



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 it strengthens links between words and promotes vocabulary development.

Challenge activity to try at home: We have had a go at sorting by colour. Now let's extend this activity by sorting our toys by size, texture or shape! This allows children the opportunity to learn category names eg: fruit, clothes, animals.

You could **extend** this activity by sorting objects from similar groups such as farm and zoo animals or Reptiles and non Reptiles.



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 outside can they sort the leaves/sticks according to colour or size? Natural resources are excellent for sorting and matching activities.

Books of the week:



Smaller and Smaller Bugs

Book bag challenge activity at home:

Take this time to model how to hold a book correctly with your child and turn the pages correctly. Do they know where the front cover is? Board books with flaps and different textures are excellent for engaging children in story time!

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- Find a **quiet area** to share a story with your child. If the background noise is loud or there are too many distractions in the room this can have an impact on a child's ability to listen.
- **Story bags** – are a great way to engage children and promote language development. EG: If the story is about zoo animals, do you have any toy animals to pop in the bag for your child to pull out and name? This is another fun way to help them match the word to the object.

Song of the week:



Incy Wincy Spider

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- **Follow their interests** – Hopefully, your child will now have built up a bank of songs/rhymes they are familiar with and that they enjoy. Help your child to be part of the selection process and ask them what song they would like to sing. If they have chosen a song they are familiar with, they are more likely to be enthusiastic singers! This will also encourage them to choose songs at our registration time at nursery.



Magical Moments:

We have enjoyed exploring different textures (water, shaving foam and paint) and we were really confident to jump into the ball pool!

Book of the week:



The Crunching, Munching Caterpillar

Book bag challenge question at home:

The following questions focus on developing 'describing words' (Adjectives) Children start to understand Describing Words from age 2 ½

"Show me a red/green apple please?/Which animal is tall?"

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- There are many groups of describing words and although it is important to help children to use these from all groups. (Size, colour, shape, position., movement, texture etc) it is also important to **just focus on a few describing words at a time.**
- **Keep modelling** – Expand their phrases by adding adjectives. EG: Child - Look, a sheep. Adult – 'Yes, look, a fluffy sheep.

Songs of the week:



The Ants Go Marching

(Sing to the tune of Head Shoulders Knees and Toes)

Ants, worms and bumblebees, bumblebees, Ants, worms and bumblebees, bumblebees, Oh, lots of minibeasts on trees and leaves, Ants, worms and bumblebees, bumblebees.

Helpful hints to help your child at home:

- Have fun with these songs by marching like Ants or moving like the different minibeasts. For Example, march like an ant, wriggle like a worm, dance/fly like a bumblebee. Actions are a great way to remember songs and new vocabulary.



Magical Moments:

We have been great at remembering the songs and movements from our dance sessions on a Thursday morning. Also, singing more at home (thank you to everyone who has uploaded an observation on eyLog) It has been lovely to see.

Book of the week:



Mad About Minibeasts

Book bag challenge question at home:

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Which (insert object)... is ... (insert describing word)?

EG: "Which animal is tall? Which animal is fluffy?"

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Tuesday 20th March is World Oral Health Day and our yellow group are very competent and enthusiastic teeth brushers in a morning at nursery. Celebrate and sing the toothbrushing song!



Magical Moments:

We enjoyed learning about sea turtles. This has really captured the children's interest this week, in particular that they eat jellyfish and crabs, and they lay eggs in the sand before quickly rushing to the water!

Diary Dates: Tues 18th March - 28th March – Our car park is closed. Any tombola prizes for our charity fundraiser at the **end of March** (Manorlands and Dementia UK) would be much appreciated please. **Friday 21st March – Red Nose Day. Tuesday 20th March - World Oral Health Day.** Looking ahead, the **week commencing 24th March**, we will be learning all about pets (Which ties in well with **World Pet Month** in April!) We would like to invite you to bring in a picture of any pets you have at home if you wish, for us to look at and talk about at nursery. If you wish to email me a picture instead, then I can print them! Thank you.