



Our learning in Saplings - Summer term- Familiar tales and the ocean - 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.
- To provide real life experiences to encourage conversation to develop- Growing potatoes, looking for mini beasts, Sensory play- Sand, water, mud.
- Use themed chatterboxes - to introduce new words and help put words together- Pirate's treasure box, lifecycle of a butterfly, Holidays.
- Develop pretend play- Goldilock's cottage, Super hero rescue missions, Going on holiday.



List of focused books

- Goldilocks and The Three bears
- The Hungry Caterpillar
- Billy goat Gruff
- The Three Little Pigs
- Super worm
- Hide and Seek pig
- Peace at last
- Mr Gumpy's Outing
- Barry the fish with fingers
- Octopus Socktopus
- Spot goes on holiday
- 10 Little Pirates
- You Choose

In physical development we will :

- Making large muscle movements as we use the parachute, ribbons or water painting.
- Building strength, control and coordination as we walk and run on the school field.
- Fit ourselves into spaces like tunnels, dens and boxes as we make boats, aeroplanes and buses to fit in and act out adventures.
- Use appropriate tools to do a job outside/ inside- A spade to dig, scissors to cut grass or herbs in the garden.



In personal, Social & Emotional development we will:

- Confidently exploring our surroundings including the school field for picnics with the support of familiar adults.
- Making healthy choices about the food we eat as we sample Goldilock's porridge and make fruit kebabs for The Hungry Caterpillar.
- Safely exploring emotions beyond their range through play (Wolf, the scary bears, the hungry shark.) and labelling emotions using 'The Colour Monsters.'
- Growing in independence as we learn to put on our own coat and shoes, use the toilet and get ready for the transition to nursery.
- Playing turn taking games such as rolling a dice, playing hide and seek and blowing bubbles.

In Maths we will be:

- Developing fast recognition of 3 objects, without having to count them individually, (Subitising)- 3 Bears, 3 Little pigs, 3 Billy Goats Gruff.
- Building with a range of materials- A house for The 3 Little Pigs, a bridge for The 3 Billy Goat Gruffs.
- Noticing patterns on butterflies and caterpillars and using informal language to describe them.- Strippy, spotty.
- React to changes in a group - 5 Little Ducks, 10 Little Pirates.

In Literacy we will be

- Learning Makaton signs and actions to songs.
- Identifying environmental sounds through playing sound games or going on sound walks.
- Developing a love of a favourite book and using quiet, communication friendly spaces to read them inside and outside.
- Making different marks (lines, circles) - Chalks, water, painting

In Understanding of the world we will :

- Explore changes around them gardening, jumping in puddles, digging up worms, bug hunting.
 - Join in with customs- Father's day.
- Understand the key features of the life cycle of a butterfly and what a plant needs to grow.
- Explore and respond to the natural environment- Adding water to sand, digging in mud, smelling flowers and herbs.

We will sing a new rhyme each week

When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears.
This Little Piggy went to Market.
Incy Wincey Spider
There's a worm at the bottom of the garden
Baa baa black sheep.
Teddy bear, teddy bear turn around
Row, row your boat
5 Little Octopi Jumping on the bed.
We're going this way that way.
5 Little fishes swimming in the sea.

In Expressive Arts and Design we will :

- Explore and enjoy making sounds- Play music along to rhymes.
- Explore paint using hands, fingers and other body parts as well as brushes.
- Dance and move to music as we pretend to turn from Caterpillars to Butterflies or be fish or sharks.
- Use props in our imaginative play in a role play shop or house.

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](#)

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:

'Your words build their world'
(BBC Tiny happy people)

Communication skills are important for life. Every time you play, talk or sing with your child you are building their brain.

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.

