

Our learning in Saplings - Autumn festivals - 2023

In Saplings we follow the children's lead and interests in their play. For this age it is the most effective way of encouraging children's learning especially for the development of Speech and language. Staff are responsive to the children's attempts at play and communication and join in with their play. Our curriculum gives our children new experiences to build on their play.

In Communication and language we will :

- Listen to a focused story each week and understand what is happening with the help of pictures.
- Use themed chatterboxes- to introduce new words and help put words together.
- Develop pretend play- Through going on imaginary journeys on a train, bus or rocket, playing in the home corner and role play including princess or firemen .

In physical development we will be:

- Climbing in and out of boxes as we go on adventures in cars, trains and to the moon.
- Learning to use a range of tools to dig up hidden vegetables in mud and sweep autumn leaves.
- Try a range of different food during snack time and at our harvest supper.
- Dancing and clapping to music as we celebrate autumn festivals.

In Personal, Social & Emotional development we will be:

- Settling into the routine with the help of a visual time table and be able to explore Saplings confidently.
- Learning how to be a helpful member of our group through tidying up and clearing up our own snack things.
- Learning how to label our feelings using words and makaton signs during group time.

List of focused books to be explored each week.

- Goat goes to playgroup
- Hey Diddle diddle
- Dig, dump ,roll
- Spot's farm
- The litte red hen
- 5 Little pumpkins
- Red Rockets and rainbow jelly
- Brown bear, brown bear
- We're going on a bear hunt
- Gingerbread man
- Christmas books.



In Maths we will

- Be taking part in finger rhymes
- Sorting vegetables and objects into size
- Practicing and completing inset puzzles.

In understanding of the world we will be

- Exploring autumn by splashing in puddles, using an umbrella in the rain, noticing leaves falling and observing spider webs.
- Join in with family customs and routines - Christmas, Bonfire night and Diwali.
- Making water pathways out of guttering and moving objects down them by pouring water.

In Expressive Arts and Design we will be:

- Building junk models
- Exploring different sounds using the musical instruments.
- Recognizing and mixing autumn colours.
- Dancing to 'There was a Princess long ago.'

In Literacy we will be

- Encouraging the children to copy sounds and actions during rhyme time.
- Mark making using a range of media.
- Using communication friendly spaces to share books and stories.

We will sing a new rhyme each week:

- The Wheels on the bus
- Twinkle, twinkle little star.
- Big, red combine harvester
- Dingle, dangle scarecrow
- Old MacDonald had a farm
- 5 little rockets standing in a row.
- There was a princess long ago
- Teddy, bear, teddy bear
- Christmas songs



How to help your child at home.

- **Speak and sing rhymes with your child.**
- **Play pretend games with your child letting them take the lead.**
- **Share a book with your child.**

ECAT- Every child a talker

The Willows are part of a national strategy called ECAT. The purpose of ECAT is to:

1. Identifying and supporting those who may be at risk of delay.
2. Developing the knowledge and skills of all the practitioners who work within the setting.
3. Helping parents understanding the stages of development of speech and language.

As part of ECAT we adopt a talking tip each term. This term our tip is: Get down to your child's level. This will give your child the chance to make eye contact with you and to watch your facial expressions.

A child's speech, language and communication skills will develop in stages .

Although each child's development is different , children are expected to develop specific skills by a certain age.

Further information can be found at the following websites

- Westberksecat.info
- [Words for life](#)
- [Talking point](#)