



Willow Class Autumn Curriculum Overview

We will cover a range of topics to develop children's skills in the prime areas during our first term in Willow Class up until Christmas. This is a brief overview of what we are covering in school alongside some ideas of what you could do at home to help continue and support learning.

Area of Learning	Focus	Home Learning
Communication and Language 	We will be sharing these texts this term: The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas Thunderboots by Naomi Jones The Little Red Hen Super Duper You by Sophy Henn Peace at Last by Jill Murphy The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr Through provision and group discussion, the children will engage and become familiar with these texts. Children will also engage in 'Tapestry Talk' time with an adult to discuss entries onto their Tapestry Journal.	Reading with your child is a great way of nurturing their love of books and building familiarity with stories as well as an opportunity to develop their speech and language skills. Add in plenty of sound effects and different voices together too. Remember to discuss what happens and who is in the story. In school we will be singing Nursery Rhymes and Counting songs together daily. Our focus song for this term is 'Five little speckled frogs'. Listen to a range of other songs together here: Nursery Rhymes and Songs - A to Z - BBC Teach Here are some ways to support your child's early communication skills. Supporting children's early communication skills - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives
Personal, Social, and Emotional Development	Our focus this half term is to support children in becoming more outgoing with unfamiliar people in the safe context of our setting. We will also work on following rules and understanding why they are important, especially during transitions within the day. Adults will also model how to talk about feelings using words like happy, sad, angry or worried and encourage children to do the same.	Talk to your child about what they have learnt that day at school and how they are feeling. Encourage them to talk about how they feel using happy, sad, angry and worried. BBC Teach has lots of videos about dealing with emotions on this website and an activity to try here. Practise using the toilet and washing hands to develop independence and encourage tooth brushing and good sleep habits for a healthy lifestyle.
Physical Development 	We will work to develop gross motor skills (negotiating space safely and confidently) through regular climbing, balancing and movement opportunities including use of the balance bikes. We will also work using gross motor movements from the shoulders and elbows to wave flags and make big marks in the environment with a particular focus on these pre-writing shapes:	When walking, can they walk along a wall? Can they safely skip, hop and jump? Use playdough to develop strength in their fingers. How to Make your Own Playdough - Sensory Play - BBC Tiny Happy People



There will be a focus on using tools such as tweezers to move items from one location to another as we encourage our older children to begin using a digital pronate grasp:



There will be a range of activities in daily provision such as playdough, threading, hammering, and scissors to help develop children's fine motor strength.

There are many activities that can be used to strengthen hands including; building bricks, button placing, peg activities, scissor skills and threading.

[The 35 Best Gross Motor Activities for Kids - Empowered Parents](#)

[10 Fine Motor Activities Preschoolers Should Do Often - Empowered Parents](#)