

Characteristics of

Effective Learning

Every child is unique and they will all learn and develop at different times and in different ways. In Reception, an important aspect of your child's development involves looking at the characteristics of effective learning. We recognise these and try to develop them. There are three categories:

Playing and Exploring (finding out, playing with what I know and being willing to "have a go".)

Active Learning (being involved and concentrating, keep trying and enjoying achieving what I set out to do.)

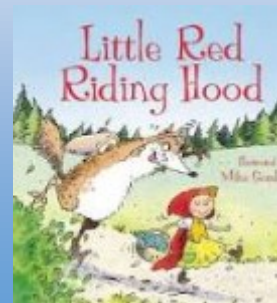
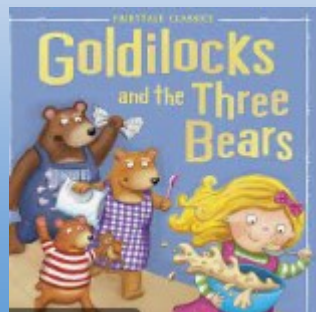
Creating and Thinking Critically (having my own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things.)

WILLOW CLASS

RECEPTION

SPRING TERM 2024

"Our Planet!" (Spring 1)



Areas of Learning

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we have three '**Prime**' areas of learning:

Communication and Language (CL)

Physical Development (PD)

Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

It is important that the children are proficient and confident in these areas before they can develop their skill and interests in the four other areas of learning (known as the '**Specifics**')

Literacy (L)

Mathematics (M)

Understanding of the World (UW)

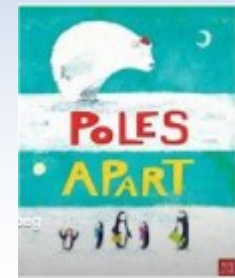
Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

We will be developing our ability to:

- * Listen attentively in a range of situations and maintain attention in different contexts.
- * Consider the listener and take turns.
- * Understand why listening is important.
- * *Use talk to help work out problems and organise our thinking and activities; to explain how things work and why they might happen.*
- * *Ask questions to find out more and check understanding.*
- * *Articulate our ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.*
- * *Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary*
- * *Begin to connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.*

The Prime Areas...



PSED This term , we will be learning to:

- * make choices and communicate our needs.
- * show persistence when faced with challenges.
- * co-operate with and show consideration of our peers.

We will develop our understanding of the different factors that support our overall health and wellbeing:

- * regular physical activity
- * healthy eating
- * tooth brushing
- * sensible amounts of 'screen time'
- * having a good sleep routine
- * being a safe pedestrian

Physical Development

The Early Years area of learning 'Physical Development' focuses on developing both children's **gross and fine motor skills**. This term in P.E. we will focus on further developing agility, balance and co-ordination.

Additionally, the children's **gross motor skills** will be developed through playing in the outdoor area with a wide range of equipment, including balls and hoops, construction, sand and water.

We will also be developing our **fine motor skills**, through our independent play and adult-led activities. One important outcome of improved fine motor skills is an improved pencil grip, which allows the children more control and confidence in their writing and drawing.

The Specific Areas...

LITERACY

READING– COMPREHENSION

This term we will be reading a range of fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our topic, including “Poles Apart”, “Here We Are”, “Lost and Found”, “Handa’s Surprise” , “Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain”, “Meerkat Mail” ; as well as a range of traditional tales.

Through sharing books and stories, we will focus on:

- * developing our vocabulary knowledge
- * making predictions
- * giving opinions

READING- PHONICS

For details of the phonics covered this term, please see separate phonics overview.

WRITING

We will be practising our letter formation linked to our phonics learning.

We will be learning to orally compose a sentence and attempt to write it, using our knowledge of phase 2 and 3 graphemes.

We will be learning to spell some tricky words correctly, eg: the, to, no, go.

MATHS

This term we will be exploring:

- * Numbers to 10
- * Mass and capacity
- * Length and height
- * Time
- * 3d shapes
- * Patterns



KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

We will be exploring our environment and describing its features.

We will look at different environments around the world and begin to explore similarities and differences between them.

We will explore maps and photos of different places around the world.

We will explore festivals and customs associated with different religions and countries.

We will observe weather patterns and seasonal changes in our environment.

To use technology to explore our world.

To explore materials and their properties.

To compare our lives today with those of people in the past.



FOREST SCHOOL

We will have fortnightly Forest School sessions with Mrs Stafford and Mrs Kendall(Thursday PM)

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

We will be learning :

To explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express ourselves and our feelings.

To sing a range of songs and rhymes.

To explore and engage in music-making and expressive movement, through both play and adult-led activities.

VALUES

This term's values are:

Spring I:

Perseverance

Celebrating Epiphany

Pushing Through (Mathew 2, v 1-12.)

Spring II:

Justice

Celebrating Lent & Easter

Goodness is Stronger than Evil (John, v 18-19)

RE

We will be exploring:

- * Which stories are special and why?
- * Why is Easter special for Christians?