

# How to Help your Child at Home

January 2022

## 'Walking in a Winter Wonderland'

### Language Development:

Children will be introduced to a range of language associated with our winter topic and they will be encouraged to use this language as they play and explore in the nursery.. Try and find some winter themed books at home and in the local library to share with your child. Encourage children to discuss pictures, predict events and retell the story once it's over. We will be focusing on conversation skills this month, praise your child for asking /answering questions and listening to responses. For our preschool aged children, we will be beginning to recognise our name. Your child will have a new symbol where they have to identify their name next week! Help them recognise this each morning!

### Personal, Social, Emotional Development

We will be focusing on putting on coats and wellies independently. Try these out at home with your child! As our topic is winter, discuss with your child the dangers of icy surfaces and reinforce road safety at all opportunities.

### Early Mathematical Experiences:

Children will be introduced to the colour white and we will be exploring the square shape. They will be encouraged to observe colours and shapes naturally during play indoors and outdoors. Children will continue to be familiarised with language associated with shape, colour, size, time and quantity. We are introducing language based on length such as 'tall and short', find tall and short objects at home with your child or build long or short constructions. Look for and talk about patterns found in the environment, try pattern making with your child - making footprints in the sand, mud, snow, and painting. Use coloured objects or different shapes to make repeating patterns and encourage your child to copy or help sequence these!

### The Arts:

Encourage your child to draw, paint and make to express their ideas and experiences. Children will be given the opportunity to experiment with art materials to create topic based items. Encourage your child to describe their creations and raise self-esteem by displaying pictures around the house. In nursery we will be experimenting with musical instruments to determine how to make loud and quiet sounds. Our role-play areas indoors and outdoors will be an igloo and a winter cottage! Encourage imaginative play when possible, act out roles with your child and use different props to help extend their language and understanding. Rhythm and rhyme is fundamental to a child's development- sing our songs and rhymes with your child, these can be found on your newsletter.

### The World Around Us:

Talk with your child daily about the weather and encourage them to describe weather conditions. If it snows- experience the snow with your child by building snowmen, snowballs or snow angels! Discuss the importance of warm clothing in winter and find winter clothes at home. We will be exploring a variety of textures such as shaving foam, ice, rice sugar cubes and cotton wool this month in our water and sand trays- encourage your child to use their senses to determine properties and use descriptive language. Make some hot and cold foods at home and let your child experience and compare these! Look at pictures and books about animals who live in colder climates and encourage children to identify these.

### Physical Development and Movement:

Children will be provided with activities to develop their fine and gross motor skills daily during outdoor or indoor play. Dough is a fantastic way to enhance fine motor skills- make some dough with your child and encourage pinching, pressing and rolling the dough. We will be working towards refining our pencil grips this month. Preschool aged children should be aiming to use a tripod grip when using writing tools in preparation for P.1. Outdoors we will be encouraging children to develop their pedalling and steering skills on bikes- if your child has a bike or scooter at home praise them for using the pedals and steering away from obstructions. Challenge your child by setting up mini obstacles to ride around!