

Literacy

Our Talk for Writing sessions will be built around the story *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Eric Carle and Bill Martin Jr. We will be creating our own story maps, ordering and retelling the story, writing character descriptions and eventually making our own pages to add to the book. Reception will aim to do this by writing simple sentences of our own. After our day out at Shepreth Wildlife Park, we will also be writing recounts of our fab day out!

Expressive Arts and Design

We'll be doing lots of animal themed art this term, creating our own animals using a variety of textures and building animal habitats, both inside and outside. We will also be exploring (and talking about) shades of colours, using pipettes and powder paints to create a rainbow of different tones and find exactly the right colour for our work!

Physical Development

In our weekly sessions with Mr Butler we will continue to work on spatial awareness and ball skills, learning to travel with control and throw and catch balls of different sizes. We will then use these skills to begin to play simple games, involving attack and defence. As it gets a bit warmer, we will also be trying to get outside a bit more, exploring athletics, developing our running and playing lots of parachute games.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be taking part in lots of activities linked to our bear theme, which will also help us to develop our ability to play turn-taking games. These will include new Circle Time games, with Brown Bear joining our group, a Teddy Bear's Picnic role play area outside and lots of opportunities for us to share photos of pets and animals.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

EARLY YEARS - SUMMER 2023

Mathematics

As we continue with our *Essentials for Counting* programme, we will be exploring number patterns and learning key number facts. Nursery will be focusing on securing their counting and developing the skill of subitising (instantly recognising how many there are in a small group without needing to count, for example with the spots on dice). Reception, meanwhile, will be learning number bonds to ten, as well as identifying odd and even numbers. We will also work on doubling and halving numbers in a variety of ways, and then explore counting beyond twenty. Across Early Years, we will also develop our understanding of maps and position, thinking about what the world looks like from a birds eye view.

Communication and Language

This term we will continue to expand our vocabulary, learning lots of new animal names and words to describe colours. We will also be learning the names of seasons, months of the year and days of the week, and starting to put these in order. Nursery will be playing lots of listening games involving rhyme and alliteration, supporting our growing phonics knowledge, while Reception will have a new investigation area to explore, involving lots of items that were common before we were born, such as record players and video tapes, which will give us lots to talk about (as well as making our adults feel really old!)

Understanding the world

We will be learning about our new King and the Coronation, which takes place in May. Linked to our focus story, we will learn to match different types of bears to their habitats - polar bears in the frozen Arctic, brown bears in woodlands around the world, pandas in the bamboo forests of China. We will also investigate the way that animals can be sorted into groups, including mammals, reptiles, birds and fish. All this knowledge will then help us to make the most of our trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park at the end of May, where we'll have the chance to see lots of these amazing animals in real life! Finally, we will be exploring our senses - thinking about all of the things we can see, touch, feel, taste and smell.

Literacy

- Constant practice of reading and phonics is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about what they've read.
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Expressive Arts and Design

- Have a go at some of the fab art activities on the Tate Kids site: www.tate.org.uk/kids/make
- Act out stories together and encourage your child to tell you stories linked to their play.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you.

Physical Development

- Build an obstacle course in the park or garden together, running (carefully) around benches or chairs, crawling under blankets and clambering through cardboard boxes.
- Play games together that involve kicking, throwing and catching balls.
- Encourage your child to get dressed on their own and brush their teeth twice a day.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- If you have a pet, encourage your child to take more of a role in looking after it, and talk about why this is important. What would happen if you didn't do this? Why wouldn't that be OK? If you don't have a pet, how about feeding birds in the garden or ducks in the park?

Ideas for supporting learning at home:



**BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR,
WHAT DO YOU SEE?**

EARLY YEARS - SUMMER 2023

Mathematics

- We've been practicing our counting a lot in class, so building on this at home would be a huge help - you could count houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, players on the team, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Practice writing numbers in sand, salt or water, or try making numbers out of groups of pebbles.
- Play board games with numbered squares together, and practice saying the names of the squares you land on together. Simple card games give lots of opportunities for practicing number names, too.

Communication and Language

- We will continue to use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at eylj.org. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Make up silly sentences together where every word has to start with the same letter or the words all rhyme.
- When you're sharing stories with your child, ask them what they think will happen next or how the story might end.

Understanding the world

- Go to places where you can see or meet different animals - the park, pet shops, woodland, friends with interesting pets... What animals can you see? Do you know all of their names? What sort of things do they like to do? Can you find out what they eat or where they sleep? There are loads of questions to ask, and it's fine to not know all the answers (understanding that you don't know is definitely a Learning Superhero skill!)
- Continue looking for (and talking about) changes in our environment linked to the seasons. Can you see signs that plants and animals are growing more now that Spring has arrived?