



## Our learning in Saplings - Autumn festivals- 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.
- Use a treasure chatter box for children to fill with items that are special to them to show and talk about to others in Saplings.
- 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.

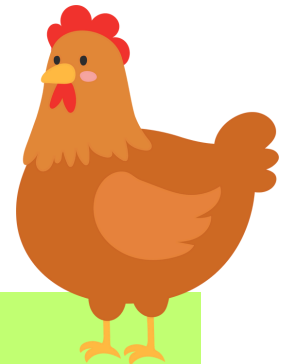
### In physical development we will :

- Climb in and out of boxes as we go on adventures in cars, trains and to the moon.
- Learn to use a range of tools to dig, sweep and mark make.
- Try a range of different food 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.

### List of focused books

Goat goes to Playgroup  
Goodnight Tractor  
My Digger is bigger  
Spot's Farm  
The Little Red Hen  
5 Little Pumpkins  
Red Rockets and Rainbow jelly  
Brown, bear, brown bear  
We're going on a bear hunt  
The Gruffalo  
Gingerbread Man  
Christmas books.



### 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 times.
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## In Maths we will be

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



## In Literacy we will be

- Encouraging the children to copy sounds and actions during rhyme time.
- Taking part in a 'Rhyme Challenge' with Oak class.
- Developing a love of a favourite book and using quiet, communication friendly spaces to read them.
- Making different marks ( lines, circles) - Chalks, water, painting

## 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.

## We will sing a new rhyme each week

The wheels on the bus  
Twinkle, twinkle little star.  
Big, red combine harvester  
Old MacDonal had a farm  
5 Currant buns in a bakers shop  
There was a princess long ago  
Ginger bread man  
Christmas songs.



## 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.'

## 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

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

