

Maths

At school we encourage your child to learn about number through play activities. At home you can do the same by making the most of a variety of counting opportunities in everyday life. eg. counting fruit into a bag when out shopping, or number of trees you pass, when out on a walk. You can also point to numbers when you are out and about, eg. door numbers, numbers on road signs or car registration plates.

You can also encourage your child to learn more about numbers through singing number rhymes and songs, eg. 5 little speckled frogs, 5 little ducks went swimming one day, etc.

When your child is eating take the opportunity to introduce the concept of 'one' and 'lots'. eg. 'Would you like '1' chocolate button or 'lots' of chocolate buttons?' If you would like symbols to help communicate 'one' and 'lots' please do let us know.

Expressive Arts and Design

Now the weather is becoming brighter make the most of your outside environment to encourage mark making opportunities. eg. chalking on the patio, using a paint brush with water to mark make on the ground or walls, using sticks to mark make in sand, etc.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Continue to help your child develop their role play skills. Small world toys can be good for this. Help your child by modelling a simple sequence and encouraging them to copy, eg. put a small world person in a car and push the car along a road track or sit a small world person at a table in a dolls house for tea, then in the bath and bed.

At school we are helping your child to regulate their emotions, which can be difficult for children on the autism spectrum. When cross, frustrated, anxious or sad, children can exhibit behaviours and need support to calm down. You will have developed strategies you use at home to help your child in these situations. It also helps to label the emotion your child is showing so that they can begin to gain some understanding of what they are feeling. eg. 'You're feeling sad/ cross, you need a cuddle/ some space' etc. If you would like a set of symbols to help communicate emotions with your child please do let us know.



Pine and Cedar Group Activities for Home Summer 2016

Communication and Language

Try to find the time to play alongside your child to encourage them to share attention with you by 'mirroring' their actions and letting them take the lead in 'shared' activities, eg. copying each vocalisation they make, copying actions, etc. This helps give your child the message that interaction can be relaxed and enjoyable and over time helps develop communication skills.

Continue to encourage your child to request things they want by putting them out of reach. There might be particular foods, drinks or toys, your child regularly enjoys that they could be encouraged to ask for by passing you a photograph or picture symbol of the item. Please do let us know if you would like us to make up particular symbols for use at home.

If your child is confident with making simple requests and has been introduced to 'subject-verb-object' sentences at school, eg. 'daddy-give-biscuit' or 'mummy-read-story' please discuss this with us so that we can support you at home and provide any symbols and sentence strips you might need.

Understanding the World

This term our topic is 'Out and About' and we will be making the most of the better weather to explore our local environment visiting a variety of places including pet shops, supermarkets, farm parks and Whipsnade Zoo, as well as going on local walks.

You could do the same in your local area, maybe visiting a play park or shop you haven't been to before, or going for a local walk. You could also try a visit to your local library to borrow some books.

Literacy

It is very important to carry on sharing a variety of books with your child; looking at the pictures together and talking about them, as well as reading the text. If you do visit your local library, share some books while you are there and encourage your child to turn the pages one at a time and with care. Choose some books your child has found interesting to borrow to share again at home.

Carry on singing lots of nursery rhymes and songs with your child, encouraging them to join in. Pause before the last word in each line to give your child the opportunity to provide the word. Nursery rhymes and songs teach your child about rhyme and rhythm which is an important skill to learn to help with phonics and reading.

Continue to encourage your child to mark make with a wide variety of materials and tools to make vertical/ horizontal line and circle patterns. If your child is ready encourage him/her to trace over simple shapes and patterns or the letters in their name (Capital letter for the first letter, then lower case letters for the rest of the name).

Physical Development

Summer time is always an easier time of year to tackle toilet training as your child will generally be wearing fewer layers of clothing. If you feel your child might be ready for this, please do discuss this with us so that we can work together to follow the same toilet training routine.

We are continuing to work on dressing and undressing skills during swimming sessions each Friday which is a skill you can continue to encourage at home too.

Continuing our 'Out and About' theme, encourage your child to practise physical skills in the garden or local park. eg. pedalling a trike/ bike, riding a scooter and exploring various physical skills on play park equipment.