

Living & Growing

Personal, Social & Emotional

Free play gives the opportunity for both independent and group activities; children will be encouraged to take part in a variety of activities. As they work and play together they can begin to relate to their peers and start to form friendships. Each child will be encouraged to leave their carer happily, promoting independence and increasing confidence. Sharing of equipment and tools is a concept that all children are made aware of and are encouraged to do. They are also required to help at tidy up time and to behave in an appropriate manner. The children are encouraged to find and put on their own coats when we go outside and then to remove and hang them up afterwards. Hygiene and hand washing will be encouraged at all times with the children learning a basic routine to help them remember the sequence of events.

Physical

Confidence will be boosted by the availability of large and small equipment, whilst spatial awareness is developed in general by movement between activities. The planting of seeds will promote hand and eye coordination, with life cycle jigsaws not only reinforcing the theme but also increasing fine motor skills. P.E. is an ongoing activity in preschool and is incorporated into playgroup sessions too. The outdoor area is used daily giving the children the freedom to develop their gross motor skills.

Communication & Language

New vocabulary will be introduced through activities; the naming of fruit and vegetables and the planting of flowers will extend this work, as the children are made aware these items have names. Study of life cycles will promote questions and discussion. All these activities give the children the opportunity to develop their listening, as well as language skills. Children will be encouraged to listen attentively to stories, rhymes and songs, and to take part in discussion work.

Literacy

Literacy will be supported by the provision of a selection of books relating to the theme. The children will also be encouraged to use repetitive text which will help to develop confidence with words in written and spoken form. The children will discover that information as well as stories can be found in books. A variety of mark making activities will encourage pre-writing skills.

Mathematics

The children will be involved in the collecting and collating of data to create large graphs that are relevant to the whole group. Tape measures will be made available for the children to measure each other. They will also sort individuals visually into height order, making predictions as to who they consider will be next in line. Planting will introduce estimating and the concepts of volume and capacity as they try to judge how much soil and water is required.

Understanding the World

The growing of seeds will reinforce the theme of living and growing, and will also allow the children to make comparisons between the requirements for plant growth and those for humans. Observations will be made as to how seeds and plants change over time and how this can be affected through the seasons. Curiosity and interest in life cycles will stimulate questions about developmental stages in various areas.

Expressive Arts & Design

Working with textured fabrics for collage, and the handling of potting compost, will both support the sense of touch. The home corner will inspire imaginative play and will be extended into a fruit and vegetable shop and garden centre. Small world toys will be used to allow the children to engage in different stages of play. Themed music and movement will be used to express different moods and emotions.