

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Focus: Taking turns and sharing.

This half term, we will be concentrating on sharing and thinking about why it is important, as well as how it feels to be left out. We will develop an understanding of how to express our feelings. In addition, we will learn how to set up at snack time and practise giving out and placing cups and plates on the table making sure there is enough for everybody. We will continue to understand basic rules such as how many people are allowed at the water tray. We will also continue to develop our skills in tidying up.

How you can help at home:

- Encourage the children to help to set up and tidy away toys and equipment.
- Play games together to demonstrate taking turns and using positive language to reinforce the sharing message.
- At meal times, model cutting food to share such as a whole cake, pizza or fruit.
- Set up an animal tea party and share the cutlery and plates making sure all of the animals have their fair share.
- Involve the children in day to day household chores. Work together to tidy bedroom, make the bed or wash the dishes.

Communication and Language

Focus: Responds to simple instructions.

We will be continuing to develop listening skills to encourage children to follow instructions. We will be teaching the children how to complete a simple that requires them to listen and follow a set of instructions. We will use words such as 'first, next, then and finally.' We might even act out some silly instructions to highlight what happens when you don't listen and then do something in the wrong order. In addition, we will be working with the children to develop the length of their sentences and vocabulary.

How you can help at home:

- Read books with your child to develop good listening skills.
- Play a simple game involving some basic instructions E.g. animal dominos
- Model speaking in a full sentence - e.g. "Can I have grapes please?"
- Give simple instructions for everyday tasks - e.g. getting coat on.



Physical Development

Focus: Climbing and Pincer Grip

We will be focussing on our independence skills such as taking off and putting on our shoes and socks and getting dressed in role play clothes. We will start to do PE sessions in the hall moving around in different ways to mirror how the animals move as well as starting to use the climbing equipment.

In addition, we will be developing our fine motor skills. We will encourage skills which involve threading and pinching using tweezers to pick up small items. We will be providing opportunities for cutting and chopping fruit and our lunch.

How you can help at home:

- Practise taking shoes and socks off and putting them back on.
- Practise getting dressed independently.
- Brushing your teeth E.g. Squeezing the toothpaste on.
- Encourage children to use climbing apparatus at the park.
- Use a knife, fork and spoon at meal times.



Literacy

Focus: Handa's Surprise

This half term, we will continue to listen to and join in with stories and poems. We will use our key text, Handa's Surprise, to describe main events and characters in the story. We will think about asking questions from the text such as: who is Handa? Where do you think she might live? Why do you think that? Where is she going to? Which animals took the fruit?

How you can help at home:

- Read with you child different stories and poems.
- Talk about what is happening in the story. What might happen next?
- Use puppets or favourite teddy to add focus to story time. Look for props around the home to act out the story e.g. fruit and a basket

Maths

Focus: Sorting, Pattern and Positional Language

This half term, we will be concentrating on sorting objects by colour, pattern and shape. We will use our theme of animals to recognise repeating patterns and start to create our own. We will also develop understanding of positional language such as: on top of her head, under the tree, next to the house.

How you can help at home:

- Sorting different types of food. Fruit in the fruit bowl.
- Counting objects around the home, fruit in the bowl, toy animals in the toy box.
- Play positional language games E.g. Put teddy on the bed, put teddy under the table.



Understanding the World

Focus: Animal's habitats and animals and their young.

This half term, we will be learning all about animals. We will think about what the babies of animals are called and how they look different and the same to their parents. In addition, we will be looking at where animals live.

Key Vocabulary:

- Home
- Babies
- Adult
- Young
- Habitat
- Hot
- Cold

Key Knowledge:

- Animals have babies.
- Baby animals sometimes have different names.
- A baby cow is called a calf.
- A baby sheep is called a lamb.
- A baby lion is called a cub.
- Baby animals sometimes look the same and sometimes look different to their adult animals.
- Animals live in lots of different places.
- Animals are different so they can live where they do.

Expressive Art and Design

Focus: Animal patterns, textures and animal movements

We will be exploring colour and pattern by looking at the animals different skins. We will use lines and circles to paint represent different animals. We will use dancing to show how animals move.

Key Vocabulary:

- Colour
- Spots
- Pattern
- Stripes
- Smooth
- Rough
- Spiky
- Furry
- Soft

Key Knowledge:

- Animals look different.
- A pattern is something that is repeated.
- We use lines to show a shape.
- Some lines and circles join together.
- The music tells me how fast or slow to move.
- An elephant moves slowly.
- A lion moves quickly.
- I need to make my body tall to be a giraffe.