

## Maths

**Number:** Create counting opportunities as part of your everyday routines, eg. counting apples as you put them in a bag when out shopping, etc.

**Shapes:** Shapes are all around us. Help your child to spot shapes around your home and when you are out and about.

Make pictures and patterns using paper shapes.

## Expressive Arts & Design

Explore a variety of colours & textures through Spring art activities.



## Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Role Play is an important way that young children make sense of the world they live in, but it can be difficult for children on the Autistic Spectrum. Help your child build up some simple role play sequences such as answering the phone & saying 'hello' pretending to Hoover or feeding teddy. Encourage your child to take turns with you when playing with a favourite activity. It could be an iPad game, rolling a ball or cuddling a teddy.

## Pine and Cedar Group Activities at Home

Our theme for this term is



'Stories and Songs'

## Communication & Language

Give your child a way of asking for what they want. If your child has particular foods, drinks or toys that they want regularly give them a way of requesting them that a stranger could understand, eg. teaching them to pass you a photo or symbol of the cereal they want or to pass you a cup if they are thirsty. Please ask for any symbols you need and we will make them up for you.

For children who are confident with making simple requests start to introduce them to 'subject-verb-object' sentence strips. eg. 'mummy pour milk' or 'daddy open door'. Again please ask if you would like us to provide resources for this.

Don't forget to create communication opportunities and motivation. eg. if you are blowing bubbles together encourage your child to communicate that they want you to blow more by passing you a bubble photo/ symbol.

## Understanding the World

Now the children are settled in school we are beginning to go out on local walks and bus trips. Children with Autism can become anxious when visiting unfamiliar places, so the visits are planned to help familiarise them with a variety of new situations.

Once Spring arrives plant some seeds and watch them germinate and grow. Edible flowers such as pansies, sunflowers and herbs can make this more accessible for children who have a tendency to put things in their mouths. There are lots more ideas at [www.theedibleflowershop.co.uk](http://www.theedibleflowershop.co.uk)

## Literacy

**Reading:** Look at books together; choose books that your child is motivated by. Some children aren't interested in children's books, but may enjoy looking at recipe books or catalogues. We introduce stories with lots of rhyme and repetition at school to encourage the children to join in. Point to the pictures as you share a book and help your child to hold the book the right way up and turn the pages appropriately. Enjoy sharing songs and nursery rhymes with your child too.

**Writing:** Encourage your child to 'mark make' using a variety of tools and materials. eg. chalks, finger paints, crayons, sand, etc.

## Physical Development

Help your child to dress and undress themselves. We will be practising these important skills when we go to PE and start swimming after the half term break.

Practise developing ball skills with your child. You could make rolling, throwing and catching into a simple turn taking game.