

Weather & Seasons

Personal, Social & Emotional

This half term the children will be encouraged to work independently as well as in a group; this will help develop friendships and encourage the concepts of sharing and turn taking. Free play allows each child to make choices and to begin to form friendships amongst their peers. They will learn to respect each other by acknowledging that everyone can bring something to the group, however small. All children are required to help tidy up at various times in the session, reinforcing the idea that the equipment is there for all to use and should be treated with respect. Self registration encourages independence and builds confidence.

Physical

All children in the group, no matter what age, stage of development or ability, need opportunities to develop their large and small muscles. The children will be encouraged to do this through various means of travelling: for example walking, jumping, skipping, and crawling and dancing. Walking between activities also develops spatial awareness as does moving to music. The large equipment can be used to climb and balance on, the tricycles to pedal or scoot, these all promote muscle development. Action rhymes use both large and small muscle movements. The picking up of single items leads to increased control and precision in hands and fingers.

Communication & Language

We will look at the names of the four seasons and different types of weather in order to introduce new vocabulary; this will be extended through songs, rhymes and discussion. Songs already known to the children will also be sung, allowing the children to gain confidence in their language skills. Children will be encouraged to listen attentively to stories, rhymes and songs, and to take part in discussion work. Communication is developed through imaginary and role play with their peers, with adult participation when requested.

Literacy

Posters and charts around the room carrying text will help the children understand that text carries meaning. Literature supporting our theme will be found in the library area and this term we will be reinforcing how books should be handled. Discussion about books read to the children either as a group or individually will encourage the children to re-tell or predict the story. A variety of mark making media will be available.

Mathematics

Number charts will be displayed to encourage number recognition and to provide counting practice. This is supported by general counting games that include reciting numbers and matching the corresponding symbols. Rain water will be collected to encourage the children to estimate and measure. A weather chart will be used to record data.

Understanding of World

The children will look at the changes in the seasons by looking at photographs, non fiction books and posters. The properties of ice will be explored and we will identify how certain substances can alter their appearance. Whilst involved in this activity the children will be reminded of the safety issues associated with water and ice. Clothing we wear will be identified along with protection we take against the sun to keep us safe.

Expressive Arts & Design

We will explore colour through creative activities as well as identifying and naming colours that are associated with each season. Colour mixing will enable the children to observe what happens when certain colours are combined. A selection of classical and contemporary musical extracts associated with the weather and seasons will be played during the sessions.