



Sunflowers

Spring Term 1 Overview

Our theme this half term is: Colours

Area of Learning	Our key focus:	Things to do at home to help:
<p>Personal Social and Emotional Development</p>	<p>As we welcome 9 new children this half term, we will be getting to know our new friends. We will sing hello and goodbye songs to help learn our friend's names.</p> <p>We will be getting to know our class rules and routines.</p> <p>There are lots of new routines to learn and new activities to try. We provide help and support when new challenges arise, but we always encourage children to have a go.</p> <p>We will play simple stop and wait games, to help learn how to control our impulses.</p>	<p>Turn taking is an important skill that requires lots of practise and repetition. Play my turn, your turn games with your child, for example, rolling a ball or pushing a car to each other. Why not involve siblings or other family members.</p>
<p>Communication and Language</p>	<p>This half term focus stories will be 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?' by Eric Carle and 'Wow Said the Owl' by Tim Hopgood. We will encourage the children to name the colours in the stories, guess what is coming next and to join in with repeated refrains.</p> <p>We will sing songs every day. Our focus nursery rhymes this half term will be 'Twinkle, twinkle little star', 'Baa, baa, black sheep' and 'baa baa pink sheep'.</p>	<p>Share a book with your child each day. Reading to your child plays a large roll in language development. Read the words to your child but also encourage them to talk about the pictures and the story.</p> <p>Sing our focus nursery rhymes with your child at home. It would be great if they could sing them on their own by the end of the half term. I have included a couple of links in case you are unsure of the words or tune.</p> <p>Baa baa black sheep https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppo-BWS_bio</p>

We use the words **now** and **next**, visual prompts and simple Makaton signs when we talk about what we are doing throughout the session. This helps the children to begin to sequence the day, and also understand when transitions are coming, and why tidying up time is happening.

Baa, baa pink sheep

This will be sung to the same tune as above with the words:

Baa, baa pink sheep have you any spots?

Yes sir, yes sir lots and lots!

Some on my fingers, and some on my toes

And some on the end of my little pink nose!

Twinkle, twinkle little star

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-twinkle-twinkle-little-star/zds6jhw>

Show and give your child choices throughout the day. This could be about what they can have to eat, for example "yoghurt or banana" Encourage your child to respond.

Talk to your child. Comment on something you can both see, what they are doing or what is happening. Use simple language. Repeat what you say, toddlers need to hear words and sentences lots of times to understand and learn new words. Build on what they say, so if your child says 'bus' you say 'yes, big bus'.

Talk to your child about their day in nursery. We post lots of photographs on class dojo, these could be a good starting point to get your child talking.

Dummies can get in the way of talking. Try and keep them just for when they are tired or sleep times.

Encourage your child to greet their teachers with the word hello or a wave.

Physical Development

Moving and handling

We will spend time each day in our outdoor area, where we will enjoy using gross motor equipment such as the bikes, scooters, slide and rockers.

We will play the traffic light game. We will start with running, then try moving in a range of different ways for example crawling, jumping etc.

We will also develop our fine motor skills through the use of tweezers, playdough, threading and practising our pincer grip during messy play opportunities.

Health and self-care

We encourage the children to sit at the table for snack time. All children have the opportunity for a drink, a piece of fruit and toast. Children will have the opportunity to make choices and express their likes and dislikes. We support children to drink from an open top cup.

Children are encouraged to become independent in taking off their coat and hanging it on their peg and as children become ready, we will teach them to put on their own coat. We will support with toileting and potty training.

Moving and handling

At home you can help by

- Getting active at the park- climbing, riding a bike, scooter .
- Can you practise hopping, jumping, skipping, crawling etc. -
- Playing with large balls encourage kicking, catching and throwing.
- Encourage drawing and colouring activities.
- Play with playdough .
- Have a go threading, some easy threading ideas are:
 - chunky pasta onto string.
 - Cheerios onto dry spaghetti or pipe cleaners.
 - pipe cleaners into a colander.

Health and self-care.

Teach your child how to wash their hands.

Teach your child how to take off their own coat. If they can already take their coat off, then teach your child how to put on their coat. We will upload a video onto class dojo showing you a method that we use in school.

Teach your child how to drink from an open top cup.

If your child is not yet potty trained, begin to introduce your child to the potty at home. Below is a couple of useful links:

When to start potty training:

<https://www.eric.org.uk/when-to-start-potty-training>

Top ten potty training tips:

<https://www.eric.org.uk/top-10-potty-training-tips>

<p>Literacy</p>	<p>We will enjoy lots of early mark making activities including mark making in ketchup, custard, sand and foam, chalking and painting.</p> <p>For early phonics activities we will continue to focus on experimenting with musical instruments. We will use instruments to play along to songs and rhymes. We will try making loud and quiet sounds and practise playing our instruments fast and slow. We will also attempt to copy simple rhythms. We will play games where we will have to guess which instrument or sound maker we can hear.</p>	<p>Provide your child with a range of mark marking opportunities. For example.</p> <p>Bubbles: Bubbles in the bath can be so much fun. Children can use their fingers to swirl the bubbles around and make patterns and marks. Making marks on a steamy mirror can be great fun too!</p> <p>Finger painting: thick paint can be placed in a tray - children can use their fingers to experiment with this sensory activity.</p> <p>Draw and paint with your child, tell them what you're doing.</p> <p>When you're writing lists or filling in forms let your child have their own paper or forms so that they can make their own marks.</p> <p>Fill a baking tray with a layer of shaving foam, salt, flour, or glitter. Show your child how to draw simple pictures. Encourage them to copy you.</p> <p>Play a listening and copying game, using a small set of instruments or pots, pans and spoons. Play a sound for your child to copy. Try creating loud and quiet sounds and also some simple sound patterns if you can.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>We will take part in daily counting activities. For example, counting as we are building towers, counting how many slices of fruit we have at snack time, counting how many children are in school today etc. We will represent numbers using our fingers.</p> <p>We will sort objects by colour and count and compare the sets.</p>	<p>Count as part of your daily routine, for example when walking up the stairs, when building towers, or how many items they have on their plate. Enjoy singing counting rhymes together and encourage your child to represent the numbers using their fingers.</p> <p>Encourage your child to sort objects/toys according to colour.</p>
<p>Understanding the World</p>	<p>We will be developing our classroom display entitled 'My family'. We ask if you could please send in photographs of important family members for us to include on the display.</p>	<p>Look at photographs with your child. Encourage your child to talk about the photos. Can your child name the people in the photographs? Why they</p>

	<p>We will enjoy colour hunts around the school.</p> <p>We will take part in simple colour changing science experiments, such as colour changing flowers.</p>	<p>are special to them? Where was the photo taken? What is happening in the photograph?</p> <p>Go on a colour hunt around your house or your local area. Choose a colour how many objects of that colour can you find?</p>
<p>Expressive Art and Design</p>	<p>We love to be creative in the sunflowers room. We will take part in activities that promote role play, drawing and painting, building, collaging, dancing and music making.</p>	<p>Have fun painting together, name the colours as you paint. Explore what happens when the colours mix.</p> <p>Make icing sugar to decorate plain biscuits. Explore what happens when food colouring is added to the icing.</p> <p>Dance along to music together at home.</p>