

Acorns Curriculum Newsletter - Summer 2010

This half term we are investigating Spring, growth and change and next half term our theme will be travel, holidays and the seaside. Below, under the six areas of learning, is an indication of our activities; however we do aim to be flexible in our planning, taking into account the experience and interests of the children. Please remember that library books are changed every Tuesday and PE takes place on some Monday mornings and every Thursday afternoon.

Communication, Language and Literacy

We will be reading a variety of stories and non-fiction books related to our theme. Reception (F2) children will follow a daily phonics programme, to strengthen their reading and spelling skills, and our Nursery (F1) children who are ready will be carrying out simple activities to prepare them for learning letters and sounds. We will practise handwriting and there will be many opportunities for mark making and emergent writing during child initiated activities.

Creative Development

The children's creative development will be encouraged through singing songs and playing musical instruments. They will have lots of opportunities to engage in small world play, such as farm animals, and the train set. There is also a workshop, where they can paint, draw and make models. We aim to provide a variety of sensory experiences, both indoors and outside, encouraging the children to express their feelings and preferences. We endeavour to introduce the children to a variety of media, including paint, pastels and collage. Our role-play areas will be set up as a flower shop, a garden centre, an aeroplane and a 'seaside'.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This term we will be growing beans, peas, lettuce and flowers in our garden patch and pots. We will be looking at and naming the different parts of plants as they grow. We already have some tadpoles to observe and will soon be having some butterflies too. These will enable us to explore life-cycles in a simple way. We will also be investigating how the children themselves have changed, from babies to now. Each week, the K UW table has a different content, to encourage exploration and investigation. The children are encouraged to observe similarities and differences, and to ask questions about why things happen and how things work. We use ICT and programmable toys to support and enhance the children's learning.

Problem solving, Reasoning, Numeracy

The children will sing counting songs and rhymes on a daily basis, and we will be using the interactive whiteboard to familiarise them with numbers and counting. There are a wide variety of resources in our maths area, where the children can explore weighing, sorting, shape and pattern. We will be sorting and counting seeds and using them to investigate capacity. Our flower and collage work will involve 2D shape. The children are encouraged to solve practical number problems as part of our everyday routines, e.g. counting the plates and cups needed for snacktime.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This aspect of learning will be continually reinforced in our daily routines, for example during snack time, where the children will learn to share, take turns and show respect for each other's needs. There are many opportunities for co-operative play, both with table-top games indoors and on a larger scale with construction toys outside. We also encourage the children to select and use resources independently, and to dress and undress by themselves. There will be regular "circle" times to discuss particular themes where the children will be encouraged to express their own views and feelings and to be sensitive towards the views and feelings of others. We will be talking about our families and relationships with others.

Physical Development

During PE sessions in the hall, the children will be developing their skills with bats, balls, hoops and beanbags. They will continue to develop their gross motor skills during outdoor learning sessions, e.g. playing on the bikes and digging the garden. We will be handling simple tools such as scissors and paintbrushes on a daily basis. We will be helping the children to recognise the importance of keeping healthy and what this means, during snack time and PE lessons.