

## Communication and Language

Imitation is an important skill for communication and learning and is something that many children on the autism spectrum find very difficult.

Start by helping your child practice copying simple actions such as clapping hands, touching toes or opening their mouth.

Then move on to simple actions sequences such as action songs and copying sounds and words.

## Expressive Arts and Design

Take time to dance with your child - any music that makes you feel like dancing!

Dancing is good exercise and can help improve coordination skills, social interaction and self-expression.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Help your child develop their play skills - chose a game that you can enjoy together outside and help them to develop the skills to participate step by step e.g. for football practise kicking the ball, scoring a goal and kicking the ball back and forth with another person. As part of these games you can also teach your child ways of asking siblings or friends to come and play either verbally or by taking them by the hand, and ways to communicate that they want a break from a game.



## Pine Group Activities for Home Summer

### Physical Development

Summer is the perfect time to give toilet training a good try!

We recommend taking children to the toilet at regular intervals through the day and encouraging them to sit for a count of 10-20 or a short song. If nothing happens come back later and if you have success really celebrate with them!

Allow them to spend time out of nappies as nappies stop them from feeling that they are wet and this can prevent them from making progress. All children need to experience having accidents to allow them to learn the sensations - just make sure you have lots of spare clothes and pants prepared!

If you want to start your child wearing pants for some of the time in school please let us know and send us plenty of spare clothes!

## Understanding the World

This term our topic is 'Out and About' and we will be taking trips to explore different activities in the local area. These will include Rushmere Park, Tescos, Morrisons, Thrift Farm, Grove Farm Pick Your Own, Whipsnade Zoo and Dobbies café.

It might help your child to get more from these experiences if you can also take them to some of these places.

## Literacy

**Reading** - This term in class we are looking at lots of stories by the author Julia Donaldson including, 'The Gruffalo' and 'What the Ladybird Heard'. These are very rhythmic stories with lots of repeated phrases. Choose books like these and encourage the children to join in with the familiar parts of the story.

### Phonics

This term we are starting to think about simple CVC words and words that rhyme, such as cat and hat. In class we have all been enjoying the following song - it would be great if you could practise this at home too.

The cat sat on the mat,

The cat sat on the mat

Miaow , miaow, miow, miaow

The cat sat on the mat.

## Maths

This term in Pine group we are looking at shapes and measurement.

Help you child find shapes around the house and try making shape pictures - we really enjoyed making Gruffalo shape pictures!

Also explore filling and emptying containers, seeing how much fits in each one.