

THINKING

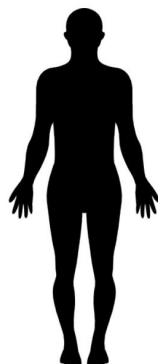
**BOSS OF THE BODY** **Learning about the brain and the nervous system**

Some of the body parts were having an argument about who should be the boss of the body.

The feet said "Since I carry all of you around each day, I should be the boss."

The eyes said "Since I must look out for you all and tell you where the danger is, I should be the boss".

The hands said "Since I do all the work and pick up all the things you need, I should be the boss."



Everyone started to argue about whose job was most important. The brain said nothing but made a decision to cross the legs, close the eyes and fold the arms.

"Oi, who turned out the lights? Turn 'em back on. I want to see what's going on!" demanded the eyes. But they remained closed.

The hands wanted to clap to get some attention but they weren't able to. "Brain give us a hand will you?"

"Only the boss of the body who controls all that goes on can do that." said the brain. The other body parts finally agreed that brain was indeed the boss of the body.

WONDER!

Your brain runs the show but it can't do it alone.

The spinal cord and the nerves - known as the nervous system - send messages flowing back and forth between the brain and body.

How long do you think it takes for a message to be sent from your brain to make your fingers wiggle? It's fast aye! Would the message travel faster or slower if someone gave you a fright? Why do you think this?

The brain relied on information sent by other parts of the body to process information. How do the five senses help the brain?

Can we confuse our brain's messages? Try this activity known as the Stroop Test. Name the colours of the following words. Do NOT read the words rather, say the colour of the words. For example, if the word "BLUE" is printed in a red colour, you should say "RED".



The different information your brain receives causes a problem. A possible reason might be because naming colours requires more work than reading words.

Another way to confuse the brain's messages is to try doing two tasks at once. Can you draw a triangle in the air with one hand and a square with the other? Can you do this on paper? Why do you think this is?

