Our learning Journey in Saplings- Animals and Seasons - Spring 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 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- Dinosaur names, farm and new life.
- Develop pretend play- Small world and dinosaur animal play.

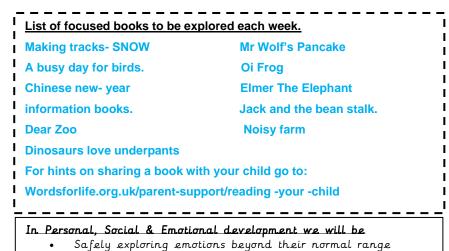


In Physical development we will

- Move like different animals- Slither like a snake, hop like a rabbit, gallop like a horse, stomp like a dinosaur.
- Practice rolling- A ball, ourselves or an egg.
- Try a range of different foods during snack time including different pancake toppings and Chinese food.
- Use sensory circuits
- Use appropriate tools to do a job outside/ inside- A spade to dig, a whisk to mix a pancake or scissors to cut.







- Safely exploring emotions beyond their normal range through play and stories- E.g being scared of the Lion in 'Dear Zoo,' or being cold and hungry in our ice den.
- Learning how to be a helpful member of our group through tidying up and clearing up our own snack things.
- Beginning to accept the needs of others through sharing and turn taking. How do we look after the birds or animals at the zoo.





 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 literacy we will be Learning Makaton signs and actions to the songs we are learning for our rhyme challenge. Encouraging children to make marks to represent their name on art work and craft. Developing pretend play around the book of the week- Small world animal play, Pancake café, a vet for 'Dear Zoo.' 	
 In Understanding of the world we will be Explore materials with different propertities- Ice, Snow, Mud, paint and sand. Joining in with family customs and routines - Chinese new year, Shrove Tuesday and Easter, Understanding the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal- bird, frog and bean. Celebrating differences in each other and by reading Elmer the elephant. 	We will sing a new rhyme each week I'm a little Penguin 2 Little Dicky birds Chinese new Year song An elephant goes like this and that. Where's the dinosaur Mix a pancake 5 green and speckled frogs I went to visit the farm one day. Sing a rainbow.	How to help your child at home.Speak and sing rhymes with your childPlay pretend games with your child letting them take the lead.
 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. Performing sounds using different dynamics, tempo, pitch and rhythms. Explore colour whilst painting using fingers or other parts of the body and by making 3D Elmer elephants. 		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 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 to understand the stages of development of speech and language.

As part of ECAT we adopt a talking tip each term. This term our tip is: Enjoy songs and nursery rhymes together. Repetition and actions will help your child to join in with you.

A child's speech, language and communication skills will develop in stages. Although each child's development can be slightly different, children are expected to develop specific skills by a certain age.

Further information can be found at the following websites

• Dancing and moving to Chinese music.

- Westberksecat.info
- Words for life
- Talking point

