

Our learning in Saplings - Spring term- Animals and Seasons - 2024



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 simple story each week and understand what is happening with the help of pictures.
- Provide real life experiences to encourage conversation to develop- bird watching, observing tadpoles change.
- Sensory play- Ice/ snow, mud.
- Use themed Chatterboxes- to introduce new words and help put words together- Dinosaurs, farm and new life.
- Develop pretend play- Small world and dinosaur animal play.

List of focused books

Polar bear, polar bear what do you hear?

A busy day for birds

Dear Zoo

Roar, roar I'm a dinosaur

Chinese new year books

Mr Wolf's pancakes

Elmer the elephant

I love my Mummy

Oi Frog

Oh Dear



In physical development we will :

- Move like different animals- Slither like a snake, hop like a rabbit, gallop like a horse, stamp like a dinosaur.
- Learn to use a range of tools - A spade to plant and dig, a whisk to mix a pancake and scissors to cut.
- Try a range of different food during snack time including chinese food and different pancake toppings.
- Kick, throw and catch a ball



In Personal, Social & Emotional development we will:

- Safely explore emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories. E.g Being scared of the lion in 'Dear Zoo.'
- Learning to be a helpful member of our group through tidying up and clearing up our own snack things.
- Begin to accept the needs of others through sharing and turn taking. Including looking after the birds in the garden.

In Maths we will

- Be taking part in finger rhymes which involve hiding and returning. Like 'Two Little Dicky birds.'
- Compare sizes of animals and birds- Tall giraffe, heavy elephant, tiny mouse.
- React to changes in a group - 5 Little Speckled frogs.
- Notice Patterns- Elmer the elephant, patterned Easter eggs,.

In understanding of the world we will be

- Exploring materials with different properties - Ice, snow, mud , paint and sand.
- Joining in with family customs and routines- Chinese new year, Easter and Shrove Tuesday.
- Developing an understanding of life cycles of frogs, birds and farm animals.
- Celebrating differences in each other by reading Elmer the Elephant.

In Expressive Arts and Design we will be:

Exploring sound using our own sound makers and found objects such as a stick along a fence. Perform sounds using different dynamics, tempo, pitch and rhythm.

Explore colour whilst painting using our fingers and other parts of the body and by making 3D Elmer Elephants.

Dancing and moving to Chinese music.

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: Give your child at least ten seconds to respond to what you have said. 'Thinking time' is very important and will help your child join in with conversation.

In Literacy we will be

- Learning Makaton signs and actions to the songs we are learning for our rhyme challenge.
- Encourage children to make marks to represent their name on art work and craft.
- Develop pretend play around the book of the week- Small world animal play, a Pancake cafe, a vet for Dear Zoo

We will sing a new rhyme each week:

- I'm a little Penguin
- Two Little Dicky birds
- Leo the Lion
- Where's The dinosaur?
- See the dragons dance and prance
- Mix a pancake, stir a pancake
- 5 Green and speckled frogs
- An elephant goes like this and that.
- Humpty Dumpty
- Miss Polly had a dolly

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](http://Wordsforlife)
- [Talking point](http://Talkingpoint)

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.