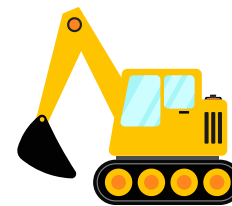


## Our learning in Saplings -Autumn festivals- 2025



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.
- To develop conversation through play inside and outside. Using opening phrases like 'I can see.'
- Develop pretend play - Through going on imaginary journeys on a train, bus or rocket, playing in the home corner and role play including fire men.



### List of focused books

Goat goes to play group  
Good night tractor  
How to brush your teeth with Snappy Croc.  
My digger is bigger  
1,2,3 -A walk in the country side  
We're going on a bear hunt  
Brown bear, brown bear what do you see.  
Red rockets and rainbow jelly  
Stick man  
The Gruffalo  
The Gingerbread man  
Christmas stories

### In Physical development we will

- Climb in and out of boxes as we go on adventures in cars, trains, diggers and buses.
- Learn to use a range of tools to dig, sweep and mark make.
- Try a range of foods during snack time and at our harvest supper.
- Dance and clap to music as we celebrate autumn festivals.

We will be practicing and reinforcing our fine motor skills every day with activities that improve the muscles in our hand using:

Shape sorters  
Dough Play  
Threading  
Building  
Mark making



### 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
- Learn basic hygiene- how to wash your hands and toilet hygiene.
- Begin to learn about healthy choices - teeth cleaning and eating healthy foods.
- Learn how to label our feelings using words and Makaton signs during group times.



## In Maths we will be:

- Using mathematical vocabulary such as 'lots,' 'more,' or 'same.'
- Using phrases that encourage children to notice; 'I can see 2 orange carrots.'
- 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.

## In Expressive Arts and Design we will be:

- Explore and enjoy making sounds- Play music along to rhymes
- Explore paint using different mark making tools including our fingers.
- Explore different materials - using all their senses.
- Dance and move to music as we celebrate autumn festivals.
- Use props in our imaginative play in a home corner or role play shop

## 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: Reduce the number of questions that you ask your child. Instead comment on what your child is doing. (We always say 'Questions test, comments teach.')

This will help your child get a clear model of language without putting pressure on them to speak.

You might like to start your comment with:

'I can see...'  
'I wonder ...'  
'You are.. '  
'You have...'  
'I have noticed ....'

## In Literacy we will be:

- Learning Makaton signs and actions to the songs and rhymes that we sing.
- Taking part in a Rhyme Challenge with Oak class and receptive
- Developing a love of a favourite book and using quiet communication friendly spaces to read them.
- Identifying environmental sounds - through developing listening moments and going on sound walks.
- Making different marks using different materials including natural resources such as stick in a tray of flour.

## We will sing a new rhyme each week

Twinkle, twinkle

Big red Combine Harvester

Down in the jungle where nobody goes  
The Wheels on the bus.

5 Currant buns

5 Little Gingerbread men

Christmas songs.



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

- BBC Tiny happy people.
- Westberksecat.info
- Words for life
- Talking point

## 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.

