

# Animals

## Personal, Social & Emotional

All children are encouraged to leave their parent/carer happily and to become actively involved within the group. Self registration and placing their work in busy boxes encourages independence and builds confidence. The children will be encouraged to solve practical problems, asking for help when required. Free play allows the children to develop new friendships with their peers, whilst existing ones will be strengthened. Sharing of equipment and turn taking are concepts the children soon become aware of and are encouraged to practice. Every child is required to help tidy up at various times, which reinforces the idea that the toys are there for all to use and should be treated with respect. Care and hygiene after handling animals will also be discussed.

## Physical

Spatial awareness will be developed as the children move safely around the room between activities. Scissor skills will be practiced and developed through scissors on the playdough table, as well as other specific cutting activities. A selection of threading activities will promote fine motor skills and develop the pincer grip required for pencil control. Malleable materials such as playdough and clay will allow the children to handle these substances with confidence. Gross motor skills will be developed in P.E. when using large equipment and during physical play.

## Communication & Language

Games relating to the theme that encourage the children to use and develop their listening skills will be introduced. We will also discuss how we should care for our pets. There will be further language opportunities via poems and songs. The use of books, posters and pictures will encourage discussion and extend the children's vocabulary. New vocabulary will also be introduced when discussing types of animals, their lifecycles and habitats.

## Literacy

Large books used at story time will help the children understand that text carries a meaning and books which use repetitive text help confidence in pre-reading skills. Mark making equipment is always available in various forms. This will develop pencil control and pre-writing skills.

## Mathematics

Counting skills will be developed through the counting of legs and spots on animals. The children will be invited to compare, sequence and sort animals into categories. Symmetry will be discussed whilst looking at butterflies and the patterns that form camouflage. The children will create simple graphs through collecting relevant data, whilst simple addition and subtraction occur in recited number rhymes.

## Understanding the World

We will learn about similarities and differences between animals and mini-beasts. Jigsaws and stories will help the children to recognise life cycles and habitats. The children will acknowledge that there is a difference between pets and other animals. They will be invited to share a photograph or drawing if they have a pet at home.

## Expressive Arts & Design

This theme allows the exploration of colour, and texture in 2D and 3D. Collage, paint, natural and recyclable materials will be available for the children to experiment in creating animals. The water trough, sandpit and puppets will become tools to stimulate imaginary play. Drama and music will allow the children to perform as animals.