

Dear family, here are this week's ideas and suggestions that you can embrace together at home and therefore provide a consistent approach to accelerate your child's learning.

Characteristics of Effective Learning skills:

These are key 'life skills' that underpin all the areas of learning.

This half term we will focus on...

'Participating in routines'

Like regular routines, sorting activities gives children a sense of order, control and comfort and engages their attention in a fun, exciting way! You may have noticed your child already doing this naturally through play such as lining up their toy vehicles or animals. When your child engages in these types of activities, they are building key learning powers such as problem solving, sequencing, independence and cognitive skills for their future learning.

Challenge activity to try at home: Introduce sorting by asking your child to group toys by colour. You could make this part of a fun routine for tidying up time! For example, 'Can you put the blue lego in this box and the red lego in this box please?' This helps your child begin to understand similarities and differences.



You could extend this activity by sorting objects by size, texture or shape.

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- **Explore** – Let your child explore the activity first. Try not to correct them in the moment. If they are enjoying it but not sorting by colour, give them a chance to explore.
- **Follow your child's interests** – If there is a natural opportunity to develop this skill then they are more likely to enjoy it as you are following their interests. For example, if they are playing with their toy cars, can they sort the blue and red cars?

Books of the week:



Where's Mr Lion?
This links to our learning about Animals in the Wild.

Book bag challenge question at home:
Encourage your child to name an object (Noun) Point to an object on a page in the book and ask them,

What's this?
Point to the....

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- **Keep Modelling** – Repeat back what your child says correctly.
- The question should **always relate to what your child is looking at**.
- **Frequent Exposure** - Perhaps pick an object from the story that you know they do not know. This way they are learning **new vocabulary** all the time. Then try and use this new word frequently so it becomes embedded.

Song of the week:



Incy Wincy Spider



Peekaboo-You



Sleeping Lions

Helpful hints to help your child at home: Multisensory approach

– You could try using some props from the songs. EG: A toy spider or a toy lion. Through exploring things, the children gradually learn about an object and what it looks and feels like. This is another fun way to help them match the word to the object.



Magical Moments:

It has been lovely to see our new children settling in so well. We have also enjoyed seeing how our existing children are enjoying positive engagements with our new children and helping them to feel welcome.

Books of the week:



Rhinos Don't Eat Pancakes

Book bag challenge question at home:
Encourage your child to name an object (Noun) Point to an object on a page in the book and ask them,

What's this?

Can you find another.....like this?

(EG: Can you find another dog like this?)

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- **Frequent Exposure** - Perhaps pick an object from the story that you know they do not know. This way they are learning new vocabulary all the time. Then try and use this new word frequently so it becomes embedded.
- Allow thinking time (**Remember the 10 second rule**) If your child can't think of the word then perhaps give them the initial sound as a prompt. **For Example:** It's a d....'

Songs of the week:



Walking through the jungle



Animal Boogie



Down in the jungle

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- These songs are closely linked to this week's learning about **wild animals**. Check your child knows all the **key vocabulary** in these songs. If you have these toy animals, why not get them out for your child to hold as they sing.

Book of the week:



Non Fiction books about elephants. Let's see how many facts we can remember about elephants? I wonder...Where is an elephants natural habitat?

Book bag challenge question at home: Encourage your child to name an object (Noun) Point to an object on a page in the book and ask them,

What's this?

Can you find another.....like this?

Helpful hints to help your child at home: Try to find an object (noun) in the story that you think your child will be **unfamiliar** with. This way they are **expanding their vocabulary** all the time.

- Aim to improve your child's understanding of a new word by discussing **where** an object might be used and **how** it might be used. You could think of other items associated with it.

Songs of the week:



Walking through the jungle



Animal Boogie



5 Elephants went out to play upon a spider's web one day

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- These songs are closely linked to this week's learning about **wild animals**. Check your child knows all the **key vocabulary** in these songs. If you have these toy animals, why not get them out for your child to hold as they sing.



Magical Moments:

Blue Group have been excellent at following instructions involving two parts and they are now doing really well with working on following instructions involving three parts. Great listening skills!



Magical Moments:

Yellow Group are able to reliably and confidently count objects of irregular sizes to 20. Keep being Marvellous Mathematicians! Perhaps you could showcase this learning at home too!

Diary Dates: 2nd March - Dr Seuss's Birthday 3rd March – World Wildlife Day – We are learning about animals this half term. This is a great opportunity to celebrate a handful of species that are integral to keeping the balance of our natural world in check. Learn about the importance of bees, orangutans in the rainforest or how snow leopards yelp not roar! Here is a link to a useful website: [Welcome to Go Wild | WWF](https://www.wwf.org/) 4th March – Yummy Pancake Day!