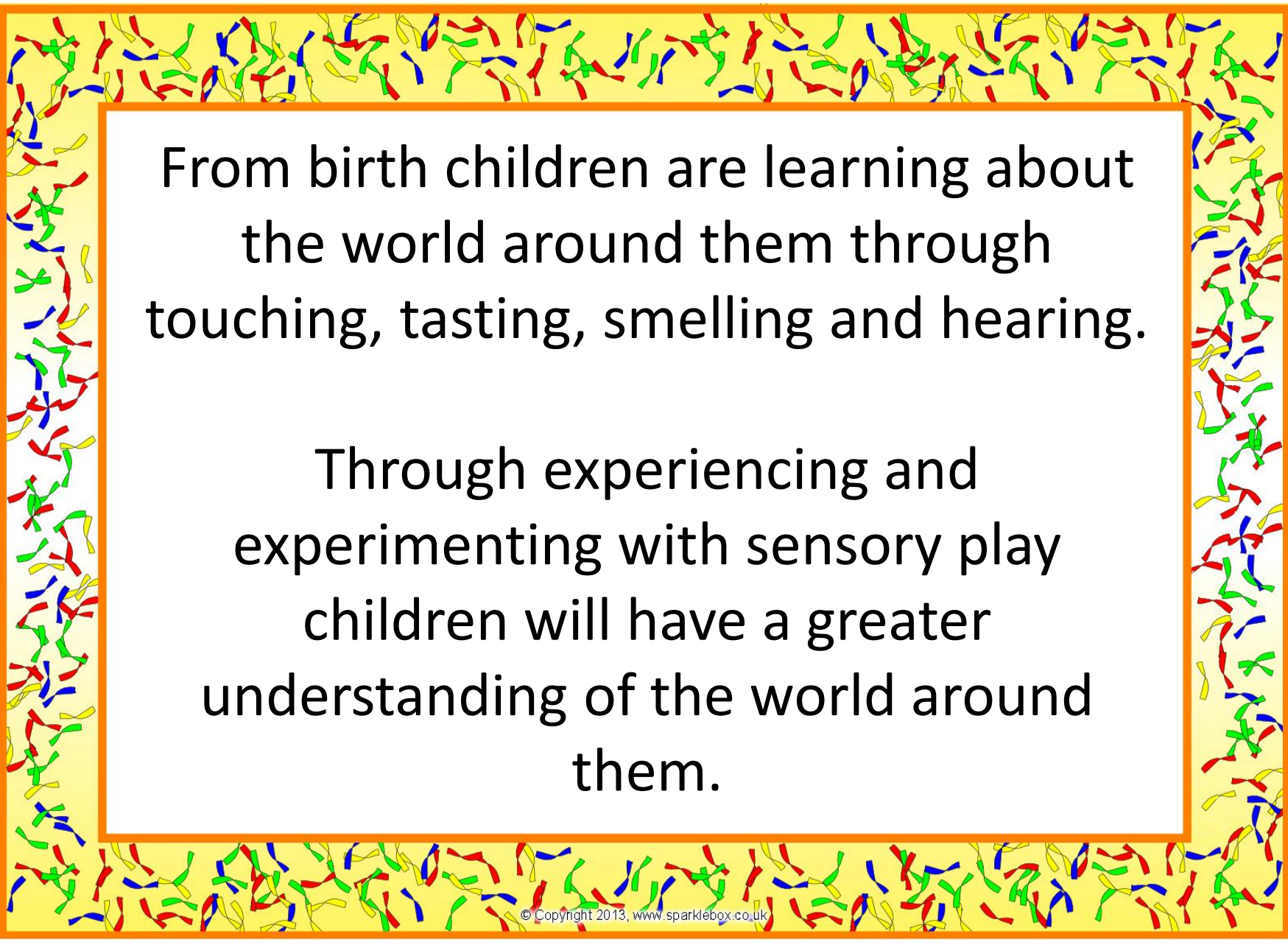




Sensory mark making



From birth children are learning about
the world around them through
touching, tasting, smelling and hearing.

Through experiencing and
experimenting with sensory play
children will have a greater
understanding of the world around
them.



Sensory activities facilitate children's natural curiosity and instinct to explore.

As well as developing both gross and fine motor skills, it also encourages emotional and social development, understanding of basic maths and science concepts and expands their language base.

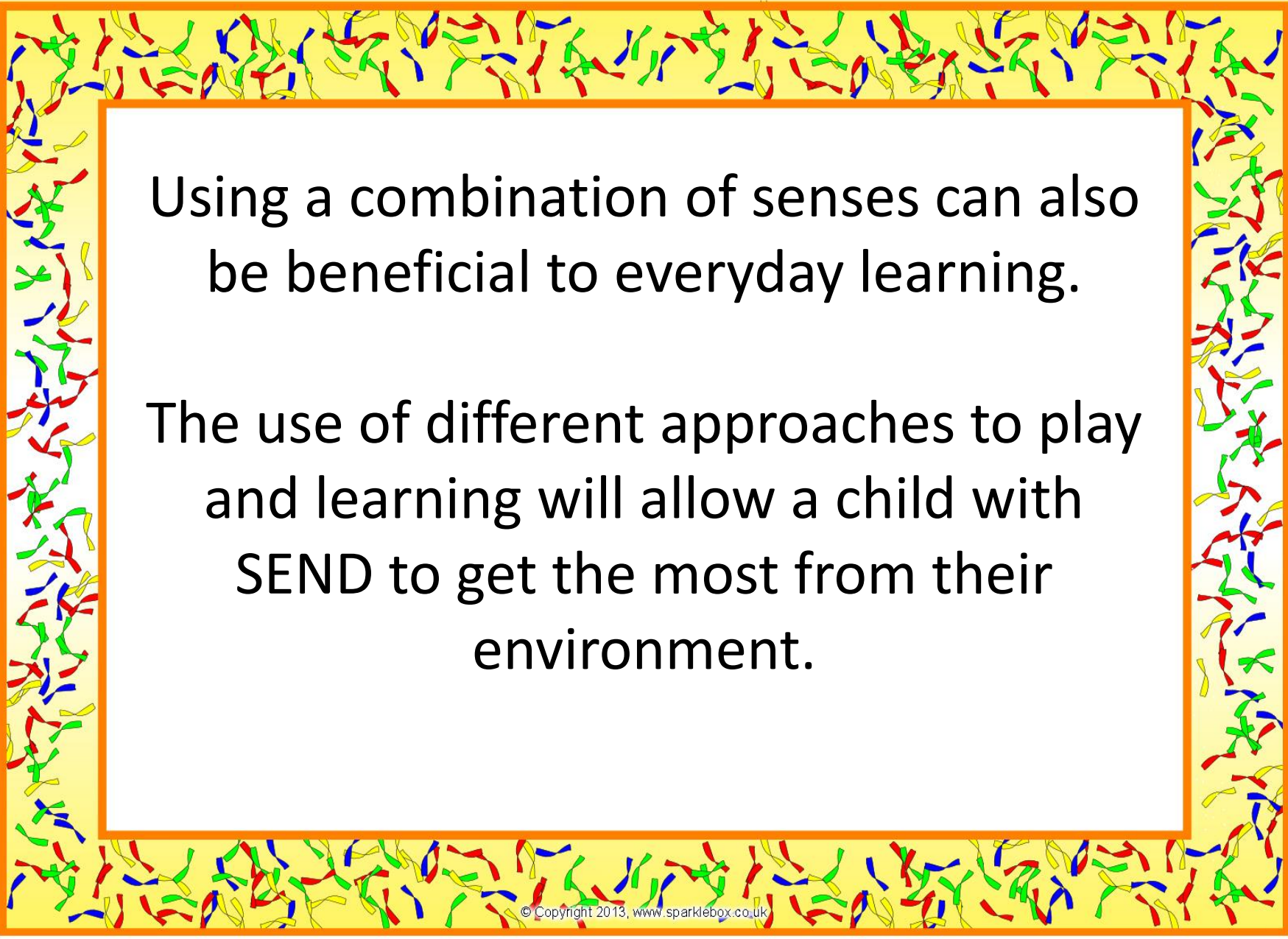
Sensory play for children with SEND

Research shows that sensory play allows children to engage with their environment, develop social skills, language and learn. For children with special educational needs, where a child's ability to learn in the same way as their peers is affected, sensory play can be highly beneficial.

Learning through sensory stimulus

As children learn to use their senses more and more, the better they become at exploring the world via those senses.

For instance, if a child with SEND is more open to tactile learning, then teaching with this in mind will be beneficial to their individual development.



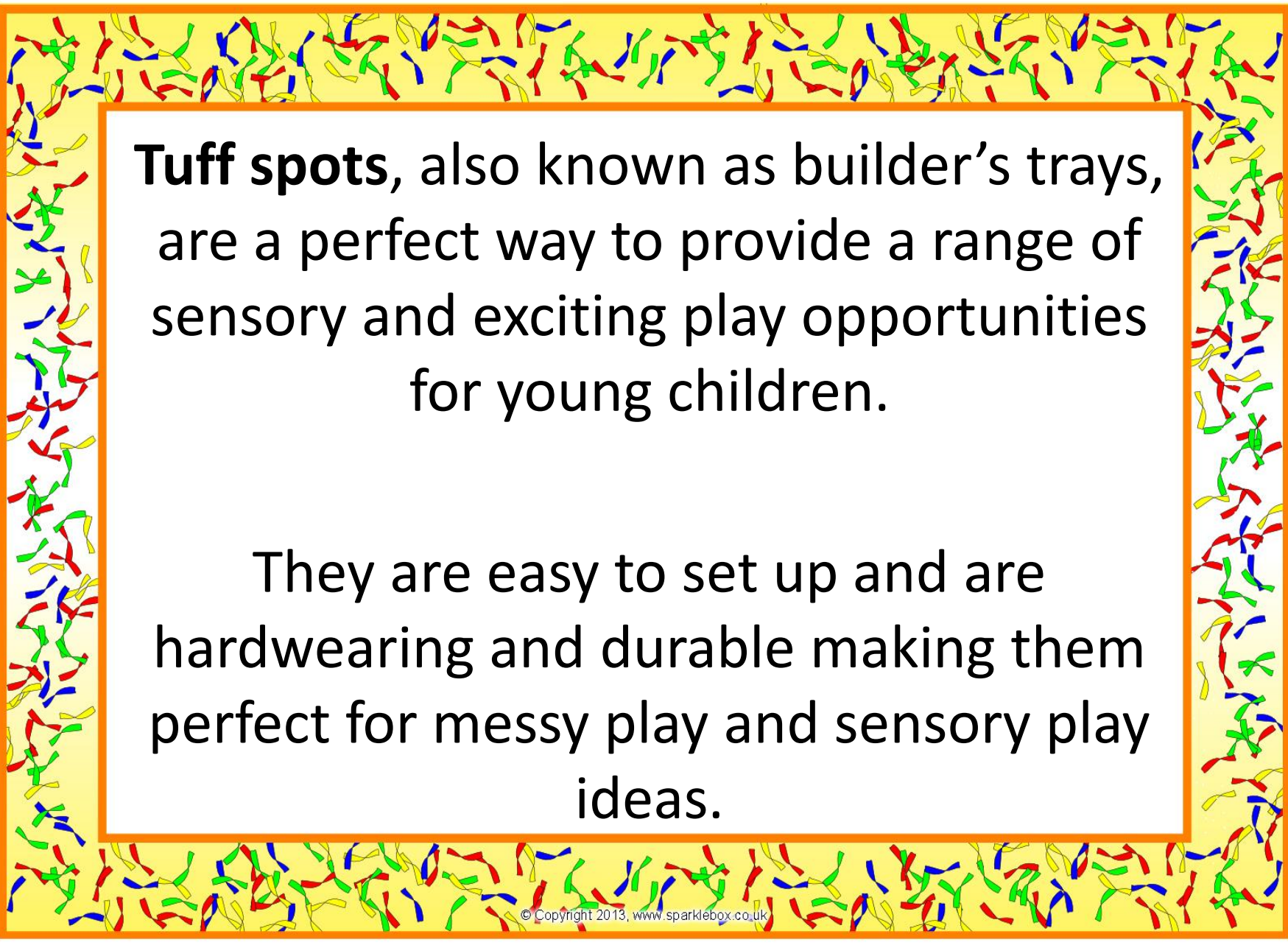
Using a combination of senses can also be beneficial to everyday learning.

The use of different approaches to play and learning will allow a child with SEND to get the most from their environment.

Incorporating sensory play


We are all different and how we learn is different too. Therefore, it is important to recognise, particularly for SEND children, how their needs can be met to give the best learning experience possible.

By incorporating various forms of sensory play into the everyday learning experience we are able to enhance the learning journey of every child.



Tuff spots, also known as builder's trays, are a perfect way to provide a range of sensory and exciting play opportunities for young children.

They are easy to set up and are hardwearing and durable making them perfect for messy play and sensory play ideas.



Tuff spots also provide the opportunity for a group of children to engage together in shared play developing communication and language through shared thinking and ideas.

'Clean Mud' – grated soap, shredded tissue paper, scented essence, food colouring, and water.

Mix together and leave to set over night.

Children will adore the smell and texture of this clean mud.



‘Let it Snow!’ - Artificial snow, silver glitter, sequin snowflakes.



Play sand and glitter.
Ideal to develop early mark making through a fun
and exciting medium using brushes or hands.



Sensory mark making resources

Hair gel and glitter – moves back slowly to its original form

Cotton buds in paint – children can use these before getting their hands in there if necessary

Aqua draw mats - perfect way to introduce mark making without getting messy!

Balls in paint in a Tuff Spot – children have to work as a team to move the balls around.

Lavender and glitter sensory salt – any scented essences can be added to create another experience

Feathers in paint – again another way to experience mark making without getting your hands dirty

Clothes pegs – can be used to hold mark making things, like scrunched up rags or cotton wool balls for children who find sensory play difficult

A wide range of food can be used for sensory experiences - bread crumbs, baked beans, dry or wet spaghetti, dry cereal, icing sugar, salt (coloured with food colouring), raisins, lentils, rice (which can also be coloured), popcorn, oats

Cloud dough - easier than making play dough, this just has two ingredients baby oil and flour! Just mix one cup of oil to 8 cups of flour to make basic dough.

You can also add items from your cooking cupboard to enrich your child's experience like, vanilla essence, food colouring, cocoa powder or spices like cinnamon or turmeric.





